

GATHERING THE SAINT'S CONTRIBUTION
(suggestions for one presiding)

I. MAKE SURE THE COLLECTION IS SEPARATE FROM THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Note:

In many congregations the collection is taken immediately after the Lord's supper is observed. Often the one assigned to preside at the table is also, for expediency sake, asked to look after the collection. If this is the policy of your congregation make very sure that when presiding you make a distinct separation between the Lord's Supper and the Contribution. They are not in any way part of the same action. The collection is not an afterthought.

II. A FEW SIMPLE BRIEF REMARKS WILL SUFFICE.

Note:

While leaders should instruct and preach on the subject of "Giving" it is typically not the best idea for a leader to launch into a lengthy discussion of the subject at the time of collection. It would probably be inappropriate at this point in the service. This may be seen, for instance, in the following situation. Example: If a leader were to launch into a lengthy diatribe, shall we say, about the congregation needing to give more money, such would not be appropriate immediately preceding the actual passing of the "basket" for in keeping with 2 Cor 9:7 each Christian should have already decided what he was going to give that particular week. Thus, most would not have more funds immediately available anyway and such a request would be useless. In addition, after listening to one sermon during the teaching portion of the service the audience will usually not want to hear another by the one "passing the basket." As always, a few, simple, well thought out remarks will suit the job. Remember, this is not a time for monetary appeals. (see III)

III. KEEP REMARKS CORDIAL.

Note:

Remarks given just before the Contribution should not be negative but should be cordial and friendly. This is not the time for the leader to tell the congregation that they should be giving more or that he is ashamed of their giving practices. Any decision about how much one gives MUST be left between the individual member and God. While a leader may believe that a member or members should be giving more into the treasury such is ultimately not his business. Every man must purpose in his own heart as to the the amount he will give (2 Cor 9:7). If leaders sincerely believe that the members are not giving to their potential or believe that members do not understand the subject of giving and are giving too little out of ignorance, then the subject should be addressed in a sermon or study. This, however, must be done with love and understanding. Again, the ultimate decision as to how much one should or will give is up to each individual. Leaders, as much as they might like to, have no control over this. Even Paul left it up to each believer at Corinth.

