

Church, we are on an exciting faith journey. As you discern how God may be leading you to join us in this bold venture, we encourage you to take time in prayer and ask yourself these questions.

Will I give based on reason or by revelation?

Giving based on reason answers the question *"What can I afford to give?"* This means I commit to give on the basis of what I know I can give after looking at my current income and expense level. Answering this question comes as I study my spending patterns. Giving by reason puts my trust in my ability to give what I think I can give.

Giving based on revelation answers the question, *"What am I willing to trust God to help me give?"* This means I commit to give on the basis of what I believe that God wants to do about my future income and expense level. The answer to the above question comes as I pray, "Lord what do you want me to give by faith?" Giving based on revelation puts my trust in God's ability to provide what He wants me to give. Our faith is strengthened when we remember Jesus said,

"...with God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26



Does giving by faith mean that I do not use reason?

All giving must be responsible and realistic and not reckless. God knows that living in Canada demands that I have certain things - food, clothing, shelter and other living expenses. Giving by faith says, after I have figured out what I can afford to give, "What can I reasonably trust God to provide above and beyond what I can afford to give?"

Does the amount that I think I can give really stretch my faith?

Giving by faith is a spiritual exercise meant to cause me to focus not on what I can afford to give but on what God wants to give through me. A commitment that stretches my faith is based on my faith in God's ability to help me keep my commitment. No matter what I commit to give by faith I know God's ability is greater. The point is that God wants me to trust Him to give above and beyond what I think I can give. He wants me to trust Him to provide the way for me to give even when I cannot see how He will do it. This is how God will stretch my faith and grow me!

"God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more so that there will not only be enough for your own needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others."
2 Corinthians 9:8



Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice?

A genuine sacrifice is something that costs me something. King David said,

"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."
(2 Sam. 24:24)

Sacrificial giving is an act of worship that demonstrates how much I love God and His church. A sacrifice for me will not necessarily be equal in size to the sacrifice someone else is making. Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts, is what matters to God. Sacrificing involves careful thought about what I can give up, deny myself, or postpone, what I can change in the way I live my life, or what I can do to give more to the Lord.

"Now finish the work...according to your means... the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."
(2 Cor. 8:12)

