

# FAKE PROMISE GIVING AND FOOLISH LIVING

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JAMES 5:3-4 “Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire.....Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.”

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2 “.....we have defrauded no man.”

1 SAMUEL 12:3-4 “Behold, here I *am*: witness against me before the Lord, and before his anointed; whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received *any* bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you. And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man’s hand.”

The Bible has much to say about fraud. Like Israel of old, Independent Baptists were planted as a noble plant, “wholly a right seed” and are now turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine. JEREMIAH 2:21 Such deterioration is showing up in the message, music, and mentality of our people.

We should be, “Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.” 2 CORINTHIANS 8:21

While giving is a blessing as well as a commandment of God, let it be done according to the Word of God and not the traditions of men. It is not how much we give, but rightly dividing the Word of God that shows God’s approval. 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Years ago many Independent Baptists adopted a plan of raising money for missions based on the idea of a man by the name of Oswald J. Smith. No doubt millions of dollars have been raised by this plan. One will have no problem in proving the success of raising money by this method. However, you cannot find what he teaches in the Bible with a microscope, magnifying glass, and flashlight. The following is a copy of his

idea.

# how GOD taught me to give

by Oswald J. Smith

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I shall never forget how God taught me to give. I had been pastor of a large church in the city of Toronto. One day I resigned and on the first Sunday of January became pastor of a church which knew how to give in a way I had never known. I started in this pastorate at a time when the church was holding its annual missionary convention.

Now I knew nothing about a missionary convention. I didn't know the first thing to do. So I just sat on the platform and watched.

The ushers went down the aisles giving out envelopes. To my amazement, one had the audacity to hand me—the pastor!—an envelope. I can still remember that moment as though it were yesterday.

As I held the envelope I read, "In dependence upon God I will endeavor to give toward the missionary work of the church \$\_\_\_\_\_ during the coming year." I did not know that God was going to deal with me that morning, and teach me a lesson that I was never to forget—a lesson that later I was to teach to hundreds of others.

I started to pray. I said, "Lord God, I can't do anything. You know I have nothing. I haven't a cent in the bank. I haven't anything in my pocket. This church only pays me \$25.00 a week. I have a wife and child. We are trying to buy our home: prices are sky high."

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My hand trembled as I signed my name and wrote in the amount—\$50.00.

How I ever paid that amount, I don't know to this day. All I know is that every month I had to pray for \$4.00. And every month God provided it. At the end of the year I had paid \$50.00. As I paid the final amount I realized I had received the greatest blessing of my life!

I had trusted God for a certain amount and He had met it. So great was the spiritual blessing that the next year at the convention, I doubled the amount and gave \$100.00. Then, at another convention, I doubled the amount again and gave \$200.00. At still another convention I doubled it once more and gave \$400.00. Then later I doubled it again and made it \$800.00. From that day to this I have been increasing the amount and sending it to the Bank of Heaven year by year. If I had waited until I had it, I never would have given it because I never would have received it. I gave a faith offering and God honored it.

That was the first time, I say, that I had ever given what I call a faith offering. The Apostle Paul often took up "faith promise offerings." He asked a church to promise a certain amount, and gave them a year to pay it. As the year drew to a close, he sent someone to remind the church of their faith promise

"I know that," the Lord seemed to answer me. "I know you are getting \$25.00 a week. I know you have nothing in your pocket and nothing in the bank."

"Well, then," I said, relieved, "that settles it. I have nothing to give and I can't give anything." It was then the Lord spoke to my heart. I shall never forget it.

"I am not asking you for what you have," He said.

"You are not asking me for what I have, Lord?" I replied. "Then what are You asking?"

"I am asking you for a faith offering. How much can you trust Me for?"

"Oh, Lord," I exclaimed, "that's different. How much can I trust You for?"

Of course, I knew nothing about a faith offering. But I knew the Lord was speaking. I thought He might say \$5.00, or perhaps even \$10.00. I almost trembled as I awaited the answer. Then it came. Now of course God didn't speak to me in an audible voice, but He might just as well have.

"How much can I give?" I asked.

"Fifty dollars!" I exclaimed. "Why, Lord, that's two weeks' salary!"

But again the Lord spoke and it was still the same amount. It was just as clear to me as though He had spoken out loud.

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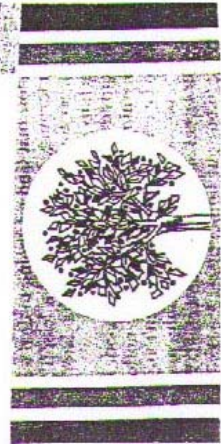
ise offering is a scriptural offering, it is a Pauline offering, and God blesses it.

Have you only given cash offerings? It requires little faith to give a cash offering. If I have a dollar in my pocket, all I have to do is take it out and put it on the plate. I don't have to ask God for it. I don't have to trust Him for any definite amount. I just have it and give it.

But it is entirely different with a faith promise offering. I have to pray and ask God how much He would have me give, then trust Him for it. Month by month I must go to Him in prayer and ask Him for the amount promised. I must wait upon Him until it comes in. What a blessing such dependence brings!

For well over a quarter of a century now, that is the kind of offering I have taken for missions. In our annual missionary convention we never get more than six or seven thousand dollars in cash, but we get a quarter of a million or more in faith promises! And it always comes in! More comes in than the amount promised!

I am not talking about pledges. A pledge offering is between you and a church, between you and a missionary society. Some day the deacons may collect it, or you may receive a letter reminding you of it. You can be held responsible for a pledge offering.



you can for the work of evangelization. Put your money where it will accomplish the most for God. Put it into the getting out of the Gospel. Put it into the souls of men. Use it for those who have never heard the message. Perhaps God would have you support a missionary or Christian organization and then another, and another. Make a faith promise offering unto Him, then trust Him to help you meet it. Unmeasurable blessing will be yours.

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and God. No official will ever call on you to collect it. No one will ever send you a letter about it. If you are unable to pay it, all you have to do is to tell God about it. Give Him your reason. If He accepts it, you are free. This, my friend, is the greatest investment you can make. You should be in business for God. You should make money for Him, use what you need to live on and give as much as

Certainly the Bible teaches tithes and offerings. And no doubt the heartbeat of God is missions. But must we adopt an unscriptural plan just because it works? Can't we preach the truth and the Holy Spirit lead people to give bountifully without adding to or taking away from the Scriptures?

Churches seemingly now gauge their spirituality by how much they promise to give to missions. Mission Conferences have become MONEY CONFERENCES.

Mr. Smith says God wants us to ask for an amount that we want Him to supply. Where is that found in the Bible?

The Bible clearly teaches, "first a willing mind" and watch the rest of the verse, "it is accepted according to that a man hath," (did you get that? In case you are a slow learner read the rest of the verse.) "and not according to that he hath not." 2 CORINTHIANS 8:12

Why do we keep tolerating this false teaching? God has made it clear. He is NOT asking for something we do not have. "For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened." 2 CORINTHIANS 8:13

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart...." 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7  
"...out of that which ye have." 2 CORIN.8:11

There is no mystery of asking God for anything. God is not impressing an unknown amount on anyone. The message is plain. What do you have? How much will you purpose to give? "God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Faith is knowing "God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:" 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

There is no signing a card, asking for a mystical amount, or rallying and tallying for a big show. Sorry, but it just isn't there. There is no pressure, intimidation, or shaming folks into giving. All of that has been added by men. I do not believe in a continued revelation, rather it is Mr. Smith, the charismatic movement, Benny Hinn or you Baptist preachers. For me to believe what you men are teaching, as a "faith offering" would have to come from somewhere other than the Bible. God is not asking for what we do not have as Mr. Smith claims. It is "accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." For you to teach otherwise is fraudulent. It is heresy. Do you think God is going to overlook the misuse of His Word from us anymore than He did the men of old? I think not.

God told Jeremiah to "Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak...all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word." JEREMIAH 26:2

We would do well to say no more and no less than the Word says. "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." PROVERBS 30:6 Some of you had best rework your message.

Independent Baptists started out saying we are not thieves like those in the Southern Baptist Convention, what we take in goes 100% to missions. While that once may have been true, it is not uncommon now to hear about “pastors” taking sight seeing trips with mission money under the guise of getting a “burden for missions.” Next year, he will go to another country to get another burden for a different field funded by the expense of missionary support of course. Many preachers will try to shame their people into giving more, more, more, to missions to build a name for themselves. What better plan could you use than that of Mr. Smith who says God told him to double his support the next year and the next year and etc.

The offering in 2 CORINTHIANS 8&9 was a relief offering for the poor saints at Jerusalem. It was a “certain contribution” that Macedonia and Achaia were “pleased “ to give. ROMANS 15:25-26. The Gospel had gone out from Jerusalem to them and now the poor saints at Jerusalem were in need. These who had received “spiritual things” were debtors, and felt it was their “duty” to minister unto them “carnal things.” Romans 15:27 This offering was NOT DONE EVERY YEAR NOR MADE A DOCTRINE FOR GIVING TO MISSIONS as Mr. Smith and many of you brethren have made it to be.

When men get their eyes on the billfold instead of the Bible it perverts their thinking. They become more selective in what they practice and preach so as not to hurt their offering. Pastors will have “SWEETHEART BANQUETS” down at the House of God to entertain their congregation, SANTA CLAUS at Christmas, and EASTER EGG HUNTS at Easter. (Do any of you know where the Easter Egg came from?) *All of this is for the kids of course.* What a LIAR. All these PAGAN practices are to pacify the carnal desire of the paying congregation. Where do you brethren get Bible for these events? That is certainly not the worst of the matter. Though HALLOWEEN is the worship of ghost, spooks, witches, goblins, and devils, it is allowed in one form or another. Professed Christians are involved in such demonic FOOLERY, even down at the church. The preacher will change the name of the event to Fall Festival or something similar. The name is changed but the game is the same. Why?

It is something for the kids. LIAR, LIAR, YOUR PANTS ARE ON FIRE. They do it because they want to pacify their paying congregation.

It is easier for the preacher to go along with a little devil worship in the name of fun than to stand for God. Sure, he will face God for it later, but that seems much easier than facing the congregation now. Get the picture?

God condemns the learning and practice of such events. In EXODUS 22:18 “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.” DEUTERONOMY 18:9-12 “When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer. . . or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”

Even though the Bible is clear on the matter, yet, many so-called preachers will allow and promote a Halloween carnival. Some even stoop low enough to have a Spook House down at the House of God.

When you get to MALACHI 3:5 God has not changed His mind. “And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers . . .” GALATIANS 5:20 God condemns “witchcraft.” In REVELATION 21:8 God gives a list of those in hell, and the sorcerers are among them. In REVELATION 22:15 God gives the list of those not in heaven and the sorcerer is in that list.

It is obvious Independent Baptists have learned to mix preaching, playing, and paganism to please the people and pad their pocketbook. Truly the love of MONEY is the root of all evil. 1 TIMOTHY 6:10 When the House of God becomes nothing more than a money making business it displeases the Lord. One day Christ will overthrow your tables as He did those in the Temple. MATTHEW 21:12-13 MARK 11:15-17

When your billfold becomes more important to you than the Bible you will surround yourself with friends of similar thinking. You will surround yourself with friends that AVOID these same areas of truth. In turn you will commend each other for having such “wisdom.” You have avoided the whole counsel of God for so long you now consider yourself wise when in fact you are playing the compromising fool.

You profess to love God more than anyone does or anything, and yet you avoid His word where it conflicts with your interest. Sir, you are a FAKE.

God called you to be a preacher and instead many of you have become PARTY PLANNERS. You have become little more than a PROMOTER OF RELIGIOUS ENTERTAINMENT.

You have gone from DELIVERING the message to DODGING it. You will not preach the whole counsel of God, under the guise of “using wisdom.” God could give you a message and like the APOSTATES of old you will try to TRIM and POLISH it up to make it acceptable to the people.

Many of you have seen for some time what I am talking about. You see it and won’t say anything about it because you don’t want to mess up that ONE RING CIRCUS you call a church, where you are the CLOWN.

Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days to get the message God wanted him to deliver. Most of you can’t spend forty minutes alone with your Bible. You spend most of your time running the roads, at fellowships, and conferences trying to ENTERTAIN yourself, and trying to find out how to get in good standing with the brethren. If you will follow that plan long enough you will produce a family fit for nothing but HELL.

Families in your church need a message from God and you are too lazy to get it. It is so much easier to fellowship than to study. Playtime with the brethren is much more fun than real prayer and preparation.

You once had your eye on the TRUTH and now it is on a tithing member. Thus, you have gone from what needs to be said to what you can get by with. You have learned to avoid truth where it will cost you money. What a sorry excuse of a preacher you have become. YOU ARE A FAKE.

Some of you men can preach for any group or denomination and they just love you like you were one of their own. It is more than a little obvious that you can get along with the religious crowd that hated Christ. While this crowd wanted to KILL Christ, they just LOVE and ADORE you. What does that say about you?

It doesn't seem to matter what they believe or what version they endorse, you just fit right in. God is a separator and you are a mixer. What does that say about you? Sir, you are a Fake.

We live in a world of Fakes. That is what happens when DOLLARS become more important than DOCTRINE. COMPROMISING PREACHERS have produced that kind of thinking.

People who call themselves Christians can still vote a DEMOCRATIC ticket as WICKED and IMMORAL as they have become. If it was not for the NEGROS (and other immigrants), ABORTIONISTS (baby killers, infant murderers), SODOMITES (queers, fags, homosexuals, perverts, gays), ANTI-GUN ACTIVISTS, FEMINISTS MOVEMENTS, and ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, the Democratic Party would not even have a standing. Those of you who vote that ticket need to take a good look at the crowd you hooked up with.

When the antichrist comes on the scene he corrupts by flatteries. DANIEL 11:32 (flattery means, to praise excessively, to gratify vanity, to seem to have more quality, to make to look more handsome, etc.) Since he is a professional FAKE, he knows exactly what the flesh wants.

Like the Pharisees of old, the modern day preacher loves chief seats and titles. They may play like they are humble, but it is not hard to see behind their masks.

They love to be called DOCTOR (a chief title). You never hear one wanting to be called "Bachelor of Art Preacher", "Master Preacher", or "Honorary Doctor Preacher", but "DOCTOR PREACHER."

Their letterhead never uses a lesser title like "HONORARY DOCTOR PREACHER". Even though it is the TRUTH. Oh no, nothing but the chief title of DOCTOR will do.

It is not uncommon to see this title printed on their Bible, garments, letterheads, luggage, and special service announcements. When a congregation has a great line up of Great Doctors (actually Honorary Doctors) speaking, they don't need God. The Word of God would mess up their meeting. These men are DOCTORS and know well how to ignore God and honor themselves.

It is no wonder this world is in the condition it is. Preachers have traded the Power of God for a Pretty Good Feeling, and boy, do they feel good when someone calls them DOCTOR.

When men quit because they can't be called Doctor, they are Fakes. When men quit because they can't be Deacons, they are Fakes. When people quit because they can't be Teachers, they are Fakes. When people quit because they don't receive recognition, they are Fakes. When people avoid the Word of God just because it goes against their grain, they are FAKES. Are you one of them?

Our job has always been to ACKNOWLEDGE TRUTH, love TRUTH, live and present THE TRUTH. The results belong to God. Men fail when they ignore the truth and try to produce the results themselves.

May the Lord help some of you to get back on the old path, and help those of you who are faithful to walk therein.

If a YOUNG PREACHER wants to be POPULAR with the brethren he doesn't need to study the Bible. To become popular he will need to study the brethren. He will need to find out what areas to avoid and how to talk religiously. He will need to learn how to BOW DOWN to GREAT DOCTORS and never question their IGNORANCE. If a young preacher ever comes in contact with the Truth, he will need to keep it to himself as the brethren don't want to hear it. Most of them won't recognize the truth, and it will scare them. The young preacher will become a threat to their little religious world of stupidity. They will tell him what to believe and not to believe. They will tell him what to think and not to think, and to serve them with reverence as though they were gods.

However, if a young preacher wants to show himself APPROVED UNTO GOD, he will need to ignore the brethren and STUDY the BIBLE. This is the course I strongly recommend. While he will not be popular with the brethren, he will be PROFITABLE to those who will hear.

FOR OTHER ARTICLES AND CORRESPONDENCE YOU MAY WRITE,  
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