



## Why are Vows Important

April 04, 2020

### AUDIO

### VÍDEO

SC. **01**

One day, Martha was at church and the pastor was conducting a renewal of vows ceremony. He used the opportunity to encourage the members to be faithful not only to their spouses and to keep the Sabbath, but to also be loyal in other areas of their lives, such as returning their tithe and percentage-based offerings.

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SC. **02**

Martha was really uncomfortable when the pastor said something about making a vow to return a fixed percentage of their income as offerings. So she asked Jackie, who gave her Bible studies:

Motion Graphics and illustration.

SC. **03**

- Why should I make a vow about offerings? Can't I just give as my heart tells me to? Or when I see that there is a project worthy to be supported?  
- Well, do you truly think your heart can be trusted? And before you respond, do you remember what Jeremiah 17:9 says about our hearts?  
- I don't...  
- It says that our "heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked," we cannot just trust in our feelings or impulses to do what is right, you know?  
- I see...  
- Ellen White also tells us something similar!  
- Really? What exactly does she say?

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sc. **04**

- She says that "if we are controlled by impulse or mere human sympathy," we may stop giving "if our efforts... are repaid with ingratitude," for example. That is why "Christians should act from a fixed principle, following the Savior's example of self-denial and self-sacrifice (E. G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 25)."
- Makes sense.
- You know... Vows or promises, taken in God's presence, are like doors that we decide to open in our minds, by which the Holy Spirit will enter and replace the originally selfish heart, by another, a purified one, willing to give "from a fixed principle", according to His pattern. It is not the vow itself that makes us give, but His miracle in our heart: it is God who works in you both to will and to do for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).
- I believe I must pray about this, then.
- This would be a very good idea.

sc. **05**

As you return your tithe and give your promise, invite the Holy Spirit to replace your selfish heart of stone with a humble heart that is willing to act according to God's plan.

sc. **06**

May we put our desires last and God first.

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