

GIFT GIVING GUIDE

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL IN DECIDING YOUR GIVING COMMITMENT

The most important decision you or your family will make during the Vision Expansion campaign emphasis will be the decision about your own giving commitment. This guide gives suggestions on how to decide what your commitment will be.

As you begin praying about your commitments, keep in mind that the Biblical principle is "EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIVING." Obviously, God has not given everyone the ability to give the same amount in dollars. However, God does call us to make the same quality of commitment. Remember, your commitment can include both a launch gift and a 36-month giving commitment. Most of us can give far more than we initially think by giving it over a 36 month period. Together we can...help see the Vision Expansion turn into reality by contributing through both gifts.

Prayerfully consider the following suggestions for determining God's will in giving:

BEGIN BY PRAYING EVERY DAY

Begin by praying every day, "Lord, I want to give sacrificially. Now please show me how to give a gift that will stretch my faith." If you're married, pray together with your spouse. We also have a 40-day prayer guide available to help you focus each day on a specific prayer for the Vision Expansion campaign. Our 40-days of prayer will culminate with a 12-hour Prayer Vigil on Saturday, March 28th from 7:00 to 7:00 p.m.

GIVE YOURSELF TIME

Give yourself time! Don't rush your decision. You will find that the longer you genuinely pray "Show me how", the more ways God will show how to be able to give more than the first amount that popped into your head. Allow God to show you how to "grow in the grace of giving."

PLAN A FAMILY CONFERENCE

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 teach giving and faith. 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, 9:6-12
Matthew 6:19-20

REASON 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 little or no faith to give by reason. Reason simply asks, "What can I afford?"

I give based on reallocation. In this aspect of my prayer, I am **REALLOCATION** asking what "I have in my hand" to give. I am also considering what I can create to give based on Deut 8:18, as God gives me the power to make wealth.

I can give based on revelation. This **REVELATION** means I determine my gift by praying, "Lord, what do you want to give 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?" Paul said of the Macedonians, "They gave not only what they could afford, they gave more than they could afford!" II Corinthians 8:3