



GUIDE TO DISCERNING GOD'S WILL IN DECIDING YOUR GIVING COMMITMENT

The most important decision you or your family will make during our Make A Difference Challenge will be the decision about your own giving commitment. This sheet gives suggestions on how to decide what your commitment will be.

As you begin praying about your commitment, keep this thought in mind, "equal sacrifice, not equal gifts." God has not given everyone the ability to give the same amount. God does not call us to make the same quality of commitment.

Remember, your Make A Difference Challenge commitment can include both a cash gift and a 36 month giving commitment. Many of us can give far more than we initially believe by giving it over a three year period. You will help your church more by making both gifts.

Each of us has a choice to make:

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?"

I CAN GIVE BASED ON REVELATION. This means I determine my gift by seeking God and praying, "Lord, what do you want to give through me?" This requires faith. When you make your commitment a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship. Revelation giving is asking "how much am I willing to trust God?" Paul said of the Macedonians, "They gave not only what they could afford; they gave even more than they could afford!" 2 Corinthians 7:3

SUGGESTED STEPS FOR DETERMINING GOD'S WILL

1. Begin by praying everyday, "Lord, I want to give sacrificially. Now please show me how to give a gift that will please you while stretching my faith." If you're married, pray together with your spouse.
2. Give yourself time. Don't rush your decision. You'll find that the longer you genuinely pray, "show me how," the more ways God will show you.

3. Plan a family conference to discuss ways to give. Ask your family members to be thinking of ideas in advance. Be sure to involve your children, no matter how young they are. This is a great opportunity to model giving in faith.

4. At your family conference, read the following Bible promises and instructions and make a list of what you learn: Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:24-25, Luke 6:38, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:1-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, Matthew 6:19-20

5. In your family conference, ask yourselves out loud these questions:

Regarding our cash gift:

- How much cash could we gather by November 21?
- Is there anything we could sell or convert to cash?
- Do we have any assets or tangible items we could give?

Regarding our 18 month commitment:

- Are there ways we could decrease our expenses in order to make a large commitment?
- Are there ways we could increase our income in order to make a large commitment?

6. Decide as a family the total amount you'll give, holds 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 retire the church debt and build a first level auditorium. In Jesus' name, amen.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Booth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Paul