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October 3, 2020

A RATIONAL VOW

Sandra was talking with Andre, a new convert, were talking about the Christian life when Joe said, “I know that the tithe is ten percent of my income, but what about the offering? How much should it be?”

“This is a common question for those who desire to do God’s will but do not trust their own hearts,” said Sandra. As Andre was listening attentively, Sandra continued. “So, in order to avoid being driven by our own changing desires, the Bible suggests us to purpose, to vow something to God in our heart (2 Cor. 9:7).” “But how should this vow be? How much would be an acceptable offering?”, asked Andre. Sandra then explained then that a vow about Promise (regular/systematic offerings) may include four aspects:

Priority: God first, must be our motto in every aspect of life, including financial stewardship. Jesus has a marvelous promise to those who “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness... (Matt. 6:33)”. God also promises to provide abundantly for those who give “the firstfruits [the first part] of all” their increase (Prov. 3:9-10), before any other expense may be met.

Regularity: As the heart is deceitful (Jer.

17:9), and our perceptions are not reliable (Prov. 14:12), the regularity of the offering should not be determined by the calendar, the desires of the heart, calls from the pulpit or sympathy for a project or for a worker. Instead, it should be determined by God’s initiative to give. So, every time He provides a financial blessing, we must recognize its divine origin (Prov. 3:9-10) by tithing and giving Promise from it.

System: The Bible suggests a proportional, percentage-based system (Deut. 16:17; 1 Cor. 16:2). By adopting a fixed percentage for a period, the heart will not be tempted to waver from too little to too much, according to emotion.

Period: It is important to establish a time period for the Promise—perhaps a year—and then evaluate and recommit for the same or a different percentage.

APPEAL: While worshipping now today you may purpose a percentage of God’s blessings to be regularly returned beside the tithe. My Promise will be ___%!

PRAYER: Dear Lord, please, accept the vows and promises of our heart!