

# Dwell

*An Enduring & Faithful Presence*



**DEVOTIONAL**



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## DEVOTIONAL

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**THIS BOOK BELONGS TO**

Redemption Hill,

One year ago, we started casting the vision that God is calling us to Dwell: An Enduring & Faithful Presence. After over a decade of prayerfully working to deepen our roots in this city so that we can see lasting and sustained fruitfulness in ministry, and a year of prayerful discernment, we are looking ahead to the next decade of ministry and beyond. We believe that finding a place that Redemption Hill can call home, where we can establish a lasting presence, will enable us to be a hub for ministry and a rooted presence for the good of our city.

**Our Primary Goal this year was 100% engagement.** I have been amazed to see how people have stepped up in our church! New CG Leaders have been commissioned, as long-timers have stayed faithful. People have stepped up to serve across every ministry team. In the new year, that goal is all the more important. If we are going to be effective in the ministry we talk about doing, it will take every one of us bringing our gifts to the table.

We set a high target for our Secondary Goal – to raise \$4 million over two years for ongoing ministry as mission as well as savings toward a future home for RHC. In March we saw commitments for \$2.6 million – 65% of that goal! We are on track for an estimated \$2.4 million over two years, so we have \$1.6 million left to raise to hit our goal. I hope you will join me and the rest of the leadership team here at RHC in giving and in praying for our continued progress to hit the goal of \$4 million within two years.

Many of you are on pace with what you committed, some of you have already given over and above the commitment, and some of you have the opportunity to start fulfilling your commitment now as we start a new year. Some of you might have heard about Dwell, but are new to RHC within the past year and haven't made a commitment yet. Wherever you are, thank you for investing into our church.

We are now about 10 months into this two-year discipleship journey. I hope that your relationship with Jesus has been strengthened along the way. The start of a new year brings a renewed focus for us all, and this is a great time to revisit our church's vision to Dwell. Our site, [Dwell.redemptionhilldc.org](http://Dwell.redemptionhilldc.org) , has resources, updates, FAQs, and giving available.

I believe that Redemption Hill's best and most fruitful days are ahead, and that God has called us to this place at this time. I want to be part of building something that will last and outlive all of us.

With great hope,

Pastor Bill



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6**

# CHURCH TIMELINE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth - all things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together. The world was created as a place for our first parents Adam and Eve, and all people to Dwell in God's presence. The Bible is the story of human rebellion, running from God, and God's loving and faithful pursuit to bring us into His presence.

Abraham was called to Dwell in a place that God would show him later, and promised that he would be the father of nations

and a blessing to all the families on Earth. Through Moses, God saved His people from slavery in Egypt to bring them to a land in which they could find rest as God chose to Dwell in their midst in the Tabernacle and later the Temple. Through David, God promised a place for His people to Dwell and that one in David's line would rule forever and ever.

In Jesus, all the promises of God found their fulfillment. God took on flesh in the person of Jesus Christ and chose to Dwell among us. In Jesus the fullness of God was pleased to Dwell, and through

## AD 33

The resurrection of Jesus and Pentecost – the movement begins



## 1517

The Reformation sparked and changed world history



## 1838

A gospel witness established at 4th & D St SE, Lil' Ebenezer



## 2011

Ebenezer UMC opened the door for us to meet. August 21 - Redemption Hill Church was born



## AD 30-60s

The resurrection of Jesus and The Word of God spread and churches were planted by the Apostles



## 1802

The District of Columbia established



## 2010

Riedels move to DC to plant a church on Capitol Hill



## 2014

Village Church began in Belfast

Jesus and His life, death, and resurrection, we have the promise that the barriers between us and God, and each other, have been destroyed so that we can come into God's presence redeemed, reconciled, and restored.

Jesus promised that God's presence will Dwell in the hearts of all who follow Him. At Pentecost, that promise became a reality and the church was born. God's people took their commission seriously and took the Word of God out, making disciples of all nations. The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ spread as lives were

transformed from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth – Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. All of this looking forward to the promise that in the end all things will be restored and renewed in the New Heavens and Earth, where God will once again Dwell with us, and us with God.

We are part of this story that Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith is continuing to write. God Dwells with us and calls us as His people here and now to Dwell with An Enduring & Faithful Presence.

### 2016

Doxa, Iglesia Cristiana began in Mexico City



### 2018

Village East Belfast launched village South Belfast



## 2023

*God is calling us to the Dwell Initiative – a two-year discipleship journey as we trust God to work in us and through us to establish An Enduring & Faithful Presence*



### 2016

RHC started a morning service, meeting at 9am and 5pm



### 2021

RHC celebrated 10 years of ministry and faithful presence in DC





# What we set out to do



# Take a two-year discipleship journey of generosity



“This two-year commitment is my giving of my treasure to the work of God through Redemption Hill, and an act of trust that God will provide for me to be able to give this, even though it terrifies me to make such a long-term financial commitment. I pray that God will use this gift for His glory, and that He will provide the financial stability for me to make good on this commitment with joy and gratefulnesses.”

— Kathleen



“We are overjoyed to support our church’s mission to be an enduring and faithful presence in this city we call home. Our commitment to Washington DC has come primarily through our commitment to remain covenanted members at RHC, even leaving both our jobs to stay here unexpectedly. It became so clear to us that God had called us here with a plan for us to remain in this church family and to support and grow our gospel witness in our neighborhood. We could have never imagined the personal growth we have experienced in Christ as we walk along other believers to reach and reflect our city for His glory and our good. We give gladly with open hands to God what is already His!!”

— Chris & Emily



“We are thankful for the continued presence and work of RHC in the city of DC and for the community we found during our time as members and by which we continue to be encouraged. As the church transitions into a new space, we are praying over the physical building, neighborhood, and people to be reached by this new opportunity. Would God use the church of RHC to spread the Good News through the streets (and dinner tables) of DC.”

— Connor & Paige

## PRIMARY GOAL

### 100% ENGAGEMENT

If you call Redemption Hill Church home, we would love for you to join us on this exploration in the Dwell Initiative, trusting that God has something for each one of us as we give ourselves first to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:1-5).

**INFLUENCE** What influence does Jesus have in my life? How am I influencing the people around me?

**LIFESTYLE** Does my lifestyle reflect the values of Christ's Kingdom? Am I more focused on the eternal, or on temporary desires?

**GENEROSITY** How is God inviting me to grow in generosity as an expression of trust, gratitude, and putting Him first?

**LEGACY** What do I want my legacy to be? What has my life contributed to? What will I be remembered for?

So far we've seen,

**212 households** committed to Dwell

**21 first-time** givers

**175 pledges** since March 2023

## SECONDARY GOAL

### RAISE \$4 MILLION



As we all take personal journeys in generosity, we are hopeful that it will provide the resources we need to expand gospel ministry in our city and open the door to the possibility of establishing a long-term home for Redemption Hill Church.

#### MINISTRY & MISSION | \$2M

We will continue to glorify God through gospel-centered worship, gospel-shaped community, and gospel-driven work in our city. We will continue to be shaped by gracious hospitality, unified diversity, and empowered members as we work to reach and reflect DC. \$1.8m is needed for our operations and ministry over the next two years. We will invest \$200k outside of Redemption Hill to invest into church plants across the nation and the world. Redemption Hill will also work to establish new partnerships and expand the current residency program to help train church planters.

#### DWELLING PLACE | \$2M

For Redemption Hill to have a chance to have a permanent home, we will need to have enough for a down payment and initial costs. \$2M will go toward the goal of giving our church a home to Dwell, as An Enduring and Faithful Presence and gospel outpost – a legacy that will outlive us all. Exceeding this goal will only help toward that goal.

A photograph of a church service, overlaid with a dark blue tint. In the background, there are large, ornate stained-glass windows. A man in a plaid shirt stands near the windows. In the center, a man with glasses and a dark jacket is clapping. To his right, a man with a beard and a cap is playing a keyboard. A woman in a light-colored dress stands to the right of the keyboard player. In the foreground, a woman is holding a baby, and a young girl in a patterned sweater is visible on the left. The overall atmosphere is solemn and communal.

# What God has done

## Keep making disciples

### ▶ SUNDAYS

Redemption Hill is An Enduring & Faithful Presence, gathering to worship each Sunday for over 12 years now. We have grown on Sundays.

### ▶ KIDS AND YOUTH

Our youngest members are thriving. Kids Worship has continued to grow as we work to make the gospel clear to the youngest among us. We also have a fresh developing Youth Ministry.

### ▶ COMMUNITY GROUPS

CGs continue to be the primary means of connection and discipleship at RHC. Our CGs have faithfully filled those needs and we are excited to see freshness and life breathed into and come through our CGs in the coming year.

## Generosity

### ▶ CHURCH PLANTING

Redemption Hill is a key ministry partner for two church plants in other global capitals. We have increased our investment into Village Church South Belfast in Northern Ireland and to Doxa, Iglesia Cristiana, in Mexico City.

We also helped launch a new church plant in Harrisburg, PA. Ben Bechtel completed a church planting residency at RHC and launched Midtown Community Church in the fall of 2023.

### ▶ LOCAL MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past year we have increased our connection to our long-time partners in ministry at Little Lights while welcoming a new ministry partner in DC 127.

A large crowd of people is gathered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Washington Monument is visible in the background. The image is overlaid with a dark blue tint.

**Where are  
we going?**

In the year ahead we anticipate:



Launching new Community Groups  
and increasing the total number of groups  
and people connected into them



Establish a new Church planting  
partnership



Continue to deepen our connection to  
Little Lights, DC 127, and Eastern  
High School



Establish at least one new community  
connection to serve the most  
vulnerable of our neighbors

A large crowd of people is gathered in a lecture hall or lecture theater. The scene is dimly lit, with the background showing architectural details like columns and windows. The text "What is your part?" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font, centered in the lower half of the image.

**What is  
your part?**



## **NEW COMMITMENT**

You're new to RHC and are wondering, "What is Dwell? How do I become part of it?" Dwell is the theme for all of our giving from March 2023 through March 2025. Every dollar given to Redemption Hill during these two years is part of Dwell. It's for anyone who would call Fellowship Denver home. If you've joined us sometime in the past year, consider making a new 12-month generosity commitment to First to the Lord.

## **FINISH STRONG**

Many of you made a commitment last March. For some, this past year has brought more challenges than you expected, or as you went to a new level of generosity, you're still adjusting your lifestyle to it. Or maybe you experienced a job loss or unexpected financial expenses. Regardless of the reason, the midpoint of the journey is a gut-check to keep going and finish strong. That's the whole point of Dwell - to stay engaged with God in real time, not just living off last year's lessons. Finishing strong is how you're staying engaged. We are proud of you and stand with you.

## **INCREASE**

Some of us made a commitment last year, and it's possible we've had an increase in faith or finances. It's not that keeping our commitment has been easy, but you might be sensing that the Lord is inviting you to take an additional step and increase your generosity by increasing your commitment. Consider asking yourself some questions like: Am I still letting my giving drive my spending and saving? Is my heart still engaged with my giving? Does my generosity still say, "The Lord is first?" Pray and ask if he's inviting you into a new step of faith with an increased commitment.



## TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray and seek the Lord in this season, we hope this gift chart is a helpful tool to both inspire and challenge you as you consider how God is calling you to engage.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$500,000
1	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$250,000
2	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$300,000
3	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$300,000
4	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$300,000
5	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$325,000
7	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$350,000
10	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$350,000
12	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$300,000
12	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$180,000
20	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$200,000
30	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$225,000
40	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$200,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$220,000

Total Generosity Goal **\$4,000,000**

## MIDPOINT COMMITMENT CARD

A new commitment card is included in the back pocket of this book so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your new or continued Dwell journey with God.

MIDPOINT COMMITMENT CARD		
<h1>Dwell</h1>		
<b>PRIMARY GOAL: GOD'S WORK IN US</b>		
We want every person who is part of RHC to grow in discipleship as we follow Jesus together and to grow in generosity with our time, talents, and treasure.		
<b>SECONDARY GOAL: GOD'S WORK THROUGH US</b>		
Raise \$4 Million		
We believe God is preparing us for a more permanent home so RHC can be An Enduring & Faithful Presence, making us more rooted and effective in our mission to reach and reflect DC.		
<b>\$1.8M</b>	<b>\$200K</b>	<b>\$2M</b>
Sustaining the operations, ministry, and work of the church.	Invested outward into church planting residencies and partnerships.	A Permanent Home for RHC to Dwell as an Enduring & Faithful Presence.
<b>I AM NEW TO DWELL</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to make a 12-month commitment to the Dwell initiative in the amount of:	
	\$ <input type="text"/>	
<small>* This number includes your regular giving over this next 12 months as well as your expanded and stored resources.</small>		
<b>I AM ALREADY COMMITTED TO DWELL</b>		
My current two-year commitment is:		\$ <input type="text"/>
<b>At the midpoint of Dwell, I would like to:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirm my commitment to finish strong	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase my two-year commitment to:	
	\$ <input type="text"/>	
<b>NAME(S)</b>		
<input type="text"/>		
<b>EMAIL</b>		
<input type="text"/>		

A large, faint, stylized graphic of a plant with several leaves and a central stem, rendered in a lighter shade of blue than the background, positioned behind the text.

# Dwell

An Enduring & Faithful Presence

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Our prayer for you during the next seven weeks is that you will intentionally deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ as we refresh the Dwell Initiative, a two-year discipleship journey. We prepared this guide to help you along the way. We would love for you to use this workbook to study God's Word. We encourage you to take time to work through the questions and prayers.

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**DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET**

# Dwell: An Enduring & Faithful Presence



## JEREMIAH 29:4–14

4 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream,[a] 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

10 “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[b] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

1. What are some meaningful moments that you have sensed God's presence and the good news of Jesus in Redemption Hill?
2. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What does God call His people to do while they're in Babylon?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:11-14. God promises His attention and presence when His people pray and seek Him. How does this promise influence the way you understand your & Redemption Hill's calling in DC?

**WEEK 1** | Dwell: An Enduring & Faithful Presence

4. How would a long-term home for Redemption Hill fit with God's story? How do you hope to be shaped through this work that we are undertaking together?

5. What is your prayer for our church in the year ahead?





# prayer

## **PRAISE GOD...**

- ▶ For His presence through Christ, in the Spirit.
- ▶ For providing dwelling places for His people, in His presence.

## **CONFESS TO GOD...**

- ▶ Any fears you have about Redemption Hill's future.
- ▶ Any fears you have about the idea of financial generosity.

## **THANK GOD...**

- ▶ For dwelling with and working through Redemption Hill over more than a decade.
- ▶ For the abundant provision He has given our church.
- ▶ For the gospel work in your own life and others' lives through Redemption Hill Church.

## **ASK GOD...**

- ▶ To move in the heart of everyone who calls Redemption Hill Church home through the Dwell initiative.
- ▶ To deepen our dependence, stretch our faith, and expand our generosity.
- ▶ To supply every need and to do more than what we could possibly ask or think to the glory of Jesus Christ.



# Influence

## PHILIPPIANS 1:2-11

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace,[a] both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.



4. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. What are some ways that true wealth in Christ calms our fears about excelling in generosity and promotes generosity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. When I think about the legacy I want to leave with my life, how would people characterize how I gave? Paul shares that the Macedonians gave beyond their ability and entirely on their own accord, urgently pleading for the privilege to give. Would someone characterize my giving in that way after I'm gone from this earth?



# prayer

## **PRAISE GOD...**

- For Jesus who became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich.
- For His grace that can be seen in the lives of generous Christians who have inspired you.

## **CONFESS TO GOD...**

- Any ways that you've held yourself back from giving yourself first to the Lord and then to His people in generosity.

## **THANK GOD...**

- For people, by name, who have inspired you toward God-centered generosity.

## **ASK GOD...**

- To help you give yourself first to the Lord and then to the work of Dwell in an overflow of generosity.
- To help every member and attender of Redemption Hill Church to give themselves first to the Lord and then to Dwell so that our church is built-up and more people are reached with the gospel.



# Lifestyle

## COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by[a] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation[b] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-11. Paul challenged the Corinthians to plan ahead in order to fulfill their plans and commitments. How do Paul's words inspire you to match your desires with generous action? Have you ever felt tempted to bail out on a commitment you made?
2. How is generosity measured according to 2 Corinthians 8:12? How does this impact your perspective on your own heart and your approach to generosity?
3. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 speaks of needs being abundantly met. When have your needs been met in surprising ways? When have you been able to meet people's needs?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-24. Why does Paul make such a strong emphasis on Titus' ministry resume? How can a church ensure that people have confidence in how money is used?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Reflect on question #1. What plan is God asking you to make as part of Redemption Hill?





# prayer

## **PRAISE GOD...**

- For the ways He has provided for your needs, even through others.

## **CONFESS TO GOD...**

- Any ways that your generous intentions haven't been matched by generous actions.

## **THANK GOD...**

- For His abundant provision in Christ for all your true needs and generosity to you in the gospel.

## **ASK GOD...**

- To supply you with earnest love for the church and her mission of making disciples of Jesus to the glory of God.
- To prepare your heart and make you ready for Commitment Sunday.
- To help you joyfully follow through on the commitments that he puts on your heart.



# Legacy

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9

We want you to know, brothers,[a] about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 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. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor[b] of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you[c]—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 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 by his poverty might become rich.

1. Paul shares about the evangelistic power that exists when we give accompanied by our confession of the gospel of Christ – that other people will see why we give and will praise God because of it. Do I feel I give in this way – in a way that is driven by my confession of the gospel of Christ? Or is my giving driven by other things, potentially even things that are not from God? If so, what are those things?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-5. Paul thinks it unnecessary to write to the Corinthians about generous giving yet does so anyway, why? How does Paul's delicate, encouraging approach inspire you to give bountifully?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What is the reward promised by God to those who give bountifully? What excites you about this reward for bountiful givers?

4. This passage was written within the context an offering that was being received for some of the poorer churches in Jerusalem. However, Paul is emphasizing that this giving is not just meeting the needs of those communities but that it is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Do I see my giving in that way? How might God be calling me to refocus the impact of my giving as I think about why and how I give?
5. Why does God love a cheerful giver? Why is cheerful giving better than giving under compulsion? What will help you be a more cheerful giver?



# prayer

## **PRAISE GOD...**

- ▶ For cheerfulness and His love for cheerful givers.

## **CONFESS TO GOD...**

- ▶ Any reluctance or compulsion you might feel to give.
- ▶ Any barriers to bountiful giving that you're experiencing.

## **THANK GOD...**

- ▶ For abundant provision so that we can afford to be generous again and again and again.

## **ASK GOD...**

- ▶ To help you give bountifully and joyfully.
- ▶ To make every grace abound to you so that you can abound in every good work.
- ▶ To supply you abundantly as you give so that you can joyfully give even more.



# Giving God's Way

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-24

10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. 11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. 13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 15 As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

16 But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. 17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going[a] to you of his own accord. 18 With him we are sending[b] the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. 19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. 20 We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, 21 for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. 22 And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. 23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers[c] of the churches, the glory of Christ. 24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

1. This passage teaches that one purpose of God's provision is that we might be more generous. In light of that, how has God been preparing you for increasing generosity? How have you been responding?
2. What two things does our generous giving accomplish? How does that stir up enthusiasm and motivation as you consider your own generous giving?
3. What are some ways that the generosity of God's people can lead others to give thanks to God? How has the generosity of others led you to thank God in the past?

4. What is God's inexpressible gift? What impact has this gift had on your generosity?
5. Reserve the rest of the night for reflection, praise, and thanksgiving to God in response to 2 Corinthians 9:11-15.





# prayer

## **PRAISE GOD...**

- For the ways He has provided for your needs, even through others.

## **CONFESS TO GOD...**

- Any ways that your generous intentions haven't been matched by generous actions.

## **THANK GOD...**

- For His abundant provision in Christ for all your true needs and generosity to you in the gospel.

## **ASK GOD...**

- To supply you with earnest love for the church and her mission of making disciples of Jesus to the glory of God.
- To prepare your heart and make you ready for Commitment Sunday.
- To help you joyfully follow through on the commitments that he puts on your heart.

# Generosity



## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-15

Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3 But I am sending[a] the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. 4 Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. 5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift[b] you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.[c]

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[d] will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[e] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they[f] will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

1. Have you ever been surprised by God’s generosity? When have you experienced God’s generous provision in your life?
  
2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-5. Paul thinks it unnecessary to write to the Corinthians about generous giving yet does so anyway, why? How does Paul’s delicate, encouraging approach inspire you to give bountifully?
  
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What is the reward promised by God to those who give bountifully? What excites you about this reward for bountiful givers?

4. How does 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 differ from the false prosperity gospel which encourages Christians to give so that they can get?
5. Why does God love a cheerful giver? Why is cheerful giving better than giving under compulsion? What will help you be a more cheerful giver?



# prayer

## **PRAISE GOD...**

- ▶ For cheerfulness and His love for cheerful givers.

## **CONFESS TO GOD...**

- ▶ Any reluctance or compulsion you might feel to give.
- ▶ Any barriers to bountiful giving that you're experiencing.

## **THANK GOD...**

- ▶ For abundant provision so that we can afford to be generous again and again and again.

## **ASK GOD...**

- ▶ To help you give bountifully and joyfully.
- ▶ To make every grace abound to you so that you can abound in every good work.
- ▶ To supply you abundantly as you give so that you can joyfully give even more.



# Commitment

## ROMANS 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.



3. We often see others and think they have great faith. Sometimes we need to imagine for our own lives what we might do if we did have that kind of faith, and then do it! Our faith will follow as we put ourselves in position to be more dependent on the Christ and on the Spirit of God. When you look at your own life, how do you think God has gifted you to be part of the health and building up of His church?
4. As we prepare our hearts for Commitment Sunday, spend time praying and reflecting on this passage, considering what God is stirring in your own heart. Whether time, talent, or treasure, what is God asking you to commit to invest at this time in this place?





# prayer

## **PRAISE GOD...**

- For His mercy, which is new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23).
- For allowing us to be part of His work.

## **CONFESS TO GOD...**

- Any fear or hesitation that has kept you from investing yourself more fully.

## **THANK GOD...**

- For the ways that other people's gifts have ministered to you.
- That different people have different gifts, and that He has a purpose for you.

## **ASK GOD...**

- For clarity on how He has gifted you for this moment.
- For the faith to make a commitment and the endurance to fulfill it.

What a power the believers in Christ will be in this world, where such multitudes are hateful and hating one another, when they all come to abound in deep, pure, fervent love to God and to their neighbors! How they will be stimulated to labor and give and pray for the gathering of every creature in the world into the fold of Christ when they love God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, “with all their heart, and soul, and might, and mind, and strength,” and really and truly love their neighbor as themselves!

C.O. BOOTHE

#### IMPORTANT DATES

**JANUARY 7**      **PERSONAL DEVOTIONS BEGIN**

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**FEBRUARY 4**      **VISION FOR RHC IN DC**

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**FEBRUARY 25**      **COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

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**MARCH 17**      **CELEBRATION SUNDAY.**  
Renewed commitment begins.

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# Redemption Hill

DESIGN BY PAULA DUDKA