

GIVING BY FAITH

GOD'S WORD & YOUR MONEY
APPENDIX THREE

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO GIFTS

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

— Genesis 4:1-5

BY FAITH Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

— Hebrews 11:4

God did not respect Cain's gift, but He did respect Abel's. The difference between these gifts was not the *substance of the gift* (animal v. grain), but the *heart of the giver* (faith v. no faith).

WHAT CONSTITUTES A GIFT OF FAITH?

Learn from the example of the Macedonians.

¹ Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³ For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

— 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

Application
of verse 3

How much can I afford to give?

+ How much will stretch my faith?

A FAITH GIFT.

CAN LARGER GIFTS MEAN LESS FAITH?

Suppose a man earns \$1,000 per week. A tithe (10%) would be \$100. The man would have to live on \$900 per week, by faith.

A man who earns \$5,000 per week may tithe \$500, which is more money, but it may require less faith! Why? Because he has more (\$4,500 rather than \$900) to live on.

Now suppose the man who earns \$1,000 per week receives a raise in pay. He now earns \$1,500 per week. A tithe (10%) would be \$150. The man now lives on \$1,350 per week, by faith.

The man is now giving *more dollars*, but has his faith *increased*?

Though the man is giving *more dollars*, his faith has *decreased* since it takes less faith to live on \$1,350 than on \$900.

CONTINUING TO GIVE BY FAITH

God led John Wesley to live on one amount of money his entire life, giving away every additional penny he earned. God does not lead all in that path. The cost of living increases. There is nothing inherently wrong with bettering one's station in life.

However, to continue to give by faith, one should consider increasing the percentage of one's giving as one's income increases.