**PREPARE THE WAY**

**Exceling in the Grace of Giving**

**October 23, 2022**

*David served God’s purpose in his own generation, then he died and was buried with his ancestors.* (Acts 13:36)

* **I am praying for at least 100 new households to start consistently giving at Journey.**
* **I am praying that at least 50 households will begin or resume the practice of giving a tithe of their household income at Journey.**
* **I am praying that more than 10% of Journey households will make the largest financial gift they have ever given.**
* **I’m praying that the last quarter of 2022 will be the most generous giving quarter in Journey’s history.**

Why should I give to the Lord?

**There is what I give *from* and what I give *for*.** Giving from is about what God is doing *in* me. Giving for is about what God is doing *through* me.

**-We give from our understanding that God is a giver.**

**Creation reveals the generosity of God.**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* (Genesis 1:1)

*The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to man.* (Psalm 115:16)

**New Creation revels in the generosity of God.**

**But the life of Jesus revalues the generosity of God.**

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?* (Romans 8:31-32)

**-We give from a place of love that has been lavished on us through the Son God gave us:** *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!* (1 John 3:1)

**-We give from a soul that has been rescued from hell, a mind that has been renewed from futile thinking, and a heart that has been restored from death to life.** *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.* (1 Timothy 1:15)

**-We give from a place of grace:** *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, wehave peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And weboast in the hope of the glory of God.* (Romans 5:1-2)

**-We give from a joy that money can’t buy and that death cannot take away because** *The joy of the Lord is my strength.*

-**We give from a hope that though this present world and its desires pass away,** *whoever does the will of God lives forever.* (1 John 2:17)

**-We give from a desire to share this hope with others and** *pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,and his incomparably great power for us who believe…* (Ephesians 1:18-19)

**-We give from a life filled with gratitude as we say** *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!* (2 Corinthians 9:15)

**Journey Christian Church is the best kingdom investment you can make.**

**-I am praying for at least 100 new households to start consistently giving at Journey**

* **Not everyone has the same ability to give, but everyone has some ability to give.**

**-I am praying that at least 50 households will begin or resume the practice of giving a tithe of their household income at Journey**

* **Tithe = “tenth-part” or “one-tenth” or 10%**
* “Tithing is a formational practice that can help us grow into maturity. Money has a hold on us in devious ways. When we give, we loosen the grip money has on us. [Tithing](https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/253164-top-10-reasons-people-dont-tithe.html) is a way of training our hearts to become like our generous Lord and live in greater freedom from attachments.”—Pastor Rich Villodas
* **Tithing is not a requirement for followers of Jesus, but it is a helpful tool for the development of disciples.**

**-I am praying that more than 10% of Journey households will make the largest financial gift they have ever given.**

**-I am praying that the last quarter of 2022 will be the most generous giving quarter in Journey’s history.**

*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.* (2 Corinthians 8:7)