

## Giving Discipleship Journey

An **Initial Giver** is someone who decides to give for the first time. Someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

### **2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

*But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

*And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.*

*Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”*

A **Consistent Giver** is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. But non-recurring givers can be consistent givers as well (I’ve been a check-giver my whole life!), but it just requires more discipline.

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

An **Intentional Giver** is someone who is beginning to think about their giving in relation to other things they spend their money on. So for example, this type of giver begins asking the question, “Why am I giving more to AT&T than I am giving to God? Should I be giving to God more than I give for my mortgage each month?” This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they feel about it in relation to other things they spend their money on. This may also be the point of intentionality when someone begins to tithe, reflecting that they are being intentional about a certain amount/percentage that they want to give to God.

### **Luke 14:28-35**

*“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and*

*estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'*

*"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.*

*"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.*

*"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."*

A **Sacrificial Giver** is someone who begins to make CHANGES that COST them something in their lifestyle. A Sacrificial Giver begins to ask the question, "Am I giving in a way that changes me? Am I giving in a way that is offering up to God that which costs me something of myself? Am I giving in a way that causes my lifestyle to be different to reflect the transformation Christ is making in me?" A Sacrificial Giver's commitment to giving actually *governs* the rest of his/her lifestyle. Much in the way that someone who has a mortgage that is "larger than their current situation" and has to adjust the rest of their expenditures to meet that obligation, a Sacrificial Giver has a giving commitment that is "larger than their current situation" so that they have to adjust the rest of their expenditures to meet that commitment.

### **2 Samuel 24:18-25**

*On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped." Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you."*

*But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.*

A **Legacy Giver** (or **Lifetime Giver**) is someone who is thinking about the longer tail of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. A Legacy Giver makes decisions in the short term that have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what

home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relation to their generosity capacity. A Legacy Giver is no longer asking the question, “God, how much are you asking me to give?” A Legacy Giver is asking the question, “God, how much as you asking me to keep?” They ask this so that they can release the rest into Kingdom purposes. A Legacy Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal, something that will *govern* their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Sacrificial Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Legacy Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, and the like.

**1 Timothy 6:6-19**

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*