

Developing a Spirit of Graceful Giving

2 Cor. 8: 1-15; 9: 1-15

A. Background of 2 Cor. 8 & 9



B. New Testament Christians who gave a gift to help meet a need.

1. 1 Cor. 16:1-4 – Paul explains that the church at Corinth should prepare a gift to help meet some needs in Jerusalem just like the Galatian Church did.

2. Acts 11: 27-30 – The disciples, according to their ability decided to provide help for their brothers in Judea.

3. Rom. 15: 25-26 – Paul reminds the Roman Christians about the church at Macedonia.

C. How was the gift given? (2 Cor. 8)

- 1. Out of the severe trial – yet overflowing joy. – v.2**
- 2. Out of extreme poverty - yet rich generosity. – v.2**
- 3. As much as they were able and beyond their ability. – v. 3 (Gave by faith.)**
- 4. The people of Corinth gently pleaded with us (Paul) for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints-v. 4**

5. Each person gave what they had decided in their heart to give. – 2Cor. 9: 7

6. Not to give reluctantly or under compulsion because God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Cor. 9: 7

D. The reward of giving a gift as described above:

*** 2Co 9 verse 8.. “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”**

E. This gift, (could also be called an offering) was different than the tithe. What is a tithe?

***A tithe refers to the first 10% of our income.**

Following are some interesting statistics:

1) Out of Jesus' 36 parables – 16 of them speak about our attitude towards money.

2) In Jesus' teachings 500 verses related to Faith. 500 verses taught on prayer, and over 2,000 verses taught about money.

3) One out of every ten verses in the N.T. relates to our attitude towards money.

2. Tithing demonstrates a fear of the Lord in the life of a person.

***De 14:22-23 – “Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.”**

3. False belief that tithing was only part of the OT Law

a. All scripture is given by inspiration of God - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

b. Tithing was established before the Law came into effect.

***Gen. 14:20 – “...And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand. Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”**

c. Tithing was taught by Jesus Christ

***Mt 23:23 - "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices-- mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law-- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."**

d. It is interesting to note what the Bible says about tithing:

1) Gen 14:18-20 – Abraham commended it.

2) Gen 28:22 – Jacob continued it.

3) Lev. 27:30-31 – Moses commanded it.

4) Mal. 3:8-11 – Malachi confirmed it.

5) Matt. 23:23 – Jesus commended it.

6) Mal. 3:8-11 – We should not cancel it. It is call robbery.

4. By failing to give our tithe to the Lord is like robbing God. (Mal 3:6-12)

a. Vs 10 – “..test me in this...”

b. Vs. 10 – “... and see if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that you will not have room enough to store...”

c. Vs 11 “..I will prevent the pest from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields from not casting their crop.”

5. How should we tithe? Should it be on our gross income/profit or our net income/profit?

*** Pr. 3: 9,10 “Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”**

E. As was mentioned before, the gift that is talked about in 2 Cor. 8 & 9 is not referring to the tithe but an offering. An offering is something given above the tithe.

1. The “church” in the OT (Israel) used the tithe to assist in the function of the spiritual leadership and the needs of the “churches” program. So the tithe today should be given to the local church to assist in the same way.

2. The tithe is to support the local church and its program. Num. 18:21

3. This offering can be given in various ways and given different names. Some names might be Mission Faith Promise or Mission faith pledge or Mission Faith Giving. They are all the same concept/principle.

Mission Faith Giving

A. Introduction

1. This concept/principle of Mission Faith Giving comes out of 2-Cor. 8 & 9.

2. It is a giving that is above our tithes and is designated primarily to support missionaries who have gone out of the congregation in full time mission work.

3. The funds can also be used to support mission organizations or mission projects.

4. One statistic indicated that the average Christian in America gives less than \$0.20 a week to foreign missions.

5. Dr. Oswald Smith was the originator of the idea of Mission Faith Giving for missions. He was the pastor of the Peoples Church in Toronto Canada where he challenged his congregation to give \$1 to missions for every \$1 they spend on themselves.

6. Mission Faith Giving is a way to develop a spirit of graceful giving

i. 2Cor. 8:7 But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

ii. 2 Cor. 9:7 – “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

1. What is Faith Promise or Mission Faith Giving?

*** Faith Promise , or Mission Faith Giving, is way of giving to world evangelism. Rather than waiting to respond to individual appeals as they come along, believers ask the Lord how much they should give to missions over the next year. They then commit to that annual total as a "Faith Promise" or "Faith Giving" . Faith Giving thus makes giving to missions strategic rather than sporadic.**

2. Is there a scriptural basis for Faith Promise missions giving?

Faith Promise giving makes us channels of blessing. In His covenant with Abraham, God said that through Abraham's descendants, "all peoples of the earth would be blessed."

(Genesis 12:3) Faith Promise giving is a way of handing on the blessing.

A. Faith Promise giving is more than one can afford (II Cor. 8:2-3; 9:6-15)

B. Faith Promise giving reflects our personal commitments (II Corinthians 8:5,7)

***The Corinthian church excelled in:**

✓ **1 - Faith,**

✓ **2 - Speech,**

✓ **3 - Knowledge,**

✓ **4 - Complete sincerity,**

✓ **5 - Graceful giving of finances**

C. Though Faith Promise giving is optional, it does clearly demonstrate our love

3. Who should give to Faith Promise?

***Everyone! Children and youth may have less money than adults, but it's crucial to train them in systematic giving and faith living.**

4. What's the relationship between Faith Promise and paying a tithe?

*** Faith Promise giving is over and above the tithe. Tithing is a clear scriptural principle, dating back to the earliest pages of Genesis. Tithing recognizes God's ownership over me and all that I have. In practical terms, tithe money runs the local church and its ministries. Faith Promise is a way for us to give specifically to reaching the unreached of the world. Faith Promise giving tangibly expresses my desire that the whole world know the Good News.**

5. How do I get the funds to fulfill my Faith Promise?

- a. God may increase your income.**
- b. God may decrease your expenses.**
- c. God may lead you to sacrifice.**

6. Do I give my Faith Promise before I get it?

*** A Faith Promise is a FAITH commitment.**

Promise only what you believe God wants to give through you. Then trust God to be faithful in this promise.

7. Your Faith Promise/Mission Faith Giving involvement says that you believe:

A. World evangelism is vital to accomplishing the mission of the church.

B. The gospel can change lives.

C. Giving, although important, is secondary to faith and praying.

D. God will help pay the amount promised.

7. How do I make a Faith Promise?

A. Study the scriptures.

B. Total up your giving to world evangelism for last year.

C. Increase that total by a reasonable percentage.

D. Divide the total by 52 or 26 or 12 (weekly, bi-monthly or monthly contributions) according to your individual pay schedule.

E. Prayerfully again consider the amount you can faithfully purpose to give. (II Cor. 9:7)

***Do not be surprised at what God lays on your heart. Just be obedient.**

F. Fill out a Faith Promise Card, indicating your Faith and Promise.

(See Sample Card)

8. How do I give my Faith Promise?

Give regularly if you can. Missionaries need regular support. Some Faith Promises, however, depend on annual, one-time income. These can be paid when those monies are received.

9. Is this a pledge and will I be notified of my progress?

This is a promise to God, not a pledge to the church. Your Faith Promise amount is between you and God. No one will notify you or keep track of your progress toward your commitment.

10. Who can make a Faith Promise?

Anyone who wants to trust God and who wants to be used of God to get the Good News to the unreached can make a Faith Promise commitment (Luke 6:38, Proverbs 11:24-25). Youth and children are encouraged to participate in Faith Promise giving.

11. How long does my Faith Promise commitment last?

Generally, Faith Promise commitments are made once a year during a missions conference or convention. The weekly or monthly or annual commitments extend for one year from that time. They can also be made on a six month commitment.

12. Is Faith Promise a pledge I commit to pay even if my income goes down during the year?

Faith Promises differ from other kinds of giving such as pledges. Pledges are largely horizontal since they are made to a church or some other worthy cause. Pledges are often the basis on which a church takes out a loan to do a construction project. Faith Promise giving is more vertical, since it is made between the believer and the Lord.

13. Why do I have to sign my name if this is a commitment I'm making to God?

Signing your name is optional. However, indicating name and amount allows you opportunity to express your Faith and your Promise. It is a way of saying to God: "This is me, Lord. Count on me."

14. What is the advantage of Faith Promise giving?

One major advantage in giving to missions on a per week or per month basis is that you can give far more to missions that way than you can by giving one or two big sacrificial gifts per year. Faith Promise enables you to give to missions in amounts that reflect what you'd like to do. Faith Promise enables you to reach out to the unreached on a regular basis (rather than just one or two special occasions during the year).

15. Is Faith Promise the only way I can participate in missions giving?

Not everyone chooses to give weekly or monthly through Faith Promise. Local churches usually offer other offering opportunities for them throughout the year. Those participating in Faith Promise giving may choose to give additional offerings at these times in response to the Lord's direction.





