

A GUIDE FOR DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

In Deciding Your Giving Commitment

The most important decision you or your family will make during our Growing to Serve emphasis, will be the decision about your own giving commitment. How do you know what God wants you to give? Here are some suggestions to consider.

As you pray about your part, please consider **"EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIFTS."** God is far more interested in your **attitude**, then the **amount**. Obviously, everyone doesn't have the ability to give the same amount. However, God does want all of us to make a genuine sacrifice for Him. *"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."* 2 Samuel 24:24 (NIV)

Your Growing to Serve giving commitment is spread out over a **36 month period**. Most of us can give far more than we initially think by giving it over a three year period. More importantly, consistent weekly giving is a crucial aspect of a healthy spiritual life. God says, *"On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering."* 1 Cor. 16:2 (NLT)

Each of us have a choice to make:

1. **I can give based on REASON.** This means I look at what I have, figure out what is "reasonable," and commit that amount. It takes no faith to give by reason. Reason simply asks, "What can I afford?"

2. **I can give based on REVELATION.** This means I determine my gift by praying, "Lord, what do you want to give through me?" This kind of giving requires faith. The Bible says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."* Hebrews 11:6. That's why God honoured the Macedonians: *"I can tell you that they gave as much as they were able and even more than they could afford!"* 2 Cor. 8:3. God promises to bless us when we give in faith. 2 Cor 9:8 (LB) says, *"God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more so there will not only be enough for your own needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others."* When you make giving a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship. Revelation giving is asking "How much am I willing to trust God?"

SUGGESTED STEPS FOR DETERMINING GOD'S WILL

1. **Begin by praying every day,** "Lord, I *want* to give sacrificially in a way that stretches my faith. Now please show me *how*." If you're married, pray together with your spouse.

2. **Don't rush your decision.** Give yourself time to hear from God. You'll find that the longer you genuinely pray "Show me *how*," the more ways God will show you, and you'll be able to give more than the first amount that popped into your head.

3. **Plan a family conference** to discuss ways to give. Ask your family members to suggest creative ideas. Be sure to involve your children, no matter how young they are. This is a great opportunity to teach generosity and faith. At your family conference, read the following Bible promises and instructions, and make a list of what you learn: **Prov. 3:9-10; Prov. 11:24-25; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:1-12; 2 Cor. 9:6-12; Matthew 6:19-20.**

4. In your family conference, **consider creative ways of giving:**

- Is there anything we could sell or convert to cash?
- Do we have any tangible gift we could give?
- How can we *decrease our expenses* in order to make a larger commitment?
- Are there expenditures that we could delay?
- How can we *increase our income* in order to make a larger commitment?
- How much are we willing to trust God for?

5. **Decide as a family the total amount** you'll give, hold hands and have a prayer of commitment similar to this:

"Father, this is a big step for us. We're asking you to strengthen our faith and help us grow spiritually through giving. We thank you for all you have given us. We know we wouldn't have anything if it weren't for you. We want to be cheerful givers. We're claiming the promises you've said in your Word that you'll take care of our needs if we trust you. Thank you for this opportunity to grow. Thank you for our church. Help us to reach our goal to build this building. In Jesus' name, Amen!

