

WE ARE GOD'S BUILDING - THE JOURNEY

DISCIPLESHIP & GENEROSITY

“The Journey” is a tool designed to help you see money as a good tool for God's kingdom. It focuses on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts, rather than on amounts or percentages, further transforming us into the likeness of Christ.

Each stage represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. These are not steps you ascend to get to God, but simply a way to evaluate your growth in generosity. Scripture encourages us to grow in every facet of our walk with Christ, including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

We want to challenge everyone in our church family to identify the stage they most closely identify with, and then by faith, take the next step on their personal journey of generosity.

INITIAL GIVER

WHO: As an initial giver, I have decided to give for the first time. I have decided to give something and trust God and the leaders of the church with the gift. During the “We Are God’s Building” mission campaign, I will take a step of faith by making my first gift to the kingdom of God through The Paradox Church.

HOW: To become an Initial Giver, consider:

- [Making](#) a gift to [The Paradox Church](#).

CONSISTENT GIVER

WHO: As a consistent giver, I have decided to give something and to give it on a consistent basis. I have decided to think of my giving in the same way I would about other expenses in my budget that are paid regardless of seasons of feast or famine. This often requires planning, and sometimes this might be a reason to set-up recurring gifts online or to become disciplined with giving through envelopes or checks during Sunday gatherings.

HOW: To become a Consistent Giver consider:

- Setting up a recurring gift through The Paradox’s [Online Giving](#) (preferably through ACH to reduce transaction fees).
- Budgeting specifically for giving as you would your other monthly expenses (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
- Proactively scheduling when you’re going to consistently give on your calendar.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

WHO: As an intentional giver, I have asked the question, “Why am I giving more to my cell phone bill than I am giving to God? Should I be giving to God more than I give for my mortgage each month?” My giving is an intentional choice that reflects how I feel about giving in relation to the other things I spend money on. This may also be a point of intentionality when I begin to give a percentage of my gross income to Jesus.

HOW: To become an Intentional Giver, consider:

- Your giving in relation to other monthly financial commitments (such as cell phone, mortgage/rent, insurance, etc.) and determine an intentional step you can take to grow the priority of your giving.
- Choosing a percentage that would represent a new level of giving for you, potentially a percentage of giving in relation to your gross income (Malachi 3:10).

SACRIFICIAL GIVER

WHO: As a sacrificial giver, I have asked the question, “Am I giving in a way that changes me? Am I giving in a way that causes my lifestyle to be different; to reflect the transformation Christ is making in me?” My commitment to giving actually governs the rest of my lifestyle. My giving commitment is “larger than my current situation,” so that I may have to adjust the rest of my expenditures to meet that commitment.

HOW: To become a Sacrificial Giver consider:

- Looking at the dollars you are not giving and prayerfully consider if God is asking you to release a portion of those back to Him.
- If your giving is really costing you something, or if it has become comfortable or routine (2 Samuel 24:24).
- If God is asking you to release resources He has blessed you with in the past (savings, stock, retirement, etc.) as a sacrifice to Him.

LIFETIME GIVER

WHO: As a Lifetime Giver I am no longer asking the question, “God, how much are you asking me to give?” I am asking the question, “God, how much are you asking me to keep?” I am asking this so I can release the rest for kingdom purposes. Much like a sacrificial giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, I have made a lifetime or

long-term giving commitment that governs my long-term decisions like homes, cars, investments, projects, etc.

HOW: To become a Lifetime Giver consider:

- Putting a cap on spending and saving so every additional dollar goes towards kingdom giving.
- Setting a lifetime generosity goal (a specific number) for your family's kingdom giving over the course of your life.
- Engaging in estate planning (or revise your current plan) to accurately reflect your kingdom giving priorities.
- Leveraging your own journey of generosity to encourage and inspire kingdom generosity in the next generation (Proverbs 13:22).

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Where would you put yourself in the journey?**
- 2. What actions steps would the Lord want you to take?**