

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

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Sang W. Sur

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work

God doesn't need offering (Acts 17:24-28)

But we offer anyway because

- a. Our offering shows complete surrender to God (our money, our time, our valuables, our talents)
- b. Our offering shows thanksgiving to God (I just want to do for God!)

Our Lord's Day service, small group gatherings, or our time in ministries should be an offering – self-willed giving.

Offering (ô'fər-ĭng) – a gift from the heart, one that is given self-willingly
-Sangster's Dictionary, ©200X

Offering is not something that is to be given because you are forced. It's a matter of the heart. (not just money, but anything valuable to us)

God blesses us so that we may continue to grow and excel in doing good (not to be self-reliant or no longer trust in God!!! – Think about it)

8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work

Give without measuring – just learn to be grateful, and remember everything is already God's

Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

God despises religious giving – He wants our hearts!!! (Malachi 1:6-11)

God challenges us to tithe correctly (without holding back), and He will bless you beyond measure!

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.



Your life is to be an offering, to go and be different. To live in faith trusting God in all your life's matters (Like Abraham). (See Romans 12:1-2)

Give even if you do not have much (Mark 12:41-43) - God is looking for your heart – not your money!

Practical Guidelines:

If your heart is not there, that's ok – you don't have to give your time or money. But you see, church (again, not a building) is made up of people who are willing to give what they have (money, talents, time) to encourage and build up others as they connect with God. (Check Acts 2:44-45) And I'll give you a secret – even if you don't have the heart to serve others, just start doing ministries (serving) anyway – and you may be surprised what kind of heart you'll find. (Kind of like, try singing during worship. I know some of you are not up for that – but it may help you to connect with God; volunteer for ministries, and you'll see doors open up for you).

Sang's practical offering guide

Leviticus 27:30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Tithe (noun) – a tenth - a mandate from God to devote 10% of all we receive as a sign that we believe all things are God's.

Offering of Money or other valuables

- Earnings from work – minimum 10% of your earnings (give more out of gratitude)
 - o 1Cor 16:1-2 – give more as your income increases (as God blesses you more in other aspects than money, we should also give more as thanks offering to God)
- Earnings from allowances (from parents) – minimum 10% of your allowance (give more out of gratitude)
- Nice Computer – dedicate it to God; make use of this machine to help others, the church, or ministries
- Car – dedicate it to God; give people rides to and from church, help others in need
- Jewelry – remember the occasion for it (for example engagement) and dedicate yourself further for God
- Video game system (Xbox 360, PS3), big screen TV – use it for fellowships and share the use with others
- Give as your heart directs you – *Exodus 35:20-29*
- Events in life (*find a wife/husband, get into good school, do well on finals, etc*) – give thanks offering (it could be money or dedication of time to some ministry)

Offering of Time

- (Note: all of our lives should be devoted to God)
- Give at least tenth of your life (or 16.8 hours each week) in the following:
 - o connecting with God (prayer or reading the Bible)
 - o serving others
 - o helping with ministries
 - o participating in small groups
 - o helping with and actively participating in the Lord's Day Service
- Rest - (Many "Christians" can't do this because of the busy world, and the need for money) but it's a command
Exodus 35:2 For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD.
- Your talents – God has given you special unique abilities that you may serve using those talents.
 - o (How many of you have design skills, architect abilities, construction capabilities, computer skills, even video game skills? All these can be used to further the kingdom of God – See Exodus 35:30-36:7)
 - o (for those of you that question whether the ability to design and pick out colors matter – see Exodus 36:7-38)

