

GENERATION TO GENERATION

Spiritual Discernment Guide

Our sacrificial gifts to the church, above and beyond our annual ministry fund gift or tithe, over the next three years towards the Generation to Generation capital campaign will provide resources that will impact thousands and thousands of lives for generations to come. Making a sacrificial gift is something that requires prayerful discernment, and it will take each of us to make the goals of this campaign a reality. As you embark on this spiritual journey, this devotional is designed to help you prayerfully seek God's calling as you consider what He is asking you to sacrifice to be a part of ensuring spaces for all generations at Resurrection, today and into the future.

“Generosity
produces
thanksgiving
to God”

2 Corinthians 9:6-13 (CEB)

Scripture Reading:

⁶What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop. ⁷Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. ⁹As it is written, He scattered everywhere; he gave to the needy; his righteousness remains forever. ¹⁰The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. ¹²Your ministry of this service to God's people isn't only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. ¹³They will give honor to God for your obedience to your confession of Christ's gospel.”

▶ Reflection:

We are tempted to think our time, talents, energy, and money are parts of a closed system, so that if we give any to someone else, we will have less. Paul told his Corinthian converts that that kind of thinking makes one big mistake: it leaves God out of the equation. Let's not leave God out of the equation.

Take a few moments and reflect on the following questions:

- What do you think it means to be a “cheerful giver” (v.7)? When have you experienced cheerful giving?
- How would you describe “more than enough of every kind of grace” (v.8)?
- What do you think it means to be “rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way” (v.11)? When have you personally experienced someone expressing generosity in every way?
- In what ways can you be of service to God's people (v.12)?
- What do you think it means to be obedient to the confession of Christ's gospel (v.13)? How is this Generation to Generation campaign an act of obedience to help children and youth to grow in their faith?
- As you consider what you might be willing to commit to this campaign above and beyond your regular tithe, consider why this campaign is important to the church and how you might be able to refocus your priorities over the next three years to be a part of this vision.
- How will your generosity bear witness to your faith through your thanksgiving to God?

Prayer:

Lord God, I ask that you continue to soften my heart, and to help me be a cheerful giver. Help me to sow generous seeds and reap a generous crop in your name that will be used by you to impact generations to come. Amen.