

# Pastor Demands Congregants Show Him Their Tax Returns

In the middle of tax season, one pastor is making some stark demands: that his congregants let him review their returns.

In a viral video on social media, the pastor can be heard making his requests known loudly and plainly.

“Next week, I am asking that all church members bring a copy of your tax returns so that I can review them,” he says. “I’m going to put a stop to some of y’all playing in my face during tithes and offerings on Sunday mornings. It’s tight, but it’s right.”

*Pastor told his congregation to bring copies of their tax returns so he can review them:*

*"I'm gonna put a stop to some of y'all playing in my face during tithes and offerings"*

*– My Mixtapez (@mymixtapez) March 10, 2026*

## Why Demands Like This Are Spiritually Dangerous

Moments like this raise serious concerns about spiritual authority and the responsibility of church leadership. While pastors are called to shepherd and guide their congregations, the idea of requiring members to submit personal tax returns crosses into territory that Scripture never instructs church leaders to control.

The New Testament consistently frames giving as an act of

worship and obedience to the Lord that flows from the heart—not something extracted through pressure, embarrassment or surveillance. When financial transparency is demanded in this way, it can create an environment of fear and manipulation rather than faith and trust.

Such practices can also damage the credibility of the church itself. For many outside the faith, accusations that churches misuse money or pressure people financially already exist. Actions that appear coercive reinforce those stereotypes and can become a stumbling block for those considering the gospel.

Pastoral authority is meant to protect and serve the flock. When that authority begins to resemble financial policing, the spiritual health of the congregation can be compromised.

## When Prosperity Teaching Is Taken Out of Context

Situations like this often stem from a misunderstanding or misuse of biblical teaching about prosperity and blessing. While Scripture teaches that God blesses generosity, the Bible never presents giving as an action to be taken through manipulative actions. True biblical prosperity includes spiritual growth, peace with God, wisdom and provision—not merely financial increase.



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When giving becomes something leaders attempt to enforce through scrutiny or pressure, it risks distorting the heart of the gospel. Instead of generosity flowing from gratitude toward God, it becomes a matter of compliance with human expectations.

# What the Bible Actually Says About Giving

Scripture provides clear guidance on generosity and consistently emphasizes willingness and joy rather than compulsion.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the apostle Paul writes:

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

This passage highlights an essential principle: giving is meant to be voluntary and motivated by love for God, not pressure from those who cannot control their tempers.

The concept of the tithe, traditionally understood as giving a tenth, originates in the Old Testament even before the Law was given, when Abraham offered a tithe to Melchizedek. While Christians should continue to practice tithing, God's concern is for the heart and spirit behind why we give.

Jesus Himself warned against religious leaders who misused their authority. In Matthew 23, He rebuked leaders who emphasized external rules while neglecting justice, mercy and faithfulness. The early church also modeled generosity not through compulsion but through unity and love. In Acts 2 and 4, believers voluntarily shared resources to care for those in need.

Generosity flows from a transformed heart. It is an act of worship between the believer and God, stewarded with wisdom and accountability—but never forced through intimidation or public scrutiny.

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