

LOVE OVER LAW

In *Preacher, Let My People Go*, Zakhe Mazibuko challenges deeply rooted church traditions around tithing, calling for a return to biblical truth, radical generosity, and freedom from financial manipulation.

"Preacher, *Let My People Go* is not a book I wrote overnight.

It's the result of over a decade of questioning, wrestling, and seeking clarity. The conviction began stirring in me as a young preacher, long before I ever put pen to paper. In 2017, I began formally researching the topic of tithing – diving deep into Scripture, engaging scholars, and spending time in prayer and reflection. It took about three years to shape those insights into a book, but the heart behind it had been beating for much longer. I wanted to be both biblically grounded and pastorally sensitive.

The motivation came from a place of deep love – for people, for the Church, and for the truth. Over the years, I've seen believers give beyond their means, not out of joy but fear or guilt. I've seen pastors stretch themselves to uphold systems they no longer believe in. This book isn't about division, it's about liberation. When giving is motivated by love, not law, people give more freely, not less.

I know this subject stirs controversy. Am I concerned? Of course. But I'm not afraid. This work is grounded in Scripture. I think often of the Reformers – Luther, Calvin, Zwingli – who risked everything to challenge injustice within the Church. Truth may be resisted, but it prevails. No one wins against it – not even

when it's nailed to a cross.

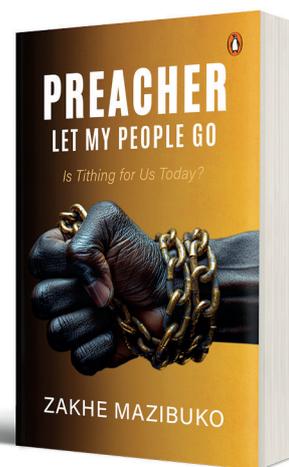
A central question believers face is whether modern tithing practices are biblical or just tradition. My position is clear: the tithe, as preached today, is not a New Testament principle. It was part of the Old Covenant, tied to Israel's temple system. Jesus's references to tithing were directed at Jews under Mosaic Law. The early Church did not teach or practice tithing. Instead, the New Testament calls us to radical generosity, sacrificial giving, and cheerful sharing. My book unpacks this, aiming to move the conversation from legalism to grace.

The consequences of misquoting Scripture – particularly around finances – can be far-reaching. While churches may benefit in the short term from increased giving, the long-term effects are devastating. Misinterpretation breeds guilt, manipulation, and ultimately, disillusionment. Trust in spiritual leadership erodes. People begin to feel used rather than cared for. Worse still, this misuse of Scripture distracts us from true discipleship

“The topic of tithing is one of the most debated issues in modern Church life.”

and spiritual maturity. According to organisations like MortarStone, Christian Stewardship Network, and Tithely, only five- to ten percent of churchgoers tithe. That tells us the current model is broken. But imagine what could happen if believers were freed from obligation – if giving became an act of joy rather than duty. I believe the Church's greatest wealth lies not in tithes collected, but in the freedom of its people to live and give by truth.

Preacher, Let My People Go is an invitation – an opportunity to re-examine tradition through the lens of Scripture. My hope is not to tear down the Church, but to build it up with honesty, courage, and compassion.” 



Preacher, Let My People Go is out now.