

The Blessing Offering

By Christian Nseka

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This is a personal reflection that has been written using personal inspirations and understanding of the Divine Principle and True Parents' words.

The purpose of this article is not to introduce the history of the Blessing Offering or why the amount is what it is, but, rather, to answer the questions pertaining to the reason why singles who are applying for the Cosmic Blessing pay the same amount as married couples, and why the Blessing Offering is required of those who are receiving the Blessing.

The Blessing Offering is a monetary offering made in relation to the Blessing. It is a symbolic offering. It is not the price of the Blessing. It is one of the conditions required in order to receive the Blessing.

The amount of the Blessing Offering is different in each region. At the time of the publication of this article, the Blessing Offering for each single who is receiving the Blessing for the first time is \$2,000 in North America, which includes Canada and USA. It is the same for those who are receiving the Blessing as previously married couples. Meaning that previously married couples pay \$2,000 per couple.

The only difference in the amount of the Blessing Offering is when it comes to singles who are returning to the Blessing because their previous one was dissolved. At the time of the publication of this article, the Blessing Offering for singles who are going for a re-Blessing is \$1,000 in North America. There is no discount for married couples who are going for a re-Blessing.

So, why do singles who are applying for the Cosmic Blessing for the first time pay the same amount as previously married couples? And why is the Blessing Offering required of those who are preparing to receive the Blessing, be it Cosmic Blessing or HTM Blessing?

The *Divine Principle* speaks of the Foundation of Faith and the Foundation of Substance. According to the *Divine Principle*, “we establish the foundation of substance on the basis of the foundation of faith” (EDP, p. 181). This means that we ought to establish a successful Foundation of Faith if we want our Foundation of Substance to be successful.

The Foundation of Faith is an individual foundation. In other words, it is a foundation established by an individual. It comprises all the conditions that an individual has set or should set in order to qualify for either a mission or a blessing that Heaven is about to bestow to him or her. One key element here is that an individual is composed of a spiritual aspect and a physical aspect. Hence, in fulfilling the Foundation of Faith, with regard to a mission or blessing at hand, an individual will carry out activities that will allow for a harmonious relationship between the spiritual aspect and the physical aspect of the individual.

According to the *Divine Principle*, the establishment of the Foundation of Faith requires the following:

1. Central Figure
2. Object for the Condition or Required Offering
3. Numerical Period of Indemnity or Time Period

With regard to the Blessing, the central figure is the person preparing for the Blessing. The required offering is a combination of things. In most of the Old Testament, the era of offering, most central figures offered a single object or related objects that were offered as a single object: Cain offered “some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD” (Gen. 4:3). Abel offered “fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock” (Gen. 4:4). Noah built “an ark of cypress wood” (Gen. 6:14). Abraham, however, was a central figure of a Foundation of Faith that had several objects as required offerings: “a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon” (Gen. 15:9). Why was it so?

It is my understanding that it was so for Abraham because God was establishing a covenant with him. A covenant that was not only limited to Abraham but extended to his descendants. It was a covenant in which the descendants of Abraham would symbolically be God's descendants. This is why Abraham was the only historically recorded central figure who had to offer several required offerings in order to establish the Foundation of Faith for the mission and blessings at hand. Just like with Abraham, those who are preparing for the Blessing are also expected to offer several required offerings in order to fulfill their Foundation of Faith. Among the objects for the condition to establish the Foundation of Faith in preparation for the Blessing, there is monetary offering, fasting, education (God's word), etc. Since the Foundation of Faith is an individual foundation, shouldn't each spouse of a previously married couple that is applying for the Blessing establish this foundation individually?

It is my understanding that those who are applying for and going to the Blessing as a married couple are doing so as one body—a couple. The husband represents the spiritual aspect of the couple while the wife represents the physical aspect. The couple is the central figure. And since the required offering is to be made by the central figure, the couple, as the central figure, makes the required offering. In this case, the monetary offering. Hence, it can be said that the reason why married couples pay the same amount as singles who are going to the Blessing is because married couples apply as one body. They are one unit.

Most of us look at the Blessing Offering as a price paid for the Blessing rather than an offering. God needs us; not our money. The money we offer is a symbol of our sweat. A symbol of what we have accumulated before the Blessing. In other words, through our Blessing Offering, we are offering the material aspect of our life to God and conditionally making God the ultimate owner of our life. What attitude should a person making the Blessing offering have?

A person making the Blessing Offering is supposed to have an attitude of gratitude. Most of us, myself included, didn't know this when we went to

the Blessing. We ought to have an attitude of gratitude when making the Blessing Offering in particular and when going through the experience of the Blessing in general.

What has history taught us happens when a central figure fails to establish a Foundation of Faith? We can learn the answer by looking at two biblical central figures: Cain and Abraham. According to the Bible, Cain ended up killing his brother after God did not accept his offering (cf. Gen. 4). Abraham ended up having to offer his son when he failed to make the offering that God asked him to make (cf. Gen. 15, 22). What will befall us if we do not make the Blessing Offering? Or better yet, what if we offer it but do so disgruntledly as the Israelites did in the desert when led by Moses?

I hope this article has helped you make sense of why the amount of the Blessing Offering is the same between singles and married couples, and why we are expected to offer the Blessing Offering. Hopefully, those who read this article in preparation for the Blessing will take it to heart.

May this article help you formulate your own understanding of the value of the Blessing Offering.

May God bless you today and forevermore.

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