



*The Giving Pathway*

The idea of walking with God as a metaphor for our spiritual growth is all throughout scripture. Words like “path” and “pathway” are found throughout the Bible.

“Enter In” is based on the affirming response of the landowner to his faithful servants, “Enter into the joy of your lord.” (Matthew 25:21, NKJV) The “Enter In” imagery is the idea of spiritual growth in giving resembling walking down a pathway where there are gates you pass through.

In each line of Psalm 119:33-40, another faithful servant is yearning to grow spiritually in faith and practice to God. The servant uses the same imagery of a pathway, “Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found.”

This booklet is intended to walk you through the Giving Pathway – a pathway with different gates representing opportunities for growth in your giving. Use this booklet as a devotional as you talk with God and evaluate where you are, and where you could grow, in your giving.





## *The First Gate Is My First Gift*

Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift...

Genesis 4:4 (NLT)

Many people can remember the first time they gave an offering at church. It could be that you did not grow up in church and did not have that experience until later. It also could be that you have yet to have this experience of giving. Maybe you've given to other things, but you've never given to the church.

Imagine how this experience must have been for Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel and everyone at the beginning of creation. Everything was new, but in the newness of everything, there was a very clear understanding that a generous God had given them everything they had. Giving back a portion of what they had so generously received from God was a beautiful expression of appreciation.





## *The Second Gate Is My Commitment to Keep Giving*

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”

Malachi 3:10 (NLT)

Imagine along your way down the Giving Pathway you come to a sustainable garden. What is a sustainable garden? The basic idea is that it is a garden that does no harm to the earth but enhances it while at the same time providing food. The very definition of the word “sustain” means to keep alive.

A body of believers who each commit to keep giving creates a sustainable source of ministry both to those within the church and people outside the walls of the church. The consistent and faithful giving of believers keeps the Gospel growing and alive whereby everyone can know and grow in Christ.





*The Third Gate Is My  
Proportional Giving*

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with  
the best part of everything you produce.

Proverbs 3:9 (NLT)

Regardless of what you are doing, the first step is very important. Before every meal we stop and first take time to thank God for God's provision. Typically, in worship at church we take time to sing praises to God and thank God for God's presence in our lives prior to receiving a sermon that will help us live even more faithfully for God.

The same is true when we sit down and pay the bills and sort out our financial responsibilities. We practice proportional giving by looking at what has come into our household over the last month and first give to God by the same proportion. For some that may be 10%. For some who are starting proportional giving it may be 2%, 5% or 8%. It may be that you are really emerging in your proportional giving by giving 12%, 15% or even more. The key is that you have walked through that gate and started proportional giving and that you intend to continue to see that proportion grow as God blesses you.





## *The Fourth Gate Is My Abundant Giving*

We want you to know, [siblings], about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 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. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (ESV)

There are two mindsets from which someone can give:

- Abundance mindset
- Scarcity mindset

In this story in 2 Corinthians, we see a classic example of people who had an abundance mindset which led to abundant giving. They saw that there was a need and they filled the gap with generosity “beyond their means,...”. But here’s the thing, they didn’t do so foolishly or blindly. Look in verse 4, they gave, “...begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints...”. They gave sacrificially because they trusted in God’s favor. These families considered the work of the Gospel and the relief of these saints to be so important that they made sacrifices in their own finances to contribute towards these efforts.

Abundant giving happens when we start altering how we live so that we can enjoy the favor of giving more to God and towards the advancement of the Gospel.





## *The Fifth Gate Is My Generational Giving*

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21(NLT)

When parents save toward their children's college, it is often termed as "investing in their future." And when people give to charities involving children and/or young people, this same phrase of "investing in their future" is used. All of that is true, and all of that is good. As believers, there is a final gate we should consider in our giving and generosity to the church - generational giving.

Ephesians 3 strongly states why generational giving is so important. Generational giving is about investing in the proclamation and acclamation of the Gospel to the generations who may follow after our passing should God tarry. We each invest in preparing younger generations for presenting the Gospel to future generations, but we can also invest in resourcing that effort through our generational giving.



Teach me your decrees, O Lord;  
I will keep them to the end.  
Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions;  
I will put them into practice with all my heart.  
Make me walk along the path of your commands,  
for that is where my happiness is found.  
Give me an eagerness for your laws  
rather than a love for money!  
Turn my eyes from worthless things,  
and give me life through your word.  
Reassure me of your promise,  
made to those who fear you.  
Help me abandon my shameful ways;  
for your regulations are good.  
I long to obey your commandments!  
Renew my life with your goodness.

Psalm 119:33-40

