

---

# Funding – The Commitment

## 2 Thessalonians 1:11-13

### Introduction

This morning we are gathered anticipating seeing the wondrous grace of God in your generous sacrificial commitment. We are excited and a bit anxious – we are so hoping for the kind of response that reflects the greatness of our God. We desire in all this bring Him alone all the glory. We will boast in Him alone. We will respond in our grace, in our giving and in our gratitude to highlight how marvelous He is to us.

### Growing Strategically

#### Our Present Need

- *WE WANT TO GROW.* We want to see unbelievers come to know Christ. The Elders and want to see the distinctive mission, vision and purposes of the Chapel reach as many Christians as possible.
- *WE ARE FULL IN THE AUDITORIUM.* We are around 80% full on the average on Sunday Morning. It is difficult to grow when people feel crowded.
- *WE ARE WOEFULLY SHORT ON CLASSROOM SPACE.* We constantly have to adjust the ministry we do because of the limits of our facility.

#### Faith Affirmations

Confessing what we believe and affirm are expressions of our faith. Pouring over the Scripture pointed us to 4 texts from Scripture (see on page 2) and the affirmations we drew from them.

We will believe God so much that we will work hard to bring forth what we desire from Him.

We will grow in faith so much that we will increase our loving labor for people in our ministries and through our facilities.

We will ask God in faith for wisdom knowing He will give it to us.

We will model that faith for your example and encouragement.

To the end of believing God by faith and modeling that faith for your encouragement, the Elders themselves have committed **\$ 1,062.00** per month and a one-time total donation of **\$ 1,000.00**.

#### Mission

Our mission is to see the facilities of Clearcreek Chapel expanded through careful planning, unified partnership, principled purposes, articulated values and God-honoring stewardship.

## Vision

Our vision is to have a facility that will provide:

- A design that is guided by our values, principles and objectives;
- A project that demonstrates the unity and diversity of our corporate community.
- A beautiful contemporary auditorium for the worship in word and music;
- A large commons for casual, informal and formal fellowship;
- A central, well equipped nursery facility to minister effectively to both parents and children;
- An expanded, useful and flexible design for educational space;
- An expanded and efficient administrative office suite

## Values

Selected values from our Chapel Mission and Vision Statement shape the trajectory of our expansion. These are included in your handout. These selected values included:

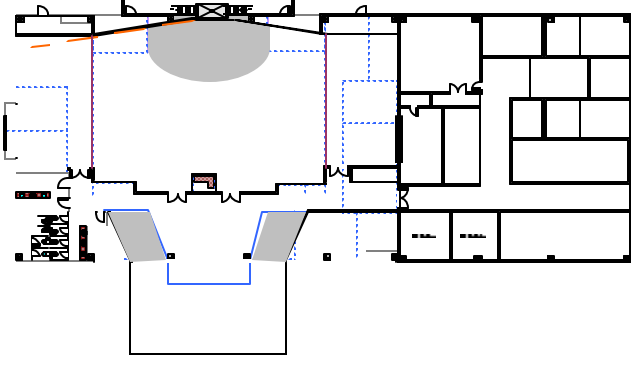
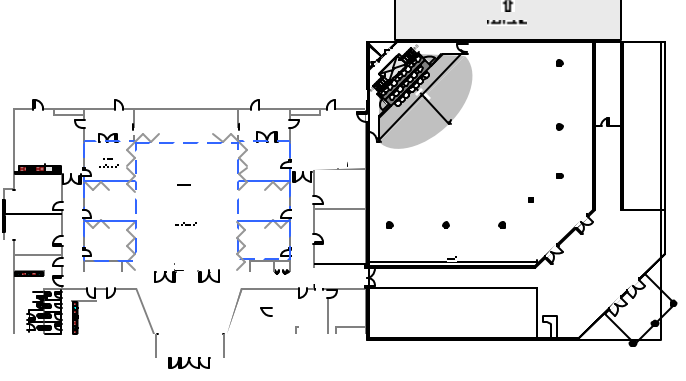
*Values Relating to Spiritual Atmosphere*  
*Values Relating to Corporate Worship*  
*Values Relating to our Life Together*  
*Values Relating to Church Ministry*  
*Values Relating to Church Facilities*

I want to highlight again the values relating to church facilities. As we think about expanding our facilities, we treasure:

- The glory and greatness of God reflected in aesthetic beauty expressed through effective structures.
- Being together in a way that supports the welcome of the unchurched and the worship of believers.
- Finding the third way between extravagant plushness and bare functional practicality.
- Careful planning that makes multi-use of space, prepares for future expansion and allows for phased in development and completion.
- A design that sustains value in the market-place implying carefulness about an overly “church” exterior.

## Options

Finally, by way of review, we have two basic options before us. The Elders are in favor of option 2 and much of the discussion from you has hovered over that as well.

Option 1	Option 2
Remodel/expand current auditorium and build new educational/administrative wing.	Build new auditorium and remodel current building for educational and administrative expansion.
	

## Guided Scripturally

### The Teaching Grounding our Giving

Over the last ministry year, beginning last September, we have tried to clarify our understanding of the Bible’s teaching on giving. I want to take a moment to summarize what we teach about giving.

The whole Bible addresses the subject of giving. The Old Testament uses the term “tithes” to represent the specific proportion that was given. Before the Law, people gave to God and His representatives what was called a tithe. The Mosaic Law codified the tithe, specifying what Israelites were to bring, how much to bring, when to bring and where to bring it to. The post-exilic prophet, Malachi, using the blessing/cursing motif of the Law, challenges Israelites to obey God by bringing what was commanded, motivating them with the consequences of obedience and disobedience.

The New Testament requires proportional giving, but does not use the term “tithes”. All Christians must give out of love for God, as an act of grace, in a planned, purposeful and proportional way in obedience to the Word. The New Testament, quoting Old Testament texts, motivates believers with consequences – particularly with the rewards of faithfulness. While this has been misused by many to teach a health/wealth gospel, Paul is clear that there is a relationship between the sowing of giving and the reaping of harvest, particularly in righteousness.

Therefore, we teach that the precepts and principles of the New Testament **govern** giving and the principles from the Old Testament **guide** giving. The New Testament is directly authoritative and the Old Testament is informative and illustrative.

We were careful in our Book of Faith and Order to allow for some differences among Christians as to whether 10% is required. We also were careful to include the obligation to give proportionally as a believer.

I would like to encourage some of you with concerns over our teaching on giving.

*THERE IS ROOM FOR DISAGREEMENT.* I know some differ with the interpretation that the proportional (according to one's means) giving should be guided by the Old Testament use of the word "tithes". We encourage you to be faithful to God as you have light and be open to instruction and change. May all of us be poised, regardless of our understanding of these texts, to give ourselves to God first and then give proportionally and sacrificially.

*THERE IS SHOULD BE NO DISCOURAGEMENT.* Some of you are in a place and time in life where you have little means. We do not want this appeal to be a discouragement to you. Listen to what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 8:12-15, "For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack." [ESV] The Lord is pleased with the amount you give if it is all you can do.

## **The Principles Motivating our Giving**

As we considered Philippians 4 and 2 Corinthians 8-9, these are the principles that ground and guide our giving:

Your giving is a partnership in the expansion of the ministry.

Your giving is an investment that enables ministry and reaps reward.

Your giving is a perfume that delights God.

Your giving is a qualification for God's providing promise.

Your giving is praise to God.

Your giving will be generous when enabled by grace.

Your giving shows the genuineness of your love.

Your giving is equal sacrifice, but not equal burden.

Your giving will be handled honorably.

Your giving may be pledged and fulfilled.

Your giving will rely on God's supplying.

Your giving will overflow with thanksgiving.

## The Applications Guiding our Giving

How can you make practical application of these principles? I hope to make this easy to remember with 9 words.

### Prepare

**Jude 20; Colossians 2:6-7**

*Cultivate faith with the Word and Spirit.*

The way to increase your faith, your belief and trust in God is to read and study God's Word. The Spirit works through the Word you engage with to help you grow in faith. Increasing your faith and trust is both your actively taking in the Word and the Spirit's giving grace. Both to strengthen and sustain your faith, be regular in your reading and studying of God's Word.

### Prayer

**James 1:5-8**

*Seek wisdom from God by prayer.*

Pray and ask for God to give you the wisdom to make the right decision believing that He will. Trust that God is pleased to give His wisdom, to help you apply the Scriptures to your particular situation so that you plan, purpose, promise and participate wisely.

### Poise

**2 Corinthians 8:4, 11-12**

*Have an attitude of desiring to sacrificially give.*

Be eager to participate, to give, to see the ministry to grow. Be discerning and wise, while being eager to give. If you are eager, then you would be disappointed, not relieved, if God does not allow the project to go forward.

### Problems

*Identify questions and concerns that need to be addressed.*

Do ask questions and get your concerns addressed. Be sure that there is clear communication – you understand and are being understood. Try to get problems and difficulties dealt with so you will be free to participate.

### Plan

**Proverbs 16:3, 9; 20:18**

*Depend on God and carefully plan.*

Hopefully you have and in the future will continue to evaluate your finances and your budget, your spending, saving and sharing. Depending on God and careful wise planning are not enemies but friends and partners in grace giving. In fact, poor planning often undermines the ability to give or makes keeping a promise to give difficult.

### Purpose

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

*Decide in your heart what you will give.*

The Bible's language over "purposing" or "deciding" is a word showing a strong commitment. There is a careful, prayerful, trusting intention on what you choose to give.

**Promise****2 Corinthians 9:5**

*Covenant before God what you intend to give.*

The seriousness of all the prior steps is highlighted by the covenantal commitment you make. We all want to keep our promises and we all will need to dependent upon God who supplies.

**Privilege****Philippians 4:17-20**

*Be glad for the ability to offer what you can do, knowing it delights God.*

Be happy, joyful, glad in what you do choose to do because you are convinced, whether a great amount or a small amount, God sees your heart and knows the sacrifice being made and is delighted to receive it.

**Participate****2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

*Give by grace, with gladness and gratitude over each experience of God's supply and blessing.*

In the rhythm of your commitment, whether weekly, monthly, quarterly or otherwise, give with joy. Pray for grace and the financial supply to be able to keep your word. Give thanks to God as he enables your generosity. Give glory to God as what you give to begins to unfold.

*IS THIS ATTAINABLE?* Consider that with 90 giving families and a \$6,337 a month payment, it would be an additional \$16.25/week or \$70.42/month.

You have received a Covenant Commitment Card over the last two Sundays. Let me give some instruction as we prepare to receive them.

- This is a covenant commitment – a promise between you, God and the church. This commitment is for 3 years.
- The first line is the amount that you plan to give regularly. This should not be your regular, proportional giving (according to your means). This should be the amount over and above which you plan to give sacrificially (above your means).
- Check the box the amount is a weekly, monthly or quarterly amount.
- If you would like to give a large, one time or annual donation, please check the appropriate box and write the amount.
- Please sign and clearly print your name. We will receive these after a season of prayer.

## Graced Prayerfully

As we enter into a short season of prayer, here are our particular requests.

### Our Requests

- For wisdom as we make important decisions
- For God to supply so that we do not have to borrow
- For grace to give and serve sacrificially
- For unity among all in attitude and action
- For effectiveness and fruitfulness in our evangelism
- For our partnership with a builder and outreach to workers
- For our priorities and focus to be the Lord and serving Him

### Our Approach

If you are a guest this morning:

- Rejoice as we depend on God.
- Join with us in affirmation as you can.
- Pray for us as we pray.

For our congregation:

- Pray as we pray – hold your attention to our praying together.
- Pray for the requests as we have given them.
- Pray for the leaders – the elders and ministry team leaders.
- Pray for others who are making decisions.
- Pray for yourself as you move toward commitment.

### Our Prayer

Please linger with us as we pray to our great and sovereign God.

Psalm 123:1-2

Prayer of Confession and Dependence on God – Pastor Devon Berry

Psalm 115:1

Prayer of Humbleness and Glory to God – Pastor Greg Cook

Psalm 91:1-2

Prayer of Petition and Asking from God – Pastor Ed McNeese

Psalm 126

Prayer of Expectation and Delight in God – Pastor Dan Turner

Psalm 111

Prayer of Gratitude and Submission to God – Pastor Russ Kennedy

Finally, as we worship the Lord in the closing song, the men will be passing the baskets for you to place your Covenant Card in. If you are unprepared to make a commitment this morning, we will be glad to receive them tonight or next week. **Conclusion**

The Elders are meeting on Tuesday night to finalize the budget, the Lord willing. It would be helpful to have all the commitments in by then – but we will be glad for anyone who wishes to participate and commit when they can.

---

## Applications Summary

Cultivate faith with the Word and Spirit.

Seek wisdom from God by prayer.

Have an attitude of desiring to sacrificially give.

Identify questions and concerns that need to be addressed.

Depend on God and carefully plan.

Decide in your heart what you will give.

Covenant before God what you intend to give.

Be glad for the ability to offer what you can do, knowing it delights God.

Give by grace, with gladness and gratitude over each experience of God's supply and blessing.

---

## 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power, so that the Name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.