



Journey Guide Vol. 4: Stretch Into A Sacrificial Heart

God's Not Done...So, We're Not Done Ephesians 3:20-21



This guide belongs to:



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THE SACRIFICIAL STRENGTH

What excites both Autumn and I every day is the deep awareness that the Lord is not finished with The Father's House Napa. In many ways, we truly believe our best days are still ahead of us. We are deeply convinced that God is not done stretching us and drawing us into a deeper dependence on Him. He will continue to take us beyond our capacities to reach even more people for Christ.

Over the years, we have witnessed the Lord's amazing grace through the stories of so many who have come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

We've seen people renew their marriages, commit to strengthening their families, and break free from hurts, hang-ups, and habits that once imprisoned them in pain and grief. We have celebrated countless baptisms, stood by families in need of a caring church community, and served our local community in tangible ways—extending Christ's love into the Napa Valley and beyond.

There is truly too much to mention in this short letter about all the ways God has used and is using The Father's House Napa. We are a growing church on a mission to reach as many people as possible with the hope of Jesus Christ. At times, we may feel limited by our resources and abilities, but we know that God is limitless. He reaches beyond what we can see and accomplishes more than we could ever ask or imagine!

Right now, we are on a journey called Now!—a journey where we humbly ask the Lord to stretch us beyond our current abilities and resources, and to use us to reach even more people for Jesus.

This journey may be challenging for you right now, but that's okay. It will deepen your trust in who God is and open your heart to His will. It will allow God to break through and reveal His purpose for you and how He wants to work through you for others.

Now! is not about buildings—it's about a bold vision: that we would continue to be a church that digs deep and reaches out to those who are missing from the heart of God, who are missing from the family of God. That's why we stretch, why we surrender, and why we sacrifice.

Pastor's Wil and Autumn

Wil & Autumn





Vision



THE VISION OVERVIEW

As God leads us on this two-year spiritual journey, what would it mean for your generosity if you had a full understanding of the ONE true God? In light of that truth, what would it look like if you were compelled to love Him with all your heart by embracing a new level of generosity? What if your testimony of generosity demonstrated that He is the ONE thing in your life that drives everything you do?

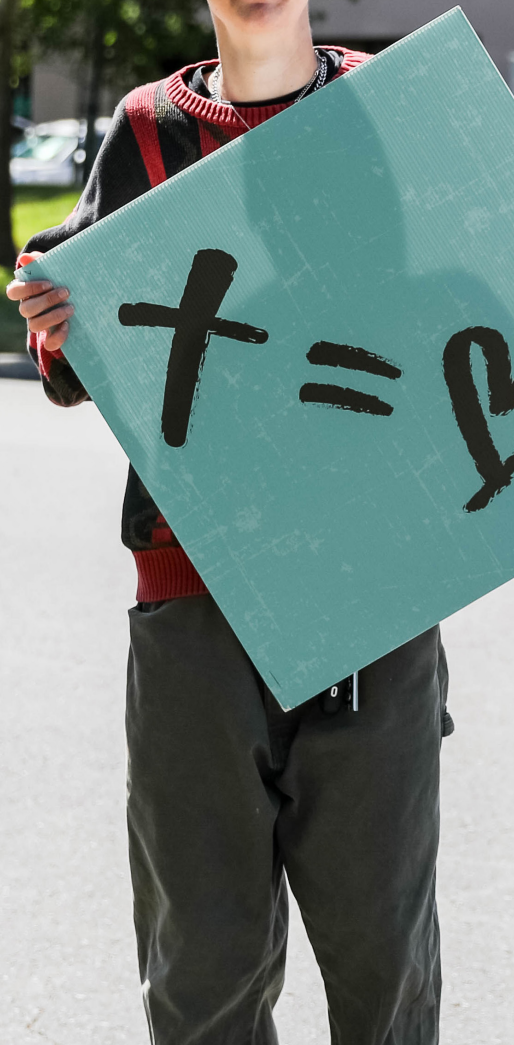
This is not about The Father's House Napa. It's about Jesus. It's about His power at work within us to accomplish things by Him, for Him, to Him, and through Him. That requires our willingness, availability, and the stewardship of all He has given us.

Our primary goal is 100% participation. We desire for every one of us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might. We want 100% of those who call The Father's House Napa home to take significant steps in deepening their relationship with Christ.

In addition, we are believing God for a secondary goal of \$4 million to provide the resources needed to secure ownership of our church home.

There is urgency in this for us. We believe God led us into a lease purchase over five years ago. Through the Imagine Campaign from 2018 to 2021, we secured that lease/purchase option and renovated the building into our church home. Take a moment to reflect on this: God knew that in 2024, as a church, we would be required to give sacrificially once again to move from renters to owners. God expressed confidence in us before we even arrived at this point. He knew the resources would be within our church family—but that doesn't mean it will happen on its own. We have a choice in this—whether or not to release those resources to meet this need.

Our prayer is that we won't just give casually or comfortably, or think that our Vacaville campus will rescue us. The ownership of our church home must happen NOW! through our collective efforts. Now! must resonate in



our hearts as a rallying cry—something each of us must own, something that compels us to rise up, seek God, and respond heroically.

This is the most direct we've been about what we need to do. Initially, we didn't lead with this because we didn't want to come across as acting out of fear. But we also want you to feel the urgency and importance of this moment. The Israelites had to leave Egypt, cross the Red Sea, face adversity in the wilderness, cross the Jordan, and conquer fortified cities in their new homeland. We, too, must press forward. And we will, because of our confidence in God and in our church family.

Consider the application of Now! to the Israelites. A moment came when they had to act NOW to leave Egypt. As Pharaoh's army moved forward to bring them back into captivity, another moment came when they had to act NOW to cross the Red Sea. You see where we're going with this. We acted in 2018 to secure a premier facility. Now, in 2024, we must act NOW again to secure the permanency of our church home.

God has called us to spread the gospel to the cities within our county and to the ends of the earth. God is breaking in on our area, and we believe it will continue. That is why our slogan, "God's Not Done, So We're Not Done!", is so fitting for us. Everything that has come before us has been preparing us for this new season of flourishing.

So, we will stretch and sacrifice in this season to ensure that future generations will have a place to be discipled without hindrance. We will secure our future. We will eventually expand our kids' ministry into our current storage space. Studies show that 80% of people who come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior do so before they graduate high school. We have ample space to intensify our focus on families with children and students. And we will take responsibility for the harvest coming our way.

Because of God's relentless generosity toward us, may we leverage all He has given us to reach one more soul for His glory.

The Journey Guide Series

These tools are designed to help you shift money from being an idol to becoming a tool for God's Kingdom. The journey focuses on the condition of our hearts, further transforming us into the likeness of Christ. Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice.

Volume 1 – Own The Heart Beat
SUNDAY, OCT 6

Volume 2 – Seek A Willing Heart
SUNDAY, OCT 13

Volume 3 – Embrace A Surrendered Heart
SUNDAY, OCT 20

Volume 4 – Stretch Into A Sacrificial Heart
SUNDAY, OCT 27

Volume 5 – Move Into A Prioritized Heart
SUNDAY, NOV 3

Volume 6 – The All-In Committed Heart
SUNDAY, NOV 10



NOW! is our two-year generosity campaign to lead 100% of the TFH Napa family to a place of 100% trust in God to raise \$4 million to provide a permanent home.

LET IT SINK IN

In today's computer, iPad, and video-driven culture, the issue of retention is fascinating. Do you know how much information we actually retain?

This wisdom can be summarized as follows:

- 10% of what we READ
- 20% of what we HEAR
- 30% of what we SEE
- 50% of what we SEE and HEAR
- 70% of what we SAY and WRITE
- 90% of what we DO

It's incredible how the human brain, while wired differently due to technology's impact, still retains information best when we see, hear, read, write, and take action. This is why you have this Journey Guide in your hand. Combined with being present in worship—where you see, hear, read, write, and participate—you will hear God's voice more clearly and be better equipped to activate His teaching and obey His leading.

So, dive into the Journey Guide. Write down a word that spoke to you during the sermon. Read and reflect on the devotionals, and then get active by working through the Commitment Guide section.

Remember, we are on a journey to discover God's will as it relates to our Now! Campaign. The real work is opening our hearts to Jesus and allowing Him to have wholehearted ownership of all our hopes, dreams, disappointments, distractions, fears, and even our stubbornness. From a surrendered heart, He can lead you into a sacrificial response to Now!

So, Let it sink in...

We know these Journey Guides contain a lot of information, and it might seem overwhelming. That's why we are taking it week by week, allowing you time to absorb and digest the material. As we continue to grow in the grace of giving, these guides will help everything sink in. So, dive in—take notes from each sermon, record insights inspired by daily reflection on the devotionals, talk to God, and work through the resources to discover your commitment number.

Our hope is that during this Now! journey, you will gain the clarity needed to embrace what it means to live a life of generosity.

LET'S GET GOING!



Sermon Notes & Devotionals



SUNDAY, DAY 22 DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: 1 CHRONICLES 29:16

"O Lord our God, even this material we have gathered to build a Temple to honor your holy name comes from you! It all belongs to you!"

REFLECT: ALL MY GIFTS ARE HIS

As we learned yesterday, God wants to partner with people to do His work. He can do it without us but, instead, He chooses to do it through us. He moves in us with possibility and then asks us to surrender that same gift back to Him. It was the same in David's day.

David has just received what is likely the largest building offering ever taken. Historians estimate the monetary value at somewhere over 300 million dollars. King David had rejoiced greatly at this offering (who wouldn't?!), but he never thanked the people. He was careful not to lose sight of the truth; a truth revealed to us by James in James 1:17, "every good gift is from above."

All that we have to offer our Father is actually already His. He shares His wealth with us so we might become more like Him as we learn to give. Jack Hayford puts it this way, "When we worship with our tithing, we are giving spiritual acknowledgment to this; life is a gift of God and everything I have comes from God." I am just a steward. I get to watch over His stuff for a season of my life. But it is never mine, it is always His."

As we establish permanency for our church house where our church family and others can worship, remember: He will do it, but He will do it through us. So let us give thanks to Him who makes all this possible.

PRAYER: Jesus, I am so grateful for Your abundant gifts to me. Help me to remember that everything I give up to You is Yours already. Forgive me for not releasing my grip on things easily. Please teach me how to give back to You some of what you have given to me. Remind me that I am your steward. Amen

MONDAY, DAY 23 DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: HEBREWS 13:15-16

Therefore, let us offer a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

REFLECT: WORSHIP AND GIVING ALWAYS GO TOGETHER

The writer of Hebrews speaks to a very important principle in this verse. We offer up praise, but not just praise “a sacrifice of praise”. Throughout the entire Bible it is clear that worship and sacrifice go together. Worship always costs me something. Worship is about giving, giving expression of your heart to God, giving yourself to God, giving praise to God. Everything about God is about giving, sharing and helping, and He asks us to do the same as a point of worship.

As David said in I Chronicles 21:22-24 when he planned to build an altar to worship the Lord and the owner not only offered the site but also the offering; David said to Araunah, “Let me buy this threshing floor from you at its full price. Then I will build an altar to the Lord there, so that he will stop the plague.” “Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish,” Araunah said to David. “I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, and the threshing boards for wood to build a fire on the altar, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give it all to you.”

But King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it for the full price. I will not take what is yours and give it to the Lord. I will not present burnt offerings that have cost me nothing!”

Our sacrifice of praise always costs us something. Sometimes it is a thankful heart that speaks out thanks to His name. Out of that same heart, it is clear that doing good and sharing are part and parcel of worship and praise. God knows that when you worship Him you will begin to take on His heart and His heart is always for others. So, when I am a worshiper, I can be sure I will also become a generous giver. I will be one who considers others' needs, not just my own.

PRAYER: Father, teach me how vital worship is to my life in You. Teach me to take the time to honor you and to declare your greatness. Holy Spirit, would you fill my heart with a spirit of generosity and praise. Thank you! Amen.

TUESDAY, DAY 24 DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: 1 CHRONICLES 29:17

I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.

REFLECT: THE KEY TO EVERYTHING IS GIVING

“The key to Everything” is a book that has profound insight into living the Christian life. In the book, the author says, “The key to everything centers on giving on forgiving because we’ve been forgiven, on letting go because we’ve been set free, on giving up because nothing’s ever gained by holding back, and on giving freely because God has charged us nothing for all He’s done for us or given to us.” – Jack Hayford

This is such an important lesson God wants us all to learn. Giving is a heart issue for most people. Either there is great joy in giving, or it is found to be very difficult. God’s desire is for us to be joyful givers (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).

It is interesting that the word miser and the word miserable come from the same root word (wretched). Those who hold onto the blessings that God has given them will never experience true happiness. Those who give generously experience the presence of God and His heart in a deep and life-giving way.

We are called to be rivers of life, not reservoirs of blessings. Happiness comes when we can let go and give back the many blessings that God gives to us.

PRAYER: Father, I need your heart of generosity. Please make me a giving person, one who finds great joy in letting go, not holding on. Let me also appreciate all that You have given to me free of charge and Holy Spirit touch my heart with the Father’s heart!

WEDNESDAY, DAY 25 DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: 1 CHRONICLE 29:9

The people rejoiced over the offerings the leaders gave, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, and King David was filled with joy.

REFLECT: LEADING IN SACRIFICE

The journey with Jesus is an adventure. When you decide to obey by faith, you get to sit by and watch for Him to provide for your other needs or wants in some miraculous way you could never have dreamed about. David and his leaders blessed the people by leading the way in sacrifice and that is still the basis of what we are to do today.

Whole-hearted surrender is often difficult. When you do surrender yourself to God, you are often surprised by the life you find. Your willingness is the key to His life in you. When you offer willingly, with wholeheartedness, the Holy Spirit is released in you to bring life. He is set free in you to set you free.

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19 it says, "Command those who are rich in this present world (us!) not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is

so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

As the people of God, we are reminded often of God's heart in regard to giving. Giving is to our spiritual life as water is to our physical life. Without it, we ultimately die. The Word is clear about this aspect of God's heart, it is not an option it is a must for those who would become His disciples.

Today let us rejoice as we by faith willingly release ourselves to Jesus and His destiny for us.

PRAYER: Lord, help me to become a giving person. It is so easy to expect others to give and not ever give myself. Empower me by your Holy Spirit to give to my friends, my family, and to You my Father. Lord, give me a willing heart that is surrendered unto You! Amen.

THURSDAY, DAY 26 DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

REFLECT: POSITIONED TO RECEIVE

Wow, when we can come to a place of joyful giving, we have come to a place of life. When we give, we position ourselves to receive blessings from above, to reap generously. Paul says in verse 8 of the same chapter,

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

So, you see, he is assuring them that their generosity does not put them at risk of future poverty. On the contrary, he provides us with all that we need SO THAT we can share abundantly!

And, in verses 9-10, "Now he who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness." This confirms that not only will he provide for you to "sow" (give), but he will supply and increase your store of seed. He is truly the Great Provider!

If giving is difficult for you, remember that God has challenged you to see if you can out-give Him. Recognize that all of your resources really belong to Him; trust Him and you'll find giving will become a joyous part of your life.

PRAYER: Lord, make me a joyous giver, one who will be like you, free to give and free to receive. Help me not to view giving as a duty, but rather a blessing. I want to give cheerfully! Holy Spirit, work your deep work in my heart. I need to be transformed from a taker into a giver and you are the one who can do that! Thank you. Amen

FRIDAY, DAY 27 DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: JOSHUA 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

REFLECT: GOD IS IN THIS SO DON'T BE AFRAID

Many of us have heard those words before. We have all seen situations where finances have been abused. For years now, at our church, we have worked diligently to steward well all that God has given to us. We always strive to be thoughtful, generous, and caring with our finances. Establishing a new church home is no different. It is an expansion that is both practical and functional. It will allow us to put down deep roots, continue to create the space, the place, the environment that will enable us to reach so many more people we cannot reach today.

But in the midst of an undertaking of this size, both fear and discouragement are two of a Christian's worst enemies. We know faith is action...we must step out in it, but we also know fear and discouragement can keep us paralyzed. What is courage? Not the absence of fear, but the willingness to move ahead in spite of it. Winston Churchill said, "Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts."

I Corinthians 16:13 "Be on your guard; stand firm in the Faith; be men of courage; be strong."

As we move on as a church family, it is important to remember that vision and change can only be implemented by people of courage. God has set before us a great possibility. I am now asking you as your pastor to press into that journey with me, because people do matter.

Joshua was a wise leader (Deuteronomy 34:9) but still a leader in need of courage. Courage allows our convictions to build. Three times God spoke to Joshua "Be strong and courageous." The root word for courageous actually means to harden your will, to allow steel to grow in your heart. Not to harden your heart with false pretense or sin but to be certain of what God is doing and staying in it no matter what. God was telling Joshua to harden his will in order to lay hold of all that had been set before him. This is a good word for us. Steel your will and take hold of all God has set before you!

PRAYER: Father, make our church a people of courage, a people willing to trust you and take risks. Teach us to press through in prayer and take the land. Teach us, Holy Spirit, to allow you to put your hand on our hearts so we can move ahead with faith, not fear. Amen.

SATURDAY, DAY 28 DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: GENESIS 1:1

"There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

REFLECT: IT ALL BELONGS TO HIM

When we come right down to partnering with God and participating in giving, it is important to understand what our role actually is, you and I are stewards. What is a steward? A caretaker. Jesus spoke about stewards in Luke 12:42-44: The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions."

A steward then is a servant who oversees his master's stuff. Genesis 1:1 tells us that God created the heavens and the earth. That would make all the stuff His! Generosity actually started at creation. It was there God set the foundational principle in place. Stewardship is based on the concept that everything we have is His, not ours. It has been given to us by God because ultimately everything was made by Him and belongs to Him.

Psalms 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

I Chronicles 29:14 Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

So, if it is all His, how do we wind up with what we have? That is a great question. James 1:17 answers that question; "Every good thing given, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

Everything we have was gladly given by our Father who willingly gives to those who love him. It is His nature to give. We have because God gives, he doesn't hoard, and He isn't selfish or stingy. He is kind and generous and He delights in blessing His kids. If we get this, we get a good perspective of our stuff, our possessions. If we don't see that God gives graciously to us, we miss the whole concept of stewardship.

PRAYER: Father, you are generous and gracious. Teach me your ways.

I am prone to be selfish and a taker. Holy Spirit, give me a spirit of generosity with all I have. Thank you for desiring to build me into your image. Amen.

Prayer Activity

Open – Pray: God, what do You want to do through me (us)?

Pray for someone you know who you want to see come to Christ. (Pray for 2 minutes.)

Who is someone you want to see baptized? Pray that they come to faith. (Pray for 2 minutes.)

How do you want to be transformed as a result of this campaign? (Pray for 2 minutes.)

What ways do you want to see your family transformed through NOW? (Pray for 2 minutes.)

What are ways you and your family can set the pace in NOW? (Pray for 2 minutes.)

What do you want to see happen that can only be explained by the hand of God? Dream big! (Pray for 2 minutes.)

Ask God how you are supposed to answer this question: “Lord, what does my NOW Commitment mean to me?” (Pray for 2 minutes.)

Close – Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love;
according to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight;
so You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Yet You desired faithfulness even in the womb;
You taught me wisdom in that secret place.
Cleans me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, so that sinners will turn back to You.
Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, You who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.
Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare Your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart You, God, will not despise.
May it please You to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then You will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.



How? Your Commitment Guide



HOW? YOUR COMMITMENT GUIDE

After praying, we're asking you to creatively build your Now! and Commitment. This section of the Journey Guide will be a helpful resource as you do.

Can you picture what it will be like to see growth on our campus, knowing that God has enabled you to give more than you ever dreamed possible over two and a half years? Can you envision your heart expanding as you become more open-handed and generous—and, most of all, that you will help open the door for thousands of people to discover a relationship with Jesus?

Over the past 27 years, The Father's House has been marked by a generous people—those who were willing to sacrifice their resources so others could experience the love of God, just as they have. We know God hasn't given everyone the ability to give the same dollar amount, but He does call us to sacrificial generosity. Mix it with faith, and be part of something bigger than yourself. Even if you've never given to God's work before, this is a great time to test the waters. Everyone can participate in some way!

Often, sacrifice is required to get where you want to be. For us to expand and continue making an impact in our city, our region, and around the world, it's going to take sacrifice. It will require shifting priorities, spending, and giving. If we want to reach those around us, we need to create the opportunity for them to be reached—we need to expand our ministry space. We need to create an experience that will change lives. And we can accomplish our Now! goals—but not without you.

BUT WHAT IS MY STEP OF FAITH INTO GENEROSITY?

How is Jesus calling you to take action? What step will help you trust God in a new way? Where is He asking you to trust Him without a safety net—so that you can experience His ability to move you in a way that will radically transform your heart and faith? Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about the things we cannot see."

So, what will it take for The Father's House Napa to be successful in our \$4M Now! Campaign? Well, one thing is certain: we cannot simply take the total amount needed, divide it by the number of families in the church, and arrive at an "average" gift for every family. That approach will not work.

When studying past campaigns from other churches, a typical distribution of gifts can be identified. Applying that typical distribution to our church, we find a “model” distribution of gifts. This is what it will take for us to be successful. It also underscores the Biblical principle of proportionality—that each of us is “called” to give according to how we’ve been blessed with financial resources!

This “tool” also highlights another Biblical principle of generosity: decisions about giving should be made in prayer. Look at the chart and pray our campaign prayer: “Lord, what do You want to do through me?” Then ask the Lord, “Where do You see me (or us) on this chart? At what level of giving?”

\$4,000,000
“Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice”
Given over 2.5 years

No. Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
1	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
2	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
2	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$1,200,000
3	\$75,000	\$225,000	\$1,425,000
4	\$60,000	\$240,000	\$1,665,000

12 Commitments = \$1,665,000 or 41.6% of Need

No. Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
8	\$45,000	\$360,000	\$2,025,000
12	\$30,000	\$360,000	\$2,385,000
24	\$15,000	\$360,000	\$2,745,000
36	\$10,000	\$360,000	\$3,105,000

80 Commitments = \$1,440,000 or 36.0% of Need

92 Commitments = \$3,105,000 or 77.6% of Need

No. Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
36	\$7,200	\$259,200	\$3,364,200
37	\$6,000	\$222,000	\$3,586,200
40	\$4,500	\$180,000	\$3,766,200
50	\$3,000	\$150,000	\$3,916,200

Remainder \$900 \$83,000 \$4,000,000

Remaining Commitments = \$895,000 or 22.4% of Need

Total Commitments = \$4,000,000 or 100% of Need

STEP IN THE JOURNEY

Throughout the Commitment Guide sections, we have tried to provide you with a variety of ways to pray through your commitment. To that end, here is a seven-step process that others have found helpful.

STEP ONE: PRAY

Yes, it is true, you will have to do more than pray, but do not do anything until you pray! Begin by using the following as a guide:

1 minute: Adoration

Celebrate how great God is

1 minute: Confession

Admit areas in your life that may be outside of God's will for you or areas that may not be pleasing to God. You can even confess your hesitation to engage in this process.

1 minute: Thanksgiving

Think about the many aspects of your life for which you can be grateful, i.e. a car to drive, a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear, job that provides an income, etc.

1 minute: Surrender

Relinquish all that you have. This may be the hardest part of this prayer progression. The physical action of turning your open palms upward may help you visualize your willingness to let go of what God has given to you.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, (21) to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21.

STEP TWO: EVALUATE YOUR INCOME

It's important to have a realistic starting point, so start with what is known, your income.

Salary #1 \$ _____
 Salary #2 \$ _____

Year 1 potential raise/bonus/commission: \$ _____
 Year 2 potential raise/bonus/commission: \$ _____
 Year 3 potential raise/bonus/commission: \$ _____ \$ _____
2.5yr sub-total

For most of us, income alone will not take us where we want to go toward making a legacy-type commitment to our church.

STEP THREE: LIFESTYLE CHANGES AND/OR ALTERED SPENDING

Some ideas to get you thinking:

- Lessen car payments \$ _____
- Sell car & purchase a used car with no payments \$ _____
- Eat out less often \$ _____
- Cut back on subscriptions \$ _____
- Regulate the amount of and number of gifts given \$ _____
- Scale back cell phone and internet usage \$ _____
- Modify type and number of vacations \$ _____
- Adjust cable TV/direct TV coverage, packages downward \$ _____
- Trim down entertainment, watch a video, instead of first-run movie \$ _____
- Reduce the number of coffee runs \$ _____
- Decrease new clothing purchases \$ _____
- Pay off a bill and continue the payment to Pressing In \$ _____
- Do your own housekeeping, lawn care \$ _____
- Other \$ _____
- \$ _____
- sub-total**

It's important in this journey to include your spouse in the conversation if married, or the entire family if you have children. It's an important step in the development of your family. Most of us think that our kids will not be willing to sacrifice, but we've seen that most kids are more comfortable than we are as adults with the process, and they have an implicit and childlike faith and belief in a BIG God.

STEP FOUR: ACTIVELY CONSIDER YOUR STORED RESOURCES

This includes a number of different possibilities:

- Home \$ _____
 - Land \$ _____
 - Timeshares \$ _____
 - Apartments \$ _____
 - Condos \$ _____
 - Vacation Homes \$ _____
 - Stocks and Bonds \$ _____
 - Cars \$ _____
 - Stamps \$ _____
 - Trading Cards \$ _____
 - Coins \$ _____
 - Memorabilia \$ _____
 - Crypto \$ _____
 - Motorcycles \$ _____
 - Clothes \$ _____
 - Boats \$ _____
 - Jewelry \$ _____
 - Artwork \$ _____
 - Things that could be sold on eBay \$ _____
- sub-total**

STEP FIVE: TIME AND TALENT

Consider putting your time and/or talent into play to generate resources...

- Go back to work \$ _____
 - Work one additional day a week \$ _____
 - Start a new business to generate income \$ _____
 - Take an outside "seasonal" job opportunity \$ _____
 - Work over time \$ _____
 - Vacation Work an extra Saturday \$ _____
 - Creative and artistic hobbies, jewelry making, pottery, etc. \$ _____
- sub-total**

STEP SIX: DENIAL OR A GENUINE ACT OF SACRIFICIAL FAITH

As seen in the Bible, God often taps people on the shoulder and asks them to do something extraordinary. This is the kind of out-of-the-ordinary faith that can only be attributed to a prompting of God's Spirit. It's the type of commitment that a financial planner may consider foolish, but God may very well view as wise. While it's hard to predict what this opportunity might look like for you, we believe God will lead some of us toward this very place.

For instance, you might decide to retire but delay it for two years to give those resources to the church. You could also postpone retirement or push it back by withdrawing money from your 401(k), 403(b), or IRA.

There may be dollar amounts that can be assigned to each of these steps or categories. Add them up, and commit to giving that total over the next two years. Yes, it will take God's help to accomplish this, but if we could do it on our own, we might be tempted to take credit for something that only God can do! Once you add up all the subtotals, you'll have your working commitment number.

Total 2.5 Year Commitment: \$ _____

STEP SEVEN: THE COMMITMENT...TRUST GOD!

The real journey will come over the next 2.5 years. We hope you'll keep a journal of the amazing and unexpected ways God will work and provide in your life to accomplish your commitments.

How They Did It?

A family of four – Commitment Strategies:

Increase giving \$25.00/wk 2-year total	\$2,600
Reduce eating out by \$50.00/wk	\$5,408
Crew (7th grader) takes lunch to school	\$ 150
Kyle (husband) takes lunch to work	\$ 870
Teresa (wife) reduces household food budget by \$25/wk	\$2,600
Teresa foregoes pedicures	\$1,800
Melissa (HS Senior) reduces entertainment expense	\$ 400
Phil plays golf only once a week during Summer	\$1,600
Family reduces Christmas expense by \$500	\$1,000
Cancel one vacation	\$2,500
Vicki (10th grader) gives ¼ baby sitting fees	\$ 400
Miscellaneous reductions (subscriptions, fees, etc.)	\$ 250
Thrusting God for another \$1000	\$1,000

Grand 2.5 year total: \$20,578







Some more FAQs



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here is a new set of questions we've prepared for you. If you missed them, be sure to check out Volumes 1-3. We offer these FAQs to help broaden your understanding of our campaign, its process, and the spiritual journey. It's true that you must address the spiritual before the financial. Let these FAQs guide you as you embark on the spiritual journey.

IS SACRIFICE OF MONEY A BIBLICAL PRACTICE?

Absolutely. In 2 Samuel, King David says, "I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing." The essence of sacrifice is that it costs us something. This type of giving pleases God because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in Him. That's when big things begin to happen.

- Mary broke the alabaster jar of perfume, worth a year's wages, and poured it on Jesus.
- Jesus commended the widow who gave her last two coins.
- When Zacchaeus said he would give half of his possessions and repay those he had defrauded, Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this household."

WHAT IF I TEND TO TAKE A RATIONAL APPROACH TO DECISION-MAKING?

It's tempting to give based on reason—looking at your budget and determining what's affordable or "reasonable." However, you could choose to give based on revelation. Revelation asks, "How much am I willing to trust God?" When giving becomes a matter of prayer, your decision turns into an act of worship.

Here are some simple steps to consider during this process:

- Reflect on ALL that God has done in your life since you've been part of the church, as well as the changes you've seen in others. Think about people who don't yet know God and His love for them. Let it sink in that people need Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Pray, both individually and with your spouse: "God, I invite You to guide us."
- Discuss what sacrifice might look like for you. Pray, "Lord, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will in my church?"
- Decide in faith, and commit to sacrificially give over the next 2.5 years.

SO, WHAT IS AN AVERAGE GIFT?

There's no formula for determining that commitment, nor is there an "average gift" benchmark. Generosity is not about equal gifts, but about equal sacrifice. Instead of measuring your gift by the dollar amount, use the following "measures":

- Does this investment make a difference to me? Does this gift change me, and my whole commitment level?
- Was this a prayerful decision, seeking God's will? Did I invite God into this decision-making process?
- Did I have a real conversation about this decision—with my spouse, children, family, church family, etc.?
- Did I learn something about commitment and giving? Did I take a step of faith that deepens my own discipleship?
- If everyone in the church made a sacrifice equal to mine (in terms of commitment rather than dollars), would God be honored by that level of commitment/investment?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FAITH COMMITMENT?

You'll likely start planning your commitment based on an amount that fits within your budget—something you feel is reasonable. However, that amount may not be sacrificial, nor will it stretch your faith. A faith commitment requires you to grow your commitment by considering how you could alter your spending, liquidate assets, or postpone certain purchases.

As you do this, you'll realize that you are sacrificing for the Kingdom and increasing your faith in God as provider and protector. The more your commitment grows, the more you'll recognize that it will require God's intervention in your life and circumstances to enable you to give that amount. You'll realize that your faith commitment means trusting God to fulfill it, even if you don't know where all the money will come from or when it will arrive.

WHEN DOES MY FAITH COMMITMENT BEGIN AND END?

The Now! Campaign will run from December 2024 through December 2026. We are also asking everyone to prayerfully consider making their first gift offering on Sunday, December 1, 2024. The purpose of this offering is to give the campaign a healthy boost right from the start. We're asking you to pray about giving your best gift.



Still Have Questions?

We would love to hear from you.

now@tfh.org



 NOW



God's Not Done... So, We're Not Done

Journey Guide Volume 4

Each Sunday, grab a new journey guide that has new vision thoughts, devotions, FAQs, and more!