



taking the
NEXT

“For where your treasure is, there *your heart* will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

What does it
mean to take the
next step?



It is easy to think that the possessions we own and the money in our accounts are a result of our own efforts. And for some of us, it can be really hard to let go of the hard-earned money we have made when we have a mound of bills to pay or a savings account that never seems to have enough for us to feel content.

step

Why do we talk about money?

In today's world, money is our power. It is human nature to think that we control all that we have, and using our money how we want is one of the ways we act this out. If we begin to release a portion of what God has given to us, we are allowing God room to work in our lives. This is an important step in our spiritual journey. We learn to depend less on ourselves and our own power and more on God. But keep in mind, God does not need our money. God can do whatever God wants to do whether we are on board or not. Our giving isn't about funding a church budget. It is an act of gratitude and trust. As we step out and trust God, we experience freedom from fear. Living generously is an inseparable part of following Christ. Jesus talks openly about money and possessions. About two-thirds of the parables and about one in ten verses of the Gospels address this issue. As followers of Christ, we openly talk about giving as an outward expression of our love for Christ.



Intentional Giver

The Intentional Giver plans a certain amount to give each week. That might be a set amount or a percentage of his/her income. He/she becomes mostly consistent in giving throughout the year.



First-time Giver

The First-time Giver is new to the idea of giving. He/she might drop \$5 or \$10 in the offering plate as it comes around each week, but is not consistent about giving. Taking the step to increase his/her giving and giving regularly can seem like an overwhelming commitment or seem impossible to reconcile with his/her current financial situation.



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Extravagant Giver

An Extravagant Giver moves beyond the 10% tithe that God calls us to give, and makes an offering or sacrificial gift.

Tither

The Tither has made the decision to step out in faith and trust in God and give a full 10% of his/her income as an act of trust and obedience as well as a recognition of God as the source of our existence and our blessings.

Growing Giver

The Growing Giver moves forward in his/her spiritual journey and begins to understand that giving is closely tied to the trust and reliance he/she has in God. In turn, he/she begins to increase the percentage of giving toward a tithe.

What you can do!

- Pray for God to lead you in taking the next step in your faith journey.
- Examine your personal giving and how it reflects your commitment to Christ.
- Deepen your sense of generosity and gratitude by picking up a copy of our devotional guide, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*, and reading along with us each day, beginning Monday, October 23. Follow our social media channels as we post excerpts from the readings – we would love to hear how each day’s reading touches you.
- Participate in worship on **Friday, November 17** or **Sunday, November 19** as we complete our **Estimate of Giving Cards** as an act of worship together. If you are unable to attend worship that weekend, we will mail you an Estimate of Giving Card the following week.



Learning to give with a glad and generous heart often parallels with a person's spiritual journey.



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 **ONECHURCH**

Acts 2 Church

