

FAQs

How will we/I arrive at what I should give?

Through prayer! A great prayer is – "Lord, what do You want to do through me to fulfill Your will for our church?" Thus, we must all seek God's will for our lives and express that through our commitment. OPEN is a spiritual journey that will end in a spiritual decision that involves a financial commitment.

What does the phrase "not equal giving, but equal sacrifice" mean?

It recognizes that we all have different financial capacities, so we can't do a fair share approach to giving - that would be more than what some could give and far less than what others could give. But, we all can find the ground level when it comes to sacrifice. Everyone sacrificing is the goal. So from the smallest gift to the largest gift, every person can say, "This gift is sacrificial for me."

Can each member of our family make a separate commitment?

Yes – Even students and young children can learn the values of commitment, generosity, faith, and sacrifice by signing their own commitment cards.

If I make a commitment, but my finances change, am I held to the original commitment?

No – Although our OPEN faith commitment is based on people fulfilling their commitments, there is no legal binding agreement between the church and the individual. It is a statement of intent and may be altered if circumstances necessitate. So relax about that. Believe God to enable you to do what you thought He guided you to do. There is room for adjustment along the way. No shame in that.

Is sacrifice of money a biblical practice?

Absolutely – The book of 2 Samuel quotes King David as saying, "I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing." The essence of sacrifice is that it COSTS us something. This type of giving is pleasing to God, because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in Him, and that's when BIG things begin to happen. Mary broke the alabaster jar of perfume upon Jesus that was worth one year's wages. Jesus commended the widow who gave her last two coins. When Zacchaeus said he was giving half of all he owned, and repaying back those he had defrauded, Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this household."

