

Giving at FBC

Every congregation has different ways and of collecting offerings from their congregations. Here at Fellowship Bible Church, we take a simple and subtle approach that is intended to honor the Lord and make it easy for those who give to the Lord's work.

It is important to start with some biblical principles on giving. This gives a foundation for why we go about collecting offerings in the way we do.

1. Everything I receive comes from God, and He retains ownership of it. I am commissioned as the manager of the funds that He has entrusted to me. As such, I need to consult God on all matters of spending and giving. (Psalm 24:1, Deuteronomy 8:18, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
2. God says that where I direct the funds that He has entrusted to me is where my focus will be. If I spend a lot on earthly treasures and give little to the Lord's work, my focus **will not** be where God wants it...on Him. (Matthew 6:19-21)
3. Our life on earth is only for a moment. Our life in heaven (or hell) is for eternity. As God's money manager, my concern should be investing as much as I can in God's work here on earth, because it will matter for eternity. (1 Corinthians 9:9-12)
4. God's instructions on giving revolve around tithes and offerings. Since that is the case, to honor the Lord I need to set aside a portion of everything I make to give to the Lord's work, primarily at my local church. I shouldn't look at this as fulfilling an obligation of giving God His due, because that portion isn't God's and the rest is mine, all of it is God's and I'm just acknowledging that by continually giving Him a portion, just as He said I should. Although I need to regularly give as large of a portion of my income as I can, I should also look for opportunities to meet pressing needs that the Lord brings across my path. (2 Corinthians 8, Malachi 3:8-10)
5. Investing in eternity can take many different forms. I can give of my time, my talent and my treasure. Again, the perspective is that it is all given to me by God anyway, so it's all rightfully His to use in the way He desires. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Since we believe in these biblical principles of giving, we don't make collecting offerings a major focus of our worship service, although giving is definitely a vital form of worship. Rather than "taking" an offering, we desire people to "give" their offerings. We have placed clearly marked offering boxes near the doors of the main auditorium for this purpose.

On occasion, we will make special requests for offerings for particular urgent needs that everyone in the body might want the opportunity to help meet. We also give regular updates on the budget and how the giving as a whole is going, as well as periodic instruction and testimonials on giving. A current accounting of income and expenses is distributed at each congregational meeting, which gives an update by purpose area as to where we are compared to our budget. Each purpose area coordinator sets and monitors the budget for their area. The budget is generated in the fall for the following calendar year, and the congregation votes on the budget at the first of the year.

A good resource for further study on giving is a little book called "The Treasure Principle" by Randy Alcorn. It is a helpful guide in developing an eternal perspective on giving.

The Lord is faithful in supplying amply for His work and our needs. When we truly set our minds and hearts to give, we experience the immeasurable joy that comes from being aligned with the greatest sacrificial giver of all...Jesus.

You can't take it with you – but you *can* send it on ahead.

God owns everything. I'm His money manager.

My heart always goes where I put God's money.

Heaven, not earth, is my home.

I should live not for the dot but for the line.

Giving is the only antidote to materialism.

**God prospers me not to raise my standard of living,
but to raise my standard of giving.**

My Giving Covenant

- **Commitment # 1:** I affirm God's full ownership of me (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20) and everything entrusted to me (Psalm 24:1)
- **Commitment # 2:** I will set aside the firstfruits – starting with at least 10 percent – of all I receive, treating it as holy and belonging exclusively to the Lord (Malachi 3:8-10). How am I doing at my basic giving commitment to God, beginning with my local church (1 Corinthians 9:9-12; Galatians 6:6)? Whether I believe in the 10 percent guideline or not, do I qualify as a true giver?
- **Commitment # 3:** Out of the remaining treasures God entrusts to me, I will seek to make generous freewill gifts (2 Corinthians 9:11). How much is God leading me to give in freewill offerings? Where should I give them? (James 1:5). How strategic or worthy are the organizations or individuals I'm supporting or considering supporting? Do I know and agree with their values and purposes? Does God agree with them?
- **Commitment # 4:** I ask God to teach me to give sacrificially to His purposes, including helping the poor and reaching the lost (2 Corinthians 8:3)
- **Commitment # 5:** Recognizing that I cannot take earthly treasures from this world, I determine to lay them up as heavenly treasures – for Christ's glory and the eternal good of others and myself (Matthew 6: 19-21).
- **Commitment # 6:** I ask God to show me how to lead others to the present joy and future reward of the Treasure Principle (Hebrews 10:24)