

Keeping Our Promise to
The Next Generation

STEWARDSHIP GUIDE



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF JOY

A Letter from the Pastor

Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation

Dear Member of the Joy Family,

God has given us a wonderful opportunity to give back to Him through our tithes and offerings. His Word includes promise after promise of the blessings He will pour down on us as we are faithful with our time, talents, and finances.

We are entering a critical time in our church's history. We have heard from God and He is calling us to *Keep Our Promise to The Next Generation* by building critical facilities for our young people. To fulfil this vision, it will take the sacrificial giving of every family who calls Joy their church.

Please prayerfully study this devotional and learn what God's Word says about stewardship. I know you will grow and be stretched like never before, and together we will impact an entire generation through our generosity.

Your Pastor,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt Kallestad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "W" and "K".

Walt Kallestad
Sr. Pastor



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STEWARDS?

**God has called us to be stewards
over everything...**

Our life

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” (I Corinthians 6:19)

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4)

Our time

“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Our talents and abilities

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one

individually as He wills.” (I Corinthians 12:11)

Our possessions

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
(Matthew 6:19-21)

Our finances

“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
(I Timothy 6:7-10)

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” (I Timothy 6:17-19)

Stewards are accountable...

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”
(I Corinthians 4:2)

“And the Lord said, ‘Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.’” (Luke 12:42-44)



WHAT IS SOWING & REAPING?

God provides the resources for sowing...

“And God, who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your resources for sowing.” (II Corinthians 9:10, The Amplified Bible)

Each seed you sow is capable of reproduction...

“And He said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’” (Mark 4:26-29)

We reap what we sow...

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” (Galatians 6:7-8)

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil

treasure brings forth evil things.” (Matthew 12:35)

“He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage. He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.” (Proverbs 11:28-29)

Oftentimes, we reap in a different season than we sow...

“...A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted...” (Ecclesiastes 3:2)

“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:3)

“But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” (Mark 4:29)

“Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.” (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

Patience is important in the reaping process...

“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your

hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:7-8)

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (I Corinthians 15:58)

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)

We reap in proportion to what we sow...

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (II Corinthians 9:6-7)

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.” (Matthew 19:29)

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)

“Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, till He

comes and rains righteousness on you.” (Hosea 10:12)

It’s God who brings the increase...

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” (I Corinthians 3:6-9)

We are blessed when we sow...

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself. The people will curse him who withholds grain, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.” (Proverbs 11:24-26)

We must sow despite the circumstances...

“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know what is

the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.” (Ecclesiastes 11:4-6)

“Blessed are you who sow beside all waters...” (Isaiah 32:20)

There is a need for sowers and reapers...

“Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” (Luke 10:2)



HOW SHOULD WE SOW?

We are to give both tithes and offerings...

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.” (Malachi 3:8)

“‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.’” (Malachi 3:10)

We should not give anything that does not cost us something...

“Then the king said to Araunah, ‘No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.’ So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.” (II Samuel 24:24)

We are to give willingly...

“Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze...” (Exodus 35:5)

“For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has,

and not according to what he does not have.” (II Corinthians 8:12)

“And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer it of your own free will.” (Leviticus 22:29)

“And I said to them, ‘You are holy to the LORD; the articles are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD God of your fathers.’” (Ezra 8:28)

We are to give with proper heart motives...

“Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.” (I Chronicles 29:9)

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” (I Corinthians 13:3)

We are to give generously...

“Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (II Corinthians 9:5-6)

“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.” (Proverbs 11:25)

“He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9)

“...he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:8)

We are to give regularly...

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” (I Corinthians 16:2)

We are to give cheerfully...

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (II Corinthians 9:7)

We are to give according to our ability...

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17)

“According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly garments.” (Ezra 2:69)

We are to give sacrificially...

“Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.’” (Mark 12:41-44)

“Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.” (II Corinthians 8:1-4)

We are to give our best...

“...you shall offer of your own free will a male without blemish from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats. Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf.” (Leviticus 22:19-20)

We are to give expecting God to meet our needs...

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)



WHAT BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED WHEN WE SOW?

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
(Acts 20:35)

“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.” (Proverbs 11:25)

“‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.’”
(Malachi 3:10)

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: ‘He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.” (II Corinthians 9:8-11)

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (Matthew 6:31-34)

“And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.” (Matthew 10:42)

“But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.”
(Luke 12:31)

“So He said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come everlasting life.’” (Luke 18:29-30)



WHAT IS TITHING?

Definition of Tithing:

Tithing (the word “tithe” means ten) is giving ten

percent of income for the support of God’s work through the local church.

“... you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:28-29)

Biblical examples of tithing...

Jacob pledges a tenth of his possessions:

“Then Jacob made a vow, saying, ‘If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.’” (Genesis 28:20-22)

Mosaic law:

“If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. And concerning the tithe of the herd or

the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD. He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.’ These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.” (Leviticus 27:31-34)

The tithe is holy to the Lord...

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’S. It is holy to the LORD.” (Leviticus 27:30)

We actually rob God when we withhold tithe...

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.’” (Malachi 3:8-10)



WHAT ARE OFFERINGS?

Definition of Offerings:
Offerings are gifts above and beyond our tithe.

We are commanded to give offerings...

“Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!” (I Chronicles 16:29)

“Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.” (Exodus 25:2)

We should not withhold offerings...

“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.” (Proverbs 11:24)

We should not regard offerings lightly or use them for personal gain...

“Why then do you kick [trample upon, treat with contempt] my sacrifice and my offering, which I commanded; and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves upon the choicest part of every offering of my people Israel?” (I Samuel 2:29, The Amplified Bible)



WILL GOD SUPPLY OUR NEEDS?

God provides for our needs...

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.’” (Exodus 16:4-5)

“The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, their tongues fail for thirst. I, the LORD, will bear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine and the box tree together, that they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.” (Isaiah 41:17-20)

“When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy

themselves food.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’ And they said to Him, ‘We have here only five loaves and two fish.’ He said, ‘Bring them here to Me.’ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.” (Matthew 14:15-21)

“Jesus said to them, ‘Children, have you any food?’ They answered Him, ‘No.’ And He said to them, ‘Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.” (John 21:5-6)

God desires to bless us...

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10)

“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2)
“I will make them and the places all

around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing.” (Ezekiel 34:26)

“...not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.” (1 Peter 3:9)

When we obey God and give, He blesses our storehouse and the work of our hands...

“The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 28:8)

“The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.” (Deuteronomy 28:12)

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today...” (Deuteronomy 11:26-27)

We are to give according to how God has blessed us...

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17)



ARE WE TO BE PROSPEROUS?

Definition of Prosperity:

To be rich with blessing; to receive greatly; to be successful.

Prosperity is from God...

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (III John 1:2)

“God has dealt graciously with me...I have enough.” (Genesis 33:11)

God is the One who gives power to get wealth...

“And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” (Deuteronomy 8:18)

We can and should pray for God’s blessing...

“Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.” (Psalm 118:25)

Prosperity results from obeying God’s Word...

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to

the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:7)

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

Prosperity is promised to the righteous...

“If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up; you will remove iniquity far from your tents. Then you will lay your gold in the dust, and the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks. Yes, the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver; for then you will have your delight in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God. You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows.” (Job 22:23-27)

“If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.” (Job 36:11)

“Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity, and his descendants shall inherit the earth.” (Psalm 25:12-13)

Lord, I come to You with great
thanks for all Your goodness and for
all that You have put into my hands.

I thank You, Lord, that You have
not given to me what I deserve, but
rather, You have given to me out of
Your great love. I praise You for Your
grace and mercy.

Lord, I ask that You take my tithes and
offerings, and all that I give, and use
them as You please.

I pray that You will continue to
shower me with Your blessings, and
I commit to be a faithful steward of
Your resources.

Lord, continue to bless the work of my
hands and the witness of my life. I
pray that the world may look at me
and, in some measure, see You and
Your goodness.

In Jesus name, Amen.



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