

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

“WE'RE ASKING YOU TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH AND HELP US GROW SPIRITUALLY THROUGH GIVING. 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.

DECIDING YOUR GIVING COMMITMENT

The most important decision you or your family will make during the Thrive campaign will be your giving commitment. The following gives you suggestions on how to decide what your giving commitment will be.

As you begin praying about the commitment, keep in mind that “EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIFTS”. God doesn't give everyone the ability to give the same amount in dollars. However, God does call us to make the same quality of commitment. Remember, your Thrive commitment should include BOTH a cash or firstfruits gift and a 3-year giving commitment. Most of us can give far more than we initially think and by giving it over a 3-year period. Here is something that we can think about:

- 1** I can give based on REASON. You give by looking at what you have, figure out what is “reasonable”, and make that commitment. This doesn't include faith, this is simply giving by reason, simply asking, “What can I afford?”
- 2** I can give based on REVELATION. You give by praying, “Lord, what do you want given through me?” This requires faith. 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. Please show me how to give a gift that will stretch my faith."
- 2** Give yourself time! Don't rush, 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.
- 3** Plan a family meeting to discuss ways to give. Ask your family to be thinking of ideas in advance. Be sure to involve all of your family, including children. This is a great opportunity to teach generosity and build faith.
- 4** Read what the Bible shares in promises and instructions:
 - Proverbs 3:9 - 10
 - Proverbs 11:24 - 25
 - Luke 6:38
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1 - 2
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1 - 2
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6 - 11
 - Matthew 6:19 - 20
- 5** Ask yourselves ~
 - How much cash could we gather to offer?
 - Is there anything we could do to increase that gift?
 - Are there ways we could decrease our expenses in order to make a larger commitment for 3 years?
 - Are there ways we could increase our income in order to make a larger commitment?

You can give far more when it's spread out over time.
- 6** Decide the total amount you'll give, be prayerful with a prayer of commitment like this ~

"Lord, this is a big step for us. We're asking you to strengthen our faith and help us grow spiritually through giving. 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 have said in your Word that you'll take care of our needs, if we trust you. Thank you for this opportunity to grow."