



**Prairie  
Tabernacle**

**April 26, 2009**

**Tim Strickland**

# Sermon Notes

## What is a Faith Promise Offering?

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15** *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

*<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*

## Introduction

Moving towards a new church building

**Today:** "What is a Faith Promise Offering?"

It is important to note that while today's passage relates to a different giving situation than ours, the general principles are still applicable to us.

*Note: The Faith Promise Offering concept has its roots with A.B Simpson, in the late 1800's, based on 2 Corinthians 8-9. Simpson was the founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church.*

### **1. Preliminary Questions**

- a. Why are we constructing a new building?
  - To establish a new home base that will enable us to do many things we believe the Lord would have us to do
- b. How can we afford a new building?
  - We are trusting God to provide for us
    - *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.* 2 Cor. 9:8
    - We are not a 'rich' congregation by North American standards, but we worship a God who owns everything, who has provided for us in the past
- c. Buildings are expensive, so shouldn't we spend the money on missions rather than putting up a new building for ourselves?
  - The building is not just for ourselves, but for our community and for those who will come after us. They will thank God for our generosity in the Name of the Lord
    - See 2 Corinthians 9:11-15
    - Looking back at the construction of the Tab
      - We should ask ourselves, "Did spending the money to build the Tab in the early 1950's help or hinder the work of the Lord for the next fifty years?"
  - We have received many blessings from the generosity of others, and now it is our turn to be generous for the sake of others who will come after us

### **2. A Basic Explanation of a Faith Promise Offering**

- a. You are asked to prayerfully consider committing to give an amount of money each month for the next twelve months, towards the Building Fund.
- b. You submit the commitment on a "My Faith Promise" card sometime during the Faith Promise Offering Sundays
- c. You fulfill the faith promise *as God provides* you with the finances to do so, over the next twelve months. The commitment is dependent on God's provision, and thus the name "Faith Promise".

### **3. Principles of a Faith Promise Offering**

- a. Dependence upon God – It is a faith commitment
- b. Between you and God – The promise is between you and God, not you and the church. The church will never chase after you to fulfill your faith promise
- c. Not a Cash Offering – It is a faith commitment of what you will trust God to enable you to give over the next twelve months
  - Faith in God to provide you with money you do not have now, in order to fulfill your faith promise
  - Faith in God to help you give money you do have now in order to fulfill your faith promise
  - Faith in God which you have exercised in the past, leading to God blessing you financially in the present, in order to participate in a Faith Promise Offering now
- d. Everyone in the church is invited to pray about their participation
  - Adults
  - Couples
  - Youth
  - Children
- e. God receives the Glory – Since it is made in dependence upon God

### **4. How can I be Involved in the Faith Promise Offering?**

- a. Review the Faith Promise Offering concept (using the “What is a Faith Promise Offering” handout and today’s sermon notes)
- b. Pray about your involvement in the offering
  - *Lord, how much would you like me to trust You for each month for this Faith Promise Offering?*
- c. Discuss and pray about the Faith Promise Offering with your family
  - Your whole family can learn to trust the Lord together
    - Parents can help their children make their own faith promise
- d. Be settled in your mind what you should do for your Faith Promise Offering (2 Cor. 9:7)
- e. Submit your Faith Promise Offering card on one of the designated Sundays
  - May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>
- f. Pray for our whole church about the Faith Promise Offering, during this important time.

**2 Corinthians 9:7-8** <sup>7</sup> *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* <sup>8</sup> *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

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April 26, 2009

Page 4

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### Our Response

1. Please review section four of today's message for a full description of our response

**2 Corinthians 9:6-9** *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

2. If you have further questions about the Faith Promise Offering, please do not hesitate to ask myself or any of our elders.

### Small Group Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Have you ever participated in a Faith Promise Offering? Describe your experience.
2. How do you think a Faith Promise Offering might help increase your faith in the Lord, if your financial situation is tight?
3. How do you think a Faith Promise Offering might help increase your faith in the Lord, if your financial situation is strong?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (above). What are some of the principles of giving you find in these verses? How might they apply to the Faith Promise Offering?
5. Spend some time in prayer together, first individually and then as a group. Ask the Lord about what He would have your involvement to be in the Faith Promise Offering individually, and then pray together for our whole church during this time.

#### Questions, Comments? - [inthebeginning@look.ca](mailto:inthebeginning@look.ca)

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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