Have you ever wondered why do we give a tithe of all? Maybe the best answer is because our God is the Provider of all. Paul says, “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

After His victory against a powerful coalition of enemies, Abram gave Melchizedek, the priest, a tithe of everything—food, goods, and possessions (Gen. 14). Jacob, his grandson, promised to return a tithe of everything (Gen. 28). According to Leviticus 27:30, “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Jesus Himself acknowledged that tithing was from “all I get” (Luke 18:12) and from the smallest gain (Matt. 23:23a). What could be the reason for this emphasis on tithing everything?

This real value of tithe is not monetary but symbolic. It reminds us to acknowledge and remember God as the Giver of all. Ellen G. White says that “He asks us to acknowledge Him as the Giver of all things; and for this reason, He says, of all your possessions I reserve a tenth for Myself, besides gifts and offerings, which are to be brought into My storehouse” (Ellen G. White, Counsels on Stewardship, pp. 80, 81). A partial tithe would mean that God is the Giver of only part of what we need.
A well-known trust game called the blind swing helps us to understand the value of depending on God as the Giver of all. In this game, you close your eyes and allow two individuals to swing you to and fro. After some time, you experience the peaceful sensation that results from complete trust. This is possible only when you keep your eyes completely closed and choose not to peek from time to time. Perfect peace is the outcome of perfect trust.

In a world of uncertainties and confusion, the exercise of tithing from everything, an act of total dependence, will definitely contribute to our inner peace. What message is your tithing practice sending to your brain and heart?

Let us grow in heavenly peace as we return our tithe and Promise, which is our regular and systematic offerings. May we put our desires last and God first.