

Right Resources for Church Money – Offerings and Gifts

II. Offerings and gifts: There are various types of offerings and gifts for the church to avail of to continue the mission work. After we bring our tithes in full, then we can give our offerings to God. If we will not bring our tithes, then we are not yet giving. The more we give, the more we will receive. As we give and continue to give generously with love in our hearts, then we will also reap generously. “6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-9 KJV) Offerings are also collected in response to the call of God to construction of new buildings for His name and glory, as in the case of the elders of the Israelites who offered generously towards the building of the temple of God. “6 Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, 7 And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. 8 And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.” (1 Chronicles 29:6-9 KJV)

There are more kinds of offerings we can find in the Scripture verses below:

A. Burnt offering: “1 And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock. 3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.” (Leviticus 1:1-3 KJV) When the people of God brought the burnt offering to the Lord, they burnt it whole to God. So here we can value the amount of money that we can give to God as a burnt offering, in order to let the fire on the altar of God's ministry glow continuously. *Leviticus 1* speaks about and describes other animals that can be brought to God as a burnt offering. Everyone in the congregation can bring as he is led by the Holy Spirit an amount of money according to his ability as a burnt offering. “10 And if his offering be of the flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish.” “14 And if the burnt sacrifice for his offering to the LORD be of fowls, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves, or of young pigeons.” (Leviticus 1:10, 14 KJV) King Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings: “3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. 4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.” (1 Kings 3:3-4 KJV)

B. Meat offering: “1 And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon: 2 And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereof his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD: 3 And the remnant of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire.” (Leviticus 2:1-3 KJV) Meat offerings were offered to furnish the physical needs of the ministers of God. Paul commended that in his teaching. “14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the Gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.” (Philippians 4:14-18 KJV) Paul also emphasized to them that as they are faithful in meeting his needs, God will supply all their needs. “19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19 KJV) Those who cannot afford to give big amount of money as an offering can bring small amount that express their devotion to God and that will help and support the needs of the church. In return to that, God, will help and support their needs. “1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. 3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: 4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.” (Luke 21:1-4 KJV) Jesus' ministry was helped and supported by the substance of women. “1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, 2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, 3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.” (Luke 8:1-3 KJV)

C. Peace offering: “1 And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD. 2 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. 3 And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, 4 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. 5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.” (Leviticus 3:1-5 KJV) After we repent of certain sins, we can express our devotion to God by bringing a peace offering to Him. There is no offering that can atone for our sins except the blood of Jesus and our offering will not bring us peace unless we repent. After we repent, we can bring a peace offering to express our gratitude to God who forgives our sins and grants us peace. “14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in

ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." (Ephesians 2:14-17 KJV) We can also bring peace offering as a thanksgiving when God answered our prayers and give us victory.

D. Sin offering: "1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them: 3 If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering. 4 And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock's head, and kill the bullock before the LORD." "13 And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty; 14 When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation." "22 When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty; 23 Or if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish." "27 And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty; 28 Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned." (Leviticus 4:1-4, 13-14, 22-23, 27-28 KJV) Again here, the sin offering is not to make atonement for sin, but it can be considered as an expression of a person's repentance and his awareness that his sin had caused damage and losses to God and to His people and church. The sin offering is to express his willingness to compensate and to repair and restore the damage he had caused. The sin offering is not to be given to cover up a sin or to be used to wave away the disgrace of willful sin. When King David repented for the sin of counting the men after God's discipline, he was instructed by God through the prophet Gad to build an altar for the Lord, and he paid for the threshing floor where he built the altar for God. "18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite. 19 And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. 20 And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. 21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. 22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. 23 All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee. 24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt

offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel." (2 Samuel 24:18-25 KJV)

E. Temple offering: "11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 12 When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. 13 This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. 14 Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. 15 The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. 16 And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls." (Exodus 30:11-16 KJV) The collection was for all from the age of 20 years and above. It was called atonement money and it was used for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. And it became a memorial for the Israelites to do every year. At the time of Jesus that was still there and Jesus was requested to pay it. "24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee." (Matthew 17:24-27 KJV) Every one of us is responsible to cater to the needs and service of the house of God, His church, so that the house of God will not be neglected and every need is met.

At the time of Nehemiah, after rebuilding the wall and setting the gates, the people came together and committed themselves to attend to the temple's material needs, to ensure that the services go on in the proper way. "32 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God; 33 For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. 34 And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law: 35 And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD: 36 Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God: 37 And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage. 38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithes of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the

chambers, into the treasure house. 39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.” (Nehemiah 10:32-39 KJV)

My dear and beloved: In our church we give our offering in the way mentioned below: If it is a small amount then we just drop it in the collection basket. If it is a considerable amount, then we take an envelope and write our name, the amount, and the kind of offering we are giving.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your teaching about the different kinds of offerings and gifts. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments I received in this message.*

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your not giving your tithes and offerings unto God. Repent of your non concern to support the works of God, His church and ministries. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God in your life. Repent of your non willingness to serve Christ and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins: _____.

Lord, I commit myself to bring my tithes and various offerings to support the works of God, His church and ministries. Lord I commit myself to start to serve you and do your will and suffer for your cause and purpose. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and give to me the spiritual gifts that I need in order to evangelize and make new disciples. Lord protect me and provide all my needs so that I can continue to go on and serve you.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and willing to amend their ways and to go back to you and serve you and doing your works. Lord reward them for every offering and sacrifice they offered to you. Lord prosper the works of their hands and their ministries. Lord use them as good example to others to go on and serve you and do your will.

Lord bless us as a church to continue to teach what is correct. Lord we commit ourselves to do the good works that you had prepared for us to do. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord take the message and spread it to achieve the purpose of sending it. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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