

Is Seeing Believing?

Faith Promise Explained

by Keith Brown

What Does It Mean?

Faith promise requires a commitment. I commit myself to an amount of money and by faith, based on God's promises, expect Him to enable me to do it. As I commit myself to this step of faith, it helps me to reprogram my whole life priority system so that I begin looking for God's provision. It gives me new eyes to see my stewardship in a totally different way. Instead of sitting back waiting, I begin to actively look for ways in which God will provide for me to fulfill my faith promise.

A faith promise for missions becomes my expression of obedience to Christ's command. He uses my faithfulness based on His promises to build His church worldwide.

FAITH: My trusting God to enable me to give more than I thought I could give, and at the same time meet all my needs.

PROMISE: The basis of trusting in God, because He promised to supply all my needs.

How Does It Work?

Because a Christian lives with one overall purpose in mind — to glorify God — I, as a Christian, should want to give more and more to advance His kingdom throughout the world. A faith promise for missions, then, becomes an expression of my obedience to Christ's command: "to make disciples of all people."

By committing myself in a faith promise, I gain a totally different perspective on what I have and on my priority in life. I begin to see everything I have as belonging to God, and I look for ways He will enable me to give more and more for His cause. When I commit myself in the area of faith I am not relying on my limited resources — I now rely on God's unlimited resources.

Is Faith Promise Scriptural?

The principle of faith promise giving is found in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. Verse 3 of chapter 8 uses the expression “to their power” (as much as they were able) and “beyond their power” (beyond their ability). “To their power” (ability) relates to their tithes and offerings — or their known sources of income. “Beyond their power” relates in a special way to the principle of faith promise giving — or beyond any known sources of income, looking to the Lord in faith for the way He will enable them to give.

We take into account what we foresee that we can give to missions over the next year. Then we lift our hearts in faith and pray: “Lord, over and above my ability, how much more shall I trust You to enable me to give?” It is not what God necessarily gives me, but what He enables me to give.

(See also: 1 Chron. 29:14, 16; Lk. 6:38; Mal. 3:10; Ps. 37:5; 2 Chron. 9:6; the principle illustrated in Matt. 14:13-21.)

How Is A Faith Promise Supplied?

Does a faith promise always come in some dramatic, unexpected manner? Do I make a faith promise and then just sit back and wait to see what happens?

Once in awhile God does surprise us with a dramatic miracle. But usually a faith promise does not come in a dramatic way. God's miracle may come as I cut back in some area that will enable me to have more to give, or as I look for some creative way to do something extra that will generate income to enable me to give.

From the experience of many individuals and churches, there are three general ways God uses to supply a faith promise.

1. *Unexpected—*

From time to time God does provide for a faith promise in a miraculous, dramatic way.

- A check of \$150 arrives in a letter to replace a window broken by a boy (now grown up) many years before.
- The IRS sends a refund to settle the estate of a father who died eleven years before.
- An overlooked pay raise is made retroactive, covering a faith promise made the month before.
- A contractor has a job bid accepted — with the condition that the bid be increased by an amount equal to a faith promise made just three days before.

2. *Reordering Our Priorities—*

By applying better principles of stewardship, managing what we already have, and adjusting our priorities to reflect our desire to see the world evangelized, we can generate money. This would include living more simply and so freeing money; evaluating your lifestyle to consider ways you can decrease your unnecessary personal expenses.

- A single career girl cuts up her plastic cards and resists shopping and charging. As a result, she has money not only to tithe (which she was not doing) but also to make a faith promise.
- A man determines he really doesn't need a new car this year and frees money he would have used for car payments.
- A teenager determines to purchase half as many stereo albums as he normally would, freeing up money.
- A housewife decides her frequent trips to the hairdresser could be greatly reduced and uses the money for the Lord.

3. *Creative Ways—*

of generating extra income to be used toward a faith promise.

- A housewife trusts God to bring in enough orders of a special French pastry she bakes.
- A teenager makes a faith promise and trusts God to give her enough baby-sitting jobs to enable her to meet it.
- A retired couple plant berries to grow and sell, trusting God to help them sell enough.
- A family has a garage sale to eliminate unneeded items around the house, which generates extra money.

How Do You Make A Faith Promise?

- 1. Pray** — for what the Lord would have you do, and know that what He commands He also enables.
- 2. Commit** — yourself to make a faith promise, realizing that your faith will grow as you stay committed to that promise.
- 3. Look** — for the different ways God will use you to give your faith promise.
- 4. Be Faithful** — to give as God enables you.

Faith Promise Is: My faith reaching to God — that His salvation might reach the world.

