

Frequently Asked Questions about Faith Promise

1. What is Faith Promise?

Faith Promise is one way of raising funds for global outreach. Rather than waiting to respond to individual appeals, believers ask the Lord how much they should give to missions over the next year. Then, they commit to that annual total as a "Faith Promise." Faith Promise is designed to make supporting missions strategic rather than sporadic.

2. Is there scriptural support for the Faith Promise method of fundraising?

In His covenant with Abraham, God said that through Abraham's descendants, "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:3, NIV) Faith Promise giving is a way to become a blessing to others by sharing the resources with which God has blessed us.

- Hannah, though beyond child-bearing age, promised a son she did not have to serve in the temple, if God would provide the son. (1 Samuel 1:1-3)
- The Macedonians gave beyond their means (more than they could afford). (2 Corinthians 8:2-3, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15)
- Faith Promise giving reflects our personal commitments. (2 Corinthians 8:5)
- Though Faith Promise giving is optional, it does clearly demonstrate our love. (Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 6:38, Romans 12:9-10)

3. Who should give to Faith Promise?

Anyone who is active in the life of the church is encouraged to make a Faith Promise commitment. Husbands, wives, singles, youth, and children should all be encouraged to make a Faith Promise commitment.

4. What's the relationship between Faith Promise and tithes/offerings?

Faith Promise giving is over and above the tithes and offerings that someone would normally give to the church. Tithing recognizes God's ownership over me and all that I have. In practical terms, tithe money runs the local church and its ministries. Faith Promise is a way for us give specifically to missions ministries and reaching the unreached of the world.

5. How do I determine what amount my Faith Promise should be?

1. Pray for God's leading in the amount you should give.
2. Be obedient to His leading.
3. Complete a Faith Promise card during the Global Impact Celebration.

6. How do I get the funds to fulfill my Faith Promise?

There are many ways that God can provide unexpected income. He may lead you to raise funds in a creative or innovative way. He may ask you to adjust your lifestyle so you can have more to give. He may ask you to sacrifice something so you can support outreach at your church.

7. Do I give my Faith Promise before I get it?

A Faith Promise is a FAITH commitment. Promise only what you believe God wants to give through you. Then trust God to be faithful in this promise. Your Faith Promise involvement says that you believe:

- global outreach is vital to accomplishing the mission of the church.
- the gospel can change lives.
- giving, although important, is secondary to faith and praying.
- God will help pay the amount promised.

8. How do I give my Faith Promise?

Missionaries and mission organizations need regular support. If possible, make regular payments for your Faith Promise commitment. Some Faith Promise commitments, however, depend on annual, one-time income. These can be paid when the money has been received.

9. Is this a pledge, and will I be notified of my progress?

This is a promise to God, not a pledge to the church. Your Faith Promise amount is between you and God. Although you will be receipted, as with all giving to the church, no one will notify you or keep track of your progress toward your Faith Promise commitment.

10. How long does my Faith Promise commitment last?

Faith Promise commitments are made once a year during the Global Impact Celebration. The weekly, monthly, or annual commitments extend for one year from that time.

11. What are Faith Promise funds used for?

Funds that are received through the Faith Promise are used to support the local, national, and international global outreach ministries of the church. These supported ministries were chosen after much study, prayer, and discussion by the Global Outreach Team.

12. Are Faith Promise funds used to send people on short-term mission trips?

Short-term team members are required to raise their own support. Therefore, the Faith Promise funds are not used to provide transportation, lodging, meals, tips, transfers, or personal spending for team members. Depending on the nature of the short-term project, Faith Promise funds may be used for building materials, teaching materials, VBS supplies, equipment rental, or other needs related to ministry, providing such projects align with the church's mobilization plan.

Exception: Trips for pastoral leadership should be covered by Faith Promise funds. Acquiring and casting a God-sized vision by pastoral leadership is part of their job, and pastors are vital in strategically engaging the world.

13. Is the Faith Promise budget equally divided among the Acts 1:8 Teams (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth)?

The Faith Promise budget is distributed according to the mobilization plan. There is no requirement to have equal distribution of funds, only a balanced approach to ensure ministry is being carried out in those areas. The needs of the specific ministries dictates the amounts that are dispersed to any one area. The needs of the specific ministries and the depth of partnership with the mission partner dictates the amount that is distributed to any one area.