

Are there illustrations of Faith Promise giving in the Bible?

Yes. There are many. By faith, Abraham offered Isaac to the Lord. Perhaps you remember that story in Genesis 22. So miraculous was God's provision in response to Abraham's faith that Abraham named the place of the offering "Jehovah Jireh". Translated, that means "the Lord provides" or "Jehovah seeth". He sees the provision before we do and we see the provision as we act in faith.

There is another good illustration of "Faith Promise" found in 2 Kings 4:1-7. As you read that story carefully, you will notice the Lord's provision in direct proportion to faith. Faith provided empty vessels. God's provision filled the vessels faith provided.

How are Faith Promise receipts used?

They provide the financial resources for the worldwide missionary staff of Shenandoah Baptist Church. Information on the growing missionary team is shared throughout the year with the Shenandoah family and is readily available through the Church Office.

How are members of the missionary staff chosen?

Members of the church's missionary staff are generally chosen through a process of preparatory consultation, personal interviews, and an internship program provided by the church. This procedure for choosing the staff is administered by the church's Committee on World Missions. The process toward final approval generally requires a minimum of twelve months, which includes the internship and evaluation procedures. The Committee on World Missions reports to the Elders, who have the ultimate responsibility for the Committee's actions.

Do I have to be a member of Shenandoah Baptist Church to participate in Faith Promise giving?

No. There are many friends of the church who want to have this personal contact and direct support with missionaries. They do so by sharing in this ministry through Shenandoah Baptist Church.

Even though I did not make a Faith Promise commitment during the Annual Missions Conference, may I still share in Faith Promise giving?

Yes. There is always a need that can be met and should be met by a growing number of participants.

How do I get started?

Determine through prayer the amount you believe the Lord wants to provide through you. Pray daily for the provision of that amount and stay alert to the numerous ways the Lord will provide, i.e., extra income, reduced expenses, etc. When you receive these funds above your regular tithes and offerings, deposit them in the Sunday offering or mail them to the church. Please make sure your offering is clearly marked for "Faith Promise". Church envelopes are available upon request.

What about my questions that are not answered in this brochure?

Please don't let that keep you from receiving the blessing. Call the Church Office and we will be happy to share with you all the information we have available.



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FAITH PROMISE

Questions & Answers



And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature".

Mark 16:15

AN INTRODUCTION TO
“FAITH PROMISE”
by Robert L. Alderman

Many friends ask me about the “Faith Promise” World Missions ministry of Shenandoah Baptist Church. Faith Promise is that aspect of our World Missions emphasis that provides the funding for our endeavors in World Missions. It is the part that ties our FAITH to God’s PROMISE, which results in His PROVISION.

Shenandoah Baptist Church has a growing world missionary family. This family is an evidence of our solid commitment to the world mission mandate given by Christ to the church. We have accepted that mandate!

The ministry of World Missions is a year-round emphasis at Shenandoah Baptist Church. Anyone attending services on a regular basis will soon learn the answers to many of their questions about missions, such as, “Why should a church that has so many needs of its own send personnel and finances to other nations?” Or that frequently asked question, “Those people who have never heard of Christ, are they really lost?”

The answers to these and similar questions fall into the category of what we commonly call “The Bible Basis for Missions”. It is not the purpose of this brochure to cover that category of questions. However, should you have such questions, I would certainly want to help you get the answers.

The purpose of this brochure is to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about FAITH PROMISE. Should you have other questions, please ask.

Questions & Answers

What does the term “Faith Promise” mean?

Perhaps the best way to answer that question is to insert the term into a sentence - “By FAITH, I PROMISE to give \$ - - - - per week to World Missions”. The promise to give is based upon the faith to receive. It is not a promise to give something you already have. It doesn’t take faith to give what you already have, but it does take faith to promise to give what you don’t have. Faith Promise is simply claiming from the Lord an amount of money which you do not have in order that you might use it for World Missions.

Then there is another explanation of the term “Faith Promise”. It is simply the FAITH by which we claim the PROMISE of God for His PROVISION for the work He has commissioned.

How does Faith Promise relate to the tithe?

The word “tithe” means “ten-percent”. The Bible teaches tithing as the minimum of our financial commitment to Christian ministries. The tithes are presented to the Lord as an act of obedience. Since the Christian is not limited to this minimum, and we have the opportunity of living by faith, we may trust God for more. After all, the evidence is that God is ready to respond to our faith, not just to our obedience.

Could you illustrate Faith Promise giving?

Yes. There are thousands of illustrations. One of my favorites is of a friend who was a new Christian living on a fixed and limited income. Yet, when he heard of the Faith Promise concept of providing for World Missions, by faith he began to ask the Lord for an amount beyond his natural ability to give. He didn’t know where the money would come from, but was willing to trust the Lord for it. Accordingly, he promised to give what the Lord provided. A few weeks later, he had his eyes examined and fully expected to purchase a new pair of glasses. He had prepared for

this and had saved the money, but for the first time in several years, the examination indicated that there was no need for new glasses. Even as a new Christian, he immediately recognized that this was God’s provision in response to his “Faith Promise” and the money for the glasses went to World Missions.

Is Faith Promise a pledge to the church?

No. It is a promise to the Lord, not a pledge to the church.

Suppose I make a Faith Promise commitment and then I am not able to give it? Will I be personally contacted and asked to give the amount of the commitment?

No. Faith Promise is simply an arrangement between you and the Lord. If the Lord does not provide it for you to give, then certainly no one would expect you to give it.

How does the church know what to expect in the way of Faith Promise gifts?

When the Faith Promise giver settles the amount with the Lord, he or she then indicates that amount to the church. This Faith Promise tally is made at our Annual Missions Conference in November, even though additional commitments are made throughout the year.

How do I know what God will provide through me?

Perhaps the best way to answer that question is with another question: “For how much are you willing to trust Him?” Prayer and faith are the two key factors in making this determination.

Is Faith Promise giving based on the Bible?

Yes. The Bible says, “the just shall live by faith”. The promises of God, as well as the provisions of God, are received by faith.