

Faith Promise Giving, Pt.1

What Is FPG?

Definition from [Got Questions](#):

“Faith promise giving encourages believers **to give beyond what they think they can give** in order to increase world missions. Many churches and parachurch ministries use the model to promote sacrificial giving. Faith promise gifts differ from regular offerings in that **a faith promise requires the giver to commit to giving what he or she does not currently have**—a promise requiring faith that God will provide.”

Definition from [Life Bridge Baptist](#):

“**Giving:** Faith Promise Giving is just that, GIVING financially to world missions. We give generously, joyfully, and sacrificially because Christ first gave Himself for us. // **Promise:** [FPG] is simply a PROMISE to give a certain amount of money on a consistent basis over and above your tithe. // **Faith:** [FPG,] like everything in the Christian life - requires FAITH in order to be pleasing to God. ... Such faith enables us to keep our promises even when it seems humanly or economically impossible. Such faith is demonstrated by consistent giving even in hard times. **Such faith trusts God to do His part in providing** and commits to doing our part in giving eagerly, generously, and faithfully.”

Backgrounder from [Baptist World Mission](#):

“**A Biblical Method.** Most people credit the Canadian preacher A. B. Simpson (1843-1919) for developing the faith promise program. **He claimed he got it from the Bible, and we agree.** The program is **built upon solid biblical principles.** Practicing faith in finances is as necessary as practicing faith in all other areas of life. No great work for God can be accomplished without faith, and 2 Corinthians 10:15-16 states the case for faith promise mission giving ...”

Other sources:

https://firstbaptistwebster.org/uploads/pdf/Faith_Promise_Giving.pdf (1st Bapt. Ch., Webster TX)

Questions: Have you heard this preached before in a church? What are your observations about FPG? Have you heard it described differently? What has God promised His church regarding personal finances? Are there limits to financing by faith? Why not promise \$1Bn to World Missions?

Observation: This sounds like Enron’s scandalous “mark to market” accounting approach whereby they credited future profits as already part of its current underlying book value.

Originator’s [Background](#)

- AB Simpson, founder of Christian & Missionary Alliance
- Born 1844, raised a Scottish Presbyterian. Ordained as a young Pastor (1865, age 21)
- Aug. 1881 embraced miraculous healings after he was healed of a heart problem; all of Mark 16:12ff as for today
- Oct. 1881 rejected Presby, went Baptist
- Taught “Fourfold gospel”, “Full Gospel”: Jesus is Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King”
- Thus, connected healing + tongues + miraculous to worldwide evangelism
- 1900’s, adopted Pentecostal beliefs (tongues) & women teaching men
- Died 1919, buried in Nyack NY

What's Right With FPG

- Desire to support missions
- Implicitly accepting the tithe as 'for today'
- Recognizing offerings and giving beyond the tithe
- Seeking to walk by faith in all areas of life

What's Wrong With FPG

I find three fundamental issues with FPG.

A) *Twisting Scripture To Justify The Position*

FPG is not biblically based, nor is it a result of sound Biblical exegesis. Let's start with A.B. Simpson's main proof text.

(2Cor. 10:15-16) Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, 16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

The way this is viewed is quite deceptive. Allegedly, the faith to be increased is the faith to believe God will commit to providing a large sum of money which you currently don't have.

Observations:

(i) 2Cor. 10:13-14 are ignored

(2Cor. 10:13) But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. 14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:

Paul refuses to boast about things "without" (beyond, out of, outside of) his measure. In Greek, *ametron*, from "a" [not] and "metron" [metric, measure].

Matthew Henry comments: *"His meaning is, either that he would not boast of more gifts or graces, or power and authority, than God had really bestowed on him; or, rather, that he would not act beyond his commission as to persons or things, nor go beyond the line prescribed to him, which he plainly intimates the false apostles did, while they boasted of other men's labors. The apostle's resolution was to keep within his own province, and that compass of ground which God had marked out for him."*

Another way to say it: Paul insists he'll "stretch not [himself] beyond [his] measure"; i.e., he will only operate within the bounds God gave him.

(ii) v.15b, The enlargement is "by you" not "by your offerings". The Corinthians were to be the enlargers (evangelists) in their local community. Paul wants them to be missionaries, not that he wants their money to go and do the job for them.

(iii) The increase of their faith isn't connected to money. As the Corinthians become stronger Christians, Paul hopes & assumes they will take up the work of evangelism. Paul can't be everywhere!