

# Freewill Offering

God looks for, and delights in, our freewill offerings. Freewill means what it says.

Given of your own free will.

It does not mean something that has been demanded from you, embarrassed out of you, or given because guilt or condemnation has been placed upon you. It does not mean something that has been given for fear of the consequences of not giving it.

Freewill means: freewill.

And it is precious because it is a true indicator of our heart's condition.

Again and again we read of the term freewill offering in the Old Testament. We read of it because it is foundational to understanding God's character .

A couple examples

Exodus 35:29 The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.

Deuteronomy 16:10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.

Eason's Commentary explains Free-will offering as - a spontaneous gift, as opposed to one in consequence of a vow, or in expiation of some offence.

In other words an offering is given to the Lord freely, spontaneously, willingly, voluntarily abundantly and plentifully. Freely, joyfully and generously might sum it up.

In the New Testament Paul spoke so highly of those who though not wealthy gave generously of their own free will to further his work.

2 Corinthians 8:2 - 4 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

Note that Paul did not manipulate these gifts from them. He did not pressurize them blatantly or subtly. These were gifts given freely .

Paul made it clear that he demanded no fee for preaching the gospel.

2 Corinthians 11:7 Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?

2 Thessalonians 3: 7- 9 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

It is right that Christians support the preaching of God's word. (On top of that there is a giving of what scripture calls alms to the poor as the Lord might lead).

In the New Testament

Luke 11:41- 43 But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you.

We read in..

Malachi 3: 8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me.

We have heard many times: Give and it will be given to you.. for with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Luke 6:38)

Now we can see all sorts of pressure and manipulation at work by some preachers. There is a preacher I've seen that is reputed to receive \$40,000,000 a year coercing people to give more.

Some give trying to win God's favor, trying to receive what the preacher promised.

People have a choice.

However when there is high pressure or prolonged pressure, when there is emotional or spiritual manipulation, that is sin. We are now trusting in the arm of flesh.

The Protestant revolution was born out of the revolt against the Mother church selling spiritual blessings.

On TV there was a preacher with the microphone, selling blessings. was talking loudly, excitedly, sweat dripping profusely from his brow on to the shoulders of his suit.

It is said that this preacher promised those who send in 77 dollars the following blessings would be theirs..

Sickness would leave their home, an angel would be dispatched to them immediately and they would have all the days allotted to them.

The message was continually repeated over and over again.

Angels for 77 dollars; now that's a bargain.

If we never receive another blessing we have received more than we deserve. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added on to you.

God really is good. And able and freely willing to give blessings.