

1. What is the minimum effort method of collecting? Would this method be expedient?

A church could simply leave a treasury box by the door and let members contribute on their way in and thereby satisfy the command. Also, a QR code could be available for scanning in order to mobile transfer funds. However, these would minimize the opportunity to teach about the subject and allow some to forget and neglect their duty to give.

2. What do visitors need to understand about the collection?

Non-members need to be aware that we are not soliciting donations from them. Giving is a privilege and obligation of membership. It is appropriate for the collector to say so.

Announce that this is the time to turn in visitor cards.

3. Must a Scripture be read before the offering?

It is not a requirement, but it is helpful. The collection can be done without it, but a topical reading keeps the givers in mind of God's will on the subject.

4. Where in the New Testament is the collection required?

There is one passage which presents it as an order: *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come"* (1st Corinthians 16:1-2).

5. Which verses teach about attitudes in giving?

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

"If there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have" (2nd Corinthians 8:12).

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2nd Corinthians 9:6-7).

6. Which verses show how much to give?

Previously cited (1st Corinthians 16:2), this verse tells us to give according to our prosperity, and this verse (2nd Corinthians 8:12) tells us to give according to what we have.

7. Provide worthy examples of givers from both Old and New Testaments.

The example of the poor widow giving two mites bears consideration (Mark 12:41-44), as does the example of Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37), each of which demonstrates sacrifice.

The whole congregation in Jerusalem set a worthy precedent on more than one occasion (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35), as well as the Macedonian brethren (2nd Corinthians 8:1-7).

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were so generous when the tabernacle was under construction that they had to be restrained from giving more (Exodus 36:1-7). Similarly, during the reforms under King Hezekiah, the Israelites gave so much, their gifts literally piled up (2nd Chronicles 31:4-10).

8. Must a prayer be said over the offering? If so, when?

It is not a requirement, but it is a good practice. It could be done beforehand or afterwards. Most, very likely all, congregations are in the habit of praying first.

9. What are appropriate subjects in a prayer about the offering?

- 1) We may ask for cheerful hearts as we give.
- 2) We may ask that the funds received be used in a manner consistent with God's will.
- 3) We may ask the Lord to prosper the givers so they may continue to give.
- 4) We may ask He bless the givers for giving.

5) We may thank Him for all that He has given us.

10. When should the collector give his own offering?

Any time is acceptable, but it might be helpful to be an example and give first.

11. How should the collector pass the basket/plate?

Keep it at a level easy for the contributors to grasp. Eye level is unreasonable and inconvenient; it should be lower.

Usually, it is appropriate to hand it to the first person in the row and pick it up at the end of the row; there's usually no reason to hand it to each person individually unless very small children could disrupt the process.

When passing it to visitors, indicate the visitor cards would be appreciated.

12. Are there any comments worth mentioning once the basket/plate has been passed?

It can be helpful to announce where the basket will be, in case anyone was unprepared with their offering and wishes to give after the assembly is concluded, but this is not really essential.

If one wishes to ask the Lord's blessing on the collection received, it is not out of order to do so.

13. Where should the basket/plate be placed following the collection?

Up front and out of sight. If it is brought to the back of the room, a random person could come in and take it, so leave it where it would be hard to steal without being noticed. However, it does not need to remain, full of cash, on the front table, to be stared at.

14. What does the collector need to do following the assembly?

In many congregations, specific deacons or designated treasurers are relied on to count what was received, but if one of them is absent, then the collector himself may need to participate. Each one should double check the accounting of the other, record the total, and prepare the deposit.

If the church posts the collection total on a board in the foyer or auditorium, that would need to be done.