

GIVING GUIDE



A New Day of
GRACE

Going Deeper | Getting Closer | Reaching Wider

The Grace of Giving

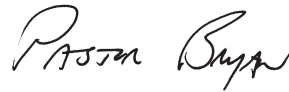
“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that... you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Our theme verse reminds us that giving is a central feature of our relationship with Christ. God pours grace into our lives, so that it might flow through us into the lives of others. And the more we pour out, the more He pours in. As has often been said, you cannot out-give God! This truly is our vision for this campaign: that we might experience God’s grace more deeply, so that we can extend God’s grace more widely. That’s also why stewardship campaigns are such important seasons in the life of a church; they deepen us spiritually even as they broaden the impact of God’s work around us.

Our prayer is that God might meet you in a personal and life-changing way as you consider your commitment to *A New Day of Grace*. For that reason, we are encouraging everyone to make some kind of commitment, allowing God to do something new in your life as He does something new for the Kingdom.

- For some, a commitment to *A New Day of Grace* will be the first step in your stewardship journey, as you begin giving regularly and generously to the ministry of your local church.
- For many, it will mean stepping up to a new level of generosity, increasing the percentage of your giving as you move toward tithing (10% of your income), or beyond tithing.
- Others will sense God leading you to make a substantial and even extraordinary commitment, made possible by His abundant goodness to you.
- For all of us, making a commitment to *A New Day of Grace* will lead us into new experiences in faith, guidance, sacrifice, and generosity.

This guide is designed to help you along as you make your journey toward a commitment. We trust that the Lord will meet you in this process, and lead you to a commitment that honors God and brings you great joy!



Pastor Bupp

Making a Commitment

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Your financial commitment to *A New Day of Grace* should be based on meaningful spiritual reflection on how God may be leading you to invest in this Kingdom work. The following pages should help you prayerfully discover the role God would have you play in His unfolding work, as well as provide some ideas on how He may lead you to respond. In this season, take the time to...

Pray. Seek God’s guidance, asking Him to renew your heart for the church and for those far from God, and to lead your decisions.

Listen. As you read through the materials and listen to the messages, which aspects of the *A New Day of Grace* vision resonate with your spirit? What elements are you especially passionate about? Which biblical texts have been especially meaningful or challenging to you? What do you sense God saying to you about your walk with Him, about stewardship, and about your relationship to your church?

Discuss. Talk to your spouse and/or other family members to see how the Spirit may be confirming your sense of direction. Talk to trusted friends and spiritual leaders to learn from their stewardship journeys.

Consider. What is your capability and potential for giving? Think beyond your current income. How might your financial situation change in the next few years in ways that would allow you to give more (e.g. raises, bonuses, loans paid off)? Do you have non-income assets that could be gifted? Is there a sacrifice the Lord might be calling you to make?

Commit. Develop a personal giving plan—weekly, monthly, annually, one-time, or a combination of these—for the three years that will enable you to reach your giving goals.

We encourage you to have a commitment in mind when you come to church on Commitment Sunday, May 23, and to join us in filling out your Commitment Card during a sacred moment in that service.

Questions for Reflection

In what ways has God been extraordinarily generous to me and my family?

Who is the most generous person I have known, and what impact has he or she had on my life?

How has God blessed me and my family through Grace Chapel over the years?

What does my current level of giving say about my commitment to Christ and to my church home, and about my understanding of biblical stewardship?

Will the commitment I am considering stretch my faith as I trust God to provide for my needs and grant me a spirit of contentment?

Do I have a passion for seeing people grow deeper in their faith, and for seeing lost people come into the Kingdom? Is that passion reflected in my giving?

Have I sought and sensed the Lord's leading as I decide on a commitment?

Have I considered a variety of creative strategies for giving?

Strategies for Giving

Since we will still need to fund the ongoing ministries of the church, it is important to remember that our financial commitment to this vision should be in addition to our regular tithes and offerings. Where will we find the resources to give over and above what we are already giving to the Lord's work? Below you will find some creative ideas for discovering new and responsible ways to increase your giving.

Income Giving is giving from your regular income, bonuses, salary increases, and commissions from your employer or personal business. This typically involves increasing the percentage of your regular income that you give, working toward or beyond the biblical guideline of tithing (10%).

Lifestyle Giving is giving by changing your lifestyle and priorities or deferring purchases to free up resources for giving. This could also involve finding a creative source of additional income.

Sacrificial Giving is increasing your gift by giving up something that you “love” but that is non-essential, realizing that in doing so, you are showing love for God's great, redemptive work. A sacrifice might be as simple as giving up a weekly lunch out or a cable subscription—or as substantial as forgoing a vacation or postponing a major purchase.

Appreciated Asset Giving is giving by transferring appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, artwork, donor-advised funds, or real estate to get the extra tax benefits of eliminating capital gains taxes.

What is the advantage of giving an “appreciated asset” rather than just selling it and giving the money to the church? If you sell it first, you may owe tax on the gain in value of your asset. See the example below:

	Sell Asset First	Give Asset to Church
Market Value of Asset	30,000	30,000
Original Cost	14,000	14,000
Gain on Sale of Asset	16,000	16,000
Tax Due on Gain (Assume 15% Tax Rate)	2,400	-0-
Value of Gift to Church After Tax	27,600	30,000
Contribution Credit to Donor for Tax Purposes	27,600	30,000

Redirected Expenditures occur when funds can be directed toward the Lord's work as other financial obligations are fulfilled during the campaign. These might include tuition payments, car loans, etc.

Personal Property Gifts are the giving of a home, vacation home, commercial property, or land.

Bequests are giving by naming Grace Chapel as a beneficiary in a will.

Reasons to Give

“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you — see that you excel in this act of grace also.” 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Giving honors God. We glorify God when we return a portion of His blessings that He has so freely and bountifully bestowed on us. Giving is an act of worship and is near to the heart of God!

We are most like God when we give. He is the first and foremost Giver, so we most closely demonstrate the character of God when we give generously.

Giving acknowledges God’s ownership. When we give, we demonstrate the Biblical truth that God owns it all and that as His children, we are called to properly manage the resources entrusted to our care.

Giving develops our Christian character. When we give generously, we move from self-centeredness to thinking beyond ourselves, by helping others and supporting the ministry.

Giving is an investment in ministry. In all of Scripture, from the pitching of the tabernacle to the building of the temple to supporting the priests and the apostles, God has always given the responsibility to believers to support the work.

Giving supports the Grace Chapel vision. God has uniquely called Grace Chapel and placed it in the most unchurched region in America. He also has uniquely blessed and gifted Grace Chapel. For the past sixty years Grace Chapel has been biblically evangelical and has steadfastly proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result, thousands of people have come to know Christ and have been disciplined. God has given the leadership a fresh vision to continue to grow and reach this region.

Regular Giving Really Adds Up

Perhaps you feel that your circumstances don't allow you to make the kind of financial commitment you wish you could. First, remember that Jesus praised the widow (in Luke 21) whose meager gift was "more than all the others" solely because of the faith she demonstrated in giving it. The size of the gift is not what matters most to God.

Then also remember that even lesser amounts, when given regularly, have a significant compounding effect. Even a small change in your spending patterns (e.g., the cost of a daily latte at the coffee shop) can easily add up to \$1,000 or \$2,000 over the three years of this campaign. The table below may help you make a commitment that you might not have thought was possible. Pray over this as you seek the Lord's leading. Everyone can participate at some level.

Weekly Gift	1 Year Total	3 Year Total
\$ 2	\$ 104	\$ 312
5	260	780
10	520	1,560
15	780	2,340
20	1,040	3,120
25	1,300	3,900
35	1,820	5,460
50	2,600	7,800
75	3,900	11,700
100	5,200	15,600

Some Final Notes about Giving at Grace Chapel

- Your commitment, like your regular giving, is confidential. Our financial office will record it and provide you with quarterly reports on your actual giving toward it. No one will contact you directly about your commitment or your giving.
- Your commitment is ultimately between you and the Lord. It is not a binding contract.
- Should your circumstances change, your commitment can be increased or decreased at any time during the three years by contacting the financial office.
- Gifts in fulfillment of your commitment can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed in to the church office. Pre-printed giving envelopes can be requested online.
- One-time or regular ongoing gifts can also be made online at www.grace.org/giving.
- Tax rules are complex, so please be sure to consult your tax professional for any specific advice with regard to your situation.
- Our financial office is available to answer any questions you may have or to provide additional assistance.

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