



FAITH PROMISE MISSIONS: What is it?

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”

The Bible teaches **two primary** ways of giving for the support of God’s work. God’s people are instructed to bring their **tithes** and **offerings** to the house of God to finance the work of God here on earth.

TITHING is simply returning the first tenth (10%) of all your income to the Lord through your local church. This has been God’s plan of providing the finances necessary for maintaining His house and His ministers from the days of Abraham (see Genesis 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Leviticus 27:30-32; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23).

OFFERINGS are those gifts required by the Lord, of His people, above and beyond their tithe. The Faith Promise Offering is a free-will offering our church receives to underwrite our worldwide missions outreach.

What do we mean by “Faith Promise Offering?”

1. It is a **PROMISE** to God.
This is not a pledge to the church. A pledge is something you sign guaranteeing liability of collection in case of non-performance. Even though no one from the church will ever visit your home or send you a letter demanding or requesting your faith promise, it is a promise to God.
2. It is an act of **FAITH**.
2 Corinthians 8:3 “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing...” According to 2 Corinthians 10:15b, 16a, Paul expected the faith of the Corinthian believers to be increased, which would directly impact his ability to minister for the Lord. “...as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, to preach the gospel in regions beyond you.”
3. It is a free-will **OFFERING**.
2 Corinthians 8:3, 12 “...they were freely willing...for if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”

Why should you give a Faith Promise Offering?

1. It is a matter of **OBEDIENCE** to God.
By giving a Faith Promise Offering you express loving obedience to His commands in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8. Each of these commands (often called the Great Commission) was given to Jesus’ followers (i.e., the church), to take the Gospel message throughout the whole world. John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

2. It is a matter of **FOLLOWING** Christ's example.
It has been said: God had only one Son, and He made Him a missionary! 2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."
3. It is a matter of **RECOGNIZING** that your abundance has been given to you by God to meet the need. 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 "For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality."

How can you give a Faith Promise Offering?

1. **SUBMIT** to the Lordship of Christ.
2 Corinthians 8:5 "...they first gave themselves to the Lord."
2. **SURRENDER** your will to His will.
2 Corinthians 8:3b "...they were freely willing..."
3. **SETTLE** the amount He wants you to give.
2 Corinthians 9:7 "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver."
4. **SUSCRIBE** to that amount on your Faith Promise card.
2 Corinthians 9:5a "Therefore I thought if necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand."
5. **SET** this amount ASIDE and give it.
2 Corinthians 8:11 "...but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have."

CONCLUSION:

When we respond to God in giving by faith beyond our means, He is able to (1) increase our supply-Deuteronomy 8:18; Philippians 4:19; (2) decrease our spending-Malachi 3:11; (3) give us wisdom to be good stewards-1 Peter 4:10; (4) give us grace to sacrifice-2 Corinthians 11:7-10; and (5) perform the supernatural on our behalf-Mark 10:27.

Look up the truths found in the following verses in relation to giving: Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Philippians 4:13, 19.