



GOD FIRST

REGULAR OFFERINGS



PHILOSOPHY & NATURE OF OFFERINGS

Regular (percentage-based) offerings are required by the Lord as the tithe (Malachi 3:8) and are under the same principle: proportioned to income. CS 73



Freewill offerings may be given in addition to regular offerings. Exodus 25:2; 36:3.



Regular and proportional giving should be the most basic way of giving. 1 Cor 16:2; Deut 16:17; Proverbs 3:8.



Regular offering has the same nature as a 'promise' to God. 2 Cor 9:7 says we are to purpose in our heart how much to give.



Regular offering is adjusted when income or increase adjusts.



God's blessings (increase or income) will determine when I give offerings, not my feelings. CS 25. Proverbs 3:9,10



PRINCIPLES GUIDING OUR GIVING

Offerings are a token of a life surrendered to God. Lev 1:4,9



Offerings acknowledge God's provision. Psalm 34:8, 1 Chr 29:14



Offerings come from a heart at peace. Matthew 5:23,24



Offerings are our gratitude for the assurance of salvation through Christ. 2 Corinthians 8:1,9

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OFFERINGS

Regular and systematic offerings are the foundation of giving, freewill offerings may be in addition. CS 17-18



Regular offering is as important as returning tithe. Malachi 3:8



Regular offering is a pre-established and dedicated proportion of income or increase. 2 Corinthians 8:17-23; 9:3.



The worshipper, in prayer, must establish a pattern of giving, based on a proportion of the income. 2 Cor 9:7; Deut 6:17.



PURPOSE OF OFFERINGS

To cover operational needs of the local church and of the Church at all administrative levels.



To cover the cost of building and maintenance. Exodus 25:2; 1 Chr 24:6,9



To assist the poor. Acts 4:34, 35



To support the worship services and the mission of the Church. Numbers 7:3

To strengthen the unity of the Church, one spirit, message and purpose. Romans 15:27



To partner with other churches who have less, expressing the fellowship of believers. 2 Cor 8:8, 24, 13-15

To express gratitude, praise and honour to God for His blessings. Proverbs 3:9; 2 Cor 9:12,13



PROMISE: OFFERING UNDER GOD'S BASIC SYSTEM

HOW MUCH:

The Principle of the Purpose:

2 Cor 9:7 "... give as he purposes in his heart..." There must be a purpose (proaireomai), which means, a decision taken before, an established purpose.



The Principle of the Proportionality:

Deut 16:17; 1 Cor 16:2 "... according to the blessing ...", or "... as he may prosper...". The proportional (percentage based) system implies that the change on prosperity will bring an equivalent and fair change on the amount given on tithes and offerings. They should be given "according to the blessing", or "as he may prosper".



WHEN:

The Principle of the Priority:

Matt 6:33; Prov 3:9 and 10 "But seek first...", "... with the first fruits..." – which means that what belongs to God (tithes and offerings) should be returned before any other expense will be met. (Matt 6:33; CS 80-81)



The Principle of the Regularity:

Prov 3:9 "... with the first fruits of all your increase", which means, when there is an increase, and every time there is an increase.

