

"FAITH PROMISE GIVING"

(Bible study by Rev. Jim L. Bray)

DEFINITION:

- (1) **PRAY** that God will burden your heart for the amount He wants you to give to missions each week or month through your local church,
- (2) Show your **FAITH** in God's ability to supply your needs, and
- (3) **PROMISE** you'll start **GIVING** that amount as He supplies your need.

Definition of Faith in Heb. 11:1

"substance" - Gr. - "assurance"

"hoped for" - Gr. - "confidently expected"

"evidence" - Gr. - "proof"

Faith is the **assurance** that things **confidently expected** will happen, based on former proof of these things that are yet **unseen**. In other words, faith truly believes on the basis of previous proofs, that though something has not already happened or been seen yet, it is true that it will surely happen. You can't outgive God, and you reap what you sow!

Heb. 11:6 - impossible to please God unless we give by faith (that He'll meet our needs)

Rom. 14:23 - to give without faith that God can supply our needs is sinful.

Luke 6:38 - You give first (to show your faith), and then He will reimburse you by laying it on the hearts of others to give back to you.

I Cor. 16:1-3

vs. 1,3 - "collection for the saints" - MISSIONS offering!; "order" - command!

vs. 2 - lay aside in advance your missions money (and tithe) for Sunday

II Cor. 8:1-14 - Macedonian churches were joyful, sacrificial, and generous givers!

vs. 1 - "brethren"- for saved individuals; "churches"- through the local church!

vs. 2 - "affliction"; "deep poverty" - sacrificial givers (difficult giving in hard times); "joy" - joyful givers (II Cor. 9:7);

"riches of their liberality" - generous givers

vs. 3 - "beyond their power"- beyond their normal ability; God-enabled givers (II Cor. 9:8); "willing" - willful givers (also vs. 12 - "a willing mind")

vs. 4 - "praying us" - begging us; "the fellowship of" - their participation in

vs. 5 - "not as we hoped" - more than we expected; "gave" - spiritual givers

vs. 6,10,11 - The Corinthian church had begun an offering a year earlier, but had quit giving and sending it to Paul; he tells them to start giving again.

vs. 8 - Our giving is our way of proving or showing the sincerity of our love!

vs. 9 - Christ proved His love for us by giving Himself to meet our needs, as we should prove our love for Him by giving to help meet other's needs! (Matt. 25:40)

vs. 11 - It's not enough just to "wish we could be giving"; we must start giving!

vs. 12 - Start giving now with what little you already have, rather than waiting to give someday from what you hope to have!

vs. 14 - Give now to help others with their needs, and God will see to it that others help you when you have needs!

(Compare - Luke 6:38; Gal. 6:7)

II Cor. 9:6-8

vs. 6 - Stingy givers receive few blessings, and generous givers receive many!

vs. 7 - Plan ahead what you're going to give (what God lays upon your heart!)

vs. 8 - God is able to make you able to give! He will supply all your need (Phil. 4:19)

II Cor. 10:15-16 - "When your faith is increased, we will be helped abundantly by you, so that we can preach the Gospel in the regions beyond" (MISSIONS!) We should not only give by faith, but we should seek to "INCREASE" each year!

FAITH PROMISE GIVING - I SAM. 1:9-11 ,22, 24, 28 - **HANNAH** is a good example of **Faith Promise Giving!**

(1) **FAITH** - She prayed and promised God what she didn't have yet, but had faith God would give her if it was His will;

(2) **PROMISE** - vs. 11 - "I will give him..."; vs. 22 - "will bring him, that he may...abide for ever";

(3) **GIVING** - vs. 24 - "she took him"; vs. 28 - "I have lent him...as long as he liveth"

#1 reason for giving - Love! - God showed His love by giving - John 3:16; I Jn 4:19.

Illus. - Love is best shown in our giving - gifts to parents, boyfr/girlfr, spouse, children, grandchildren