

Why should we give offering?

1. Isn't it God's grace that we get to listen to the gospel and believe in the Lord? Why do we need to give offerings?

It is the grace of God that we hear and believe in the gospel. We help others and preach the gospel for free.

- . And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24 ESV)
- . Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? (2 Corinthians 11:7 ESV)

2. God gives us a lot of grace. It's right for us to give thanks to Him and respond to Him. When we have a thanksgiving heart and learn to offer, it really glorifies God and satisfies His heart.

- . For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. (2 Corinthians 8:9-12 ESV)
- . Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13:16 ESV)
- . Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of

hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3:10-12 ESV)

3. God is full of abundance. He doesn't need our money or possessions. However, He is happy that we learn how to love and share. When we do so, we won't be self-centred and we can be blessed.
4. When we offer what we have, God will use our offerings to help others; more will be blessed and see that the Lord is good. Then we will love Him more.
5. After believing in the Lord, we have become members of God's family. We all have a part in this family. Out of love, we bring what we have to God's family and share. We enrich God's family.

- . The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 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. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 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. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! (2 Corinthians 9:6-15 ESV)
- . And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (Acts 2:44-45 ESV)

- . For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— (2 Corinthians 8:3-4 ESV)
- . But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18 ESV)

6. We should first offer ourselves to God— be willing to listen to Him and follow the Bible. We love Him; therefore, we are willing to offer to Him according to our ability. This is from our true heart to God. There's no need to compare with others, nor should there be any struggle.

- . And this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (2 Corinthians 8:5 ESV)
- . For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness. (2 Corinthians 8:12-13 ESV)

7. We can prepare our offering in advance, and put it into the offering box when we are in the church meeting place. We will not pass around an offering bag in meetings because we don't want anyone to feel being forced to give. Everyone should offer with a willing heart. Moreover, we don't need to let others know when we make an offering. It is from our pure love to God. All is for Him.

- . On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. (1 Corinthians 16:2 ESV)
- . For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord. (2 Corinthians 8:3 ESV)
- . But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. (Matthew 6:3 ESV)

8. The offerings received by the church are used to support the gospel work, pay for the expenses of the meeting place, and support those who are in need. The offerings do not belong to any church leaders.

- . As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” (2 Corinthians 9:9 ESV)
- . With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. (2 Corinthians 8:18-22 ESV)

9. The church appoints a team of two or more to manage the income and expenses from the offering. Just as the Bible teaches us to walk in the light, we make such arrangement so that we won't be tempted by the money, and no one can slander us.

- . But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often

tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. (2 Cor. 8:16-23 ESV)

10. When we make an offering, the Lord will open the treasury in heaven to bless us greatly as He has promised. What He will bless us will be more than what we can think and ask for.

. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts. (Mal. 3:10-12 ESV)

11. It's our blessings to give the offering. When we give, we store up the treasures in heaven!

. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matt. 6:19-21 ESV)

. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." (Mark 10:21, 28-30 ESV)