

Series on the Faith Promise Mission Offering

Lesson 5: The Fulfillment of the FPMO

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:11

Introduction:

1. We have already seen that every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is to give back to the Lord the first ten-percent of all he receives. That is called the tithe. Whatever a believer gives above the tithe is called an offering.
2. The Faith Promise Mission Offering as seen in II Corinthians 8 and 9 is to be given voluntarily and willingly. This kind of offering is to be promised ahead of time by faith, trusting God to supply the promised amount, and to help us to be faithful in giving it. This offering is to be given through the local church to be used for God's work.
3. The church in Corinth had committed itself to give in the Faith Promise Mission Offering to help God's work in Jerusalem. Now in II Corinthians 8:11 Paul is telling them to fulfill their promise.
4. If you and I promise to support missions, then we must not just stop with a promise. We must put action to our promise and fulfill it. We are Christians, not like some politicians, amen? So we should do more than just make promises. God expects His people to fulfill their commitments.

I. The purpose for the offering is clear. 2 Cor.8:4; 9:1

- A. **Paul told them specifically that the offering was to be used for God's work outside of their own church.** The apostle Paul was planning to give it to those in Jerusalem for whom it was intended and then let them decide how to use it.
- B. **Here at our church 100% of everything designated for missions is deposited into our Mission Fund Account.** None of the offerings designated for missions is used for the

Lord's work here at our church. We only use the tithes and regular offerings for our own church ministry. The money in the Mission Fund Account is used only to support world evangelism. A record of all expenses for world missions is kept by the missions secretary.

- C. **When we send support to our missionaries, it is up to them to use it as they need, whether to buy Bibles, print gospel tracts, pay house rent or church rent, use for travelling expenses, buy clothes, food, or medicine.**

II. **The procedure for the offering is explained.**

- A. **Paul alerted the churches about the tremendous need for financial help in the work of God in Jerusalem.** Today we face the same great need of financing world missions. There are three basic ways the local church can help world missions:

1. Help in supplying laborers – the church can send its own members, whom God has called, to labor in the mission fields
2. Help in prayer – the church can pray earnestly and faithfully for those who are laboring and also for those whom they are trying to bring to Jesus Christ
3. Helping financially and materially – if God has not called us to go to the mission field then we must help those whom He has called; our financial help must be sufficient and consistent.

- B. **Paul asked the church members to commit themselves by faith, ahead of time, to participate in the offering for Jerusalem.** You must decide willingly, joyfully and voluntarily to participate. After you make a commitment for missions it will be your responsibility to give it, without anyone coming to ask you for it. The offering is put in an offering envelope and designated for missions. Put it in the offering basket. No one will ever come to you to collect it. It is between you and the Lord.

III. The promise to participate is a solemn decision.

The winning of people to Jesus Christ is a solemn matter. Giving to missions is very serious also. Jesus Christ taught us to be careful about rushing into decisions, without careful and prayerful thought (Lk.14:28-32).

A. Make your decision based upon certain facts.

1. All people everywhere are sinners and guilty before a holy God (Rom.3:10, 19, 23).
2. Because man is sinful and God is holy, man must be punished in hell for eternity (Rom.6:23; Matt.25:42; Rev.20:14-15).
3. There is only one way that anyone can be saved, and that is through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour (Jn.3:15-18; Eph.2:8-9).
4. God has given His people the responsibility of telling the world about salvation through Jesus Christ. (Matt.28:19-20; Mk.16:15).
5. This church is not exempted from the work of world evangelism. Rather, we have the same responsibility as all true, Bible-believing churches (Matt.28:19-20).
6. We will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ for how we participate in world missions and how we use our material possessions (II Cor.5:10).

B. Make your decision based upon confident faith.

1. We first believe the facts. We must then believe that God wants us to support missions. We must believe that God will guide us about the amount He wants us to give regularly for missions. Then we must believe that God will faithfully supply to us the amount we promise. Faith is a tremendously and vitally important part of the Christian life. Without faith we cannot please our heavenly Father (Heb.11:6).

2. Be careful about making decisions based upon your feelings. Feelings change quickly and unexpectedly, because feelings are determined by emotions. But the Word of God is the basis of our faith. Since the Word of God is changeless, our faith can be the same.

IV. The problems are serious if we fail to fulfill our Faith Promise Mission Offering.

- A. **As a church, there is the danger of losing our testimony (II Cor.9:2-5).** Other pastors, missionaries, churches and visitors hear about the amount of our Faith Promise Mission Offering commitment. Then, if we do not fulfill the promise, they lose confidence in us as a church. Every church has a reputation – whether good or bad. The church at Rome and the church at Thessalonica both had tremendous testimonies (Rom.1:8; 16:19; I Thess.1:7-8; 4:10). We want our church also to have a good testimony.
- B. **Paul said he would be ashamed (II Cor.9:4).** Paul is the one who instructed them in the Faith Promise Mission Offering. He is the one who encouraged them to make a commitment. He is the one who received their promise. He is the one who told other churches about their promise by faith, to participate in the offering. And now he is telling them that, if they do not fulfill their promise, then he and his companions will be greatly ashamed. Even if the church at Corinth does not care about their reputation, Paul said he is concerned about what other churches will say.
- C. **Our heavenly Father is very displeased when we break a vow which we make voluntarily (Eccle.5:1-6).**
- D. **The work of world missions will be greatly hindered.**

Conclusion: It is both a great responsibility and a great privilege to help in world evangelization. I am happy to commit myself and my family to participate in the Faith Promise Mission Offering for the coming year. We believe God will provide for His work through us. Will you trust Him and also participate?