

How to Receive an Offering

The church has an image problem that was created through ignorance in the church and hostility in the world. Movies, television shows, and other secular entertainment forms have made fun of “passing the offering plate” in religious services. Unscrupulous or unknowing ministers have helped create the image too.

This twisted image has robbed the church of untold blessings. God wants us to receive tithes and offerings with joy, in faith, and without apologies or timidity. Tithes and offerings release the Lord to pour out His blessings on joyful givers.

To properly receive tithes and offerings from God’s people, we must understand the fundamental purposes of giving.

Giving is an essential aspect of living in God’s Kingdom. In fact, giving reflects God’s nature: “For God so loved the world that He gave...” God is a giver; therefore, His children should be givers.

Giving preserves the attitude of thankfulness that is essential in created beings. It keeps our possessions from possessing us.

Faithfulness in tithes and offerings forces us out of the small world of our own needs into the vast universe of God’s eternal promises. It prepares us to meet the needs of others.

1. PLANT THE WORD OF GOD.

When you receive tithes and offerings, the best thing you can do for your people is to plant the Word of God in their hearts for that specific offering. Each time you receive tithes and offerings, you should give your people the Word of God. This does two things: It teaches them what the Word of God says about tithes and offerings, and it builds their faith for the giving.

Remind your people each time that they are sowing seed. Just as a farmer has faith that the precious seed he plants in the spring will rise from the soil and reproduce itself in like kind, and in abundance, so we must have faith for our tithes and offerings.

Help your people plant their seed with a joyful attitude as praise and worship to God. Put the appropriate promises from God’s Word into their hearts and minds and lead them in scriptural prayer or confession using those promises. Teach your sheep how to worship God with their giving. Your church will never be the same.

2. PRAY OVER THE OFFERING.

When receiving an offering, teach your people to pray over their gifts with great thanksgiving. Teach them what true Biblical prosperity is and how they are to “live to give.” Christians do not work for a living because we live, and move, and have our being in Jesus Christ. (Acts 17:28) We work so that we have something to give. (Eph. 4:28)

Seek God’s direction for each offering. Don’t allow just anybody to receive offerings from the congregation. The person who receives the tithes and offerings must be a person of faith, able to teach the people, and inspire their faith. Always follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

3. GIVING IS AN ACT OF FAITH.

Giving should be an act of faith in God's promises as well as an act of spiritual worship. Always give an appropriate scripture to help build the faith of the givers before receiving their gifts for the Lord. Exhort and admonish the people through scripture to help them have sufficient faith for that planting of seed.

4. SET AN EXAMPLE.

Set an example for the flock in your own tithes and offerings. Every Pastor is to be a tither and every church is to also tithe from its income.

We worship God with our money through tithes, and offerings. We need to teach our people about each form of giving because each one has its own benefits.

Minister of the Lord, never apologize for receiving tithes and offerings from the people. When given with a proper attitude, every tithe and offering is an emancipation proclamation! It proclaims the giver's freedom from the world's financial system. It is a clear declaration that God is our source, not our employer, our job, or our personal abilities. These are all important, but God provides them all.