

Why We Give

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In his book, "Giving to God", Mark Allen Powell wrote, "We are invited to put money in the offering plate on Sunday morning not because the church needs our money but because we want and need to give it."

For many of us, this may fly in the face of our typical notion of giving our offering. We may have been brought up thinking we give because the church has bills. There is a building that has upkeep and expenses, staff needs to receive a salary and there is the larger church that receives our support also. In essence, we give because of the need of others.

While this is true, this is not the primary reason why we receive an offering during our worship service. If we simply view giving as a way to meet budget needs then we most likely will not find a whole lot of joy in giving, we will view it as we view paying our gas or electric bill for our home.

As Allen points out, if giving is simply to meet the budgetary expenses, then why is this part of the service at all. We should simply have dues and let everyone know their share. But if we give because we recognize our need and desire to give, then offering becomes an act of worship and it changes our motivation for giving. We turn from meeting an obligation to "expressing our love of God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something that we value."

This is, in essence, why we receive an offering during our worship service. Yes, it helps to pay the bills, but more importantly, it is a way for us to actively participate in and recognize and express our emotions to God. This is why it is part of our worship service.

I encourage everyone to think about their motivation for giving, to have a conversation with those whom you trust and talk about giving an offering at church. You do not have to name numbers or how much, unless it is a decision you are making together, but rather talk about what it means to you personally when you give and how you decide what to give.

God's blessings on your conversations and please come forward with any questions and joys that you discover.