



SABBATH 51—DECEMBER 21, 2024

When Is Faithfulness Born?

Genesis 28:21, 22—“The Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

High unemployment rates are one of the problems that humanity is facing today. Even in developed countries, the number of people who are not included in the labor market has grown significantly. We need to take a closer look at some aspects of the day-to-day lives of families in our church who do not have a regular income. The main concern is to help them with basic needs such as food and housing. We can also help with the kind of training that helps men and women find a space in the job market. And all the help offered must consider the following advice: “He who shows mercy, [do it] with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:8).

Another guideline for someone who doesn’t have a regular income is to exert faithfulness through tithes and offerings. You may wonder, “But how can I teach faithfulness in tithes and offerings to someone who has no income?” We often think that we can only be faithful in our tithes and offerings if we have some value to bring to the church. However, the book of Genesis reveals that Jacob, the second tither mentioned in the Bible, became a tither when he had no job, was on the run, and only had a stone as his pillow (Genesis 28:10–22).

This teaches us that faithfulness springs up in the believer’s mind and heart, even before any value is brought to the storehouse. A person without income who chooses to be faithful in tithes and offerings should not think that he or she is unfaithful. This person must reaffirm a commitment to faithfulness in tithes and even choose a percentage for the return of regular offerings. Then, present to God the desire that the commitment to be faithful in tithes and offerings ceases to be just a decision and becomes action, from the moment the person starts to have a regular income. No one with the firm purpose of being faithful to God should feel unfaithful just because he or she doesn’t have an income.

Appeal: If you have a regular income, reaffirm your commitment to faithfulness and help someone unemployed with food, prayers, and guidance. If you are unemployed, reaffirm your commitment to be faithful to God and keep asking for strength and wisdom until you find a job.

