

FAITH PROMISE

By

Dr. O. Wilburn Swaim, Th.D.

docswaim@hotmail.com
www.exhortationplace.com

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich (II Corinthians 8:9).

The Faith-Promise Plan of Giving is biblical, and is based upon the church practice recorded in II Corinthians, Chapters 8 & 9.

First, there is the Example of Giving, in 8:9. Christ laid aside all His riches, to become poor, that He might make us rich in heavenly wealth.

Secondly, there is the Principle of Giving, in 8:12. It is based on what we have, and not what we lack. Please read the next three verses. This is an important consideration, distinguishing between the correct application of this plan, and an incorrect one, attempted by many churches. The latter risks frustration and a spirit of pride, in many participants. This will be explained further, later.

This plan can replace all other missionary giving gimmicks often used by churches, and principles our giving biblically, so God can honor and bless it.

Thirdly, there is Purposeful Giving, 9:7. Faith-Promise giving is NOT a pledge. Rather, it is the individual believer finding out from God what He would have him or her to give. The gift is given secretly, before the Lord, according to promise. One promises God to give the gift. That promise is based on faith—faith, that after you have done what God has led you to do, he will then supply your needs! Please read 9:8-11. It is the Bible way, and all ages can participate—children and adults.

It is NOT a pledge to be collected. It is a gift freely given.

Lastly, there is the Reward of Giving, in 9:12-14. Here we find both the needs of the ones to whom we are giving being met (v.12a), much praise is received by God (v.12b), and the recipients praying for the faithful donors, resulting in God's blessings on all! (v.14).

Why do we so treasure here, what we will tread on in heaven?