



“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

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

MATTHEW 6:1-4, 19-21



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COMMITMENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Prayerful consideration is a phrase that we hear a lot during Commitment season. But what does it really mean? How do we prayerfully consider our Commitment for the upcoming year?

Many of us think of our decisions about charitable giving, or most other big financial decisions, as a study of numbers. Pen to paper, debits and credits and so on. It's hard work. It feels like rowing. This year, in the spirit of filling our sails with God's spirit, we encourage you to make sure that you bring God in to your decision-making process through prayer.

Try to set aside some time specifically to pray about your Commitment decisions. If you have a spouse or partner who shares financial decisions with you, pray together. Try praying aloud together. You may already have a prayer practice that works for you. Or consider using the outline on the next page to guide you.

*“Set hopes not on the uncertainty of riches,
but rather on God who richly provides us with
everything for our enjoyment.*

*Do good, be rich in good works, generous, and ready to
share, storing up for yourselves the treasure of a good
foundation for the future, so that you may take hold
of the life that really is life.”*

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19



PRAY FOR GUIDANCE

Here are steps for prayer inspired by Joan Gray, author of *Sailboat Church*, through her guide “Beginning Transforming Prayer”:

- Be present/show up. Just the urge to pray is God’s call to you, and you have listened!
- Thank God for His financial gifts.
- Tell God where you are. Financial decisions can be scary and emotional, and praying about them may not feel natural. Tell God how you feel as you embark on this prayerful journey.
- Read scripture. One of the best ways to hear God’s word is through reading scripture. Some suggestions on scriptures to read in the commitment season are: *1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Isaiah 43:15, Matthew 6:1-4, Matthew 6:19-21, Acts 2:43-45*. These verses are printed in this pamphlet.
- Talk to God about your goals for giving to Saint Luke’s of your time, talent and treasure. Pray about the giving goal you would like to set. How far away are you from tithing? What is the right goal for your household?
- Pray for God’s guidance in reaching those giving goals.
- Be silent for a few minutes and listen for God’s voice through your thoughts and inspirations.
- Close by slowly saying the Lord’s Prayer, paying special attention to the words of the prayer.



BIBLE VERSES FOR COMMITMENT

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

“Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it?”

ISAIAH 43:15 (MSG)

“Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through those who were called! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met.”

ACTS 2:43-45 (MSG)