

GENEROSITY LADDER

God called Abraham to abandon the pagan gods of his homeland, to step out in faith and to go on a long journey – to the Promised Land. In our world, it's probably fair to say that money has become a god. Like Abraham, God calls us to abandon money as a god, to step out in faith and to go on a stewardship journey towards money as a tool for building up God's kingdom.

The Generosity Ladder is a helpful way of visualizing the stewardship journey God has called each of us to.

LEGACY GIVER

In the parable of the talents (**Matthew 25:14-30**), the owner went away and “entrusted [his servants to] his property.” The Legacy Giver understands that the owner is away and has entrusted some of His wealth into their care. The Legacy Giver seeks to be a good steward by faithfully investing in earning a return for the King. The Legacy Giver seeks to be a good steward.

SACRIFICIAL GIVER

David said, “I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.” (**2 Samuel 24:24**). At some point in your generosity journey, God is going to challenge you to move from giving out of an excess to adjusting your plans and sacrificing things you could have in order to give to God's kingdom.

TITHER

Many now question whether the Old Testament tithe still applies today. Paul certainly said, “each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion.” Consider that Jesus doesn't quote the Ten Commandments warning us not to kill – He wants to change our hearts so that we don't even become angry with our brother. He doesn't merely insist we not commit adultery; He wants to change our hearts so that we no longer even look lustfully upon another (**Matthew 5:3-12**). We believe Jesus wants to draw each of our hearts closer to Him, freeing us to tithe cheerfully and without reluctance or under any compulsion.

CONSISTENT GIVER

If you have taken that first step on the path, Praise God! But your stewardship journey has only just begun. We also believe that God's word calls us to give regularly. At **1 Corinthians 16:2**, Paul encourages the church to “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.”

FIRST-TIME GIVER

We believe God's word calls all believers to manage what God has entrusted to us. **Malachi 3:8** says, “Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In you tithes and contributions.” **2 Corinthians 8:14** notes “for if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.” We believe becoming a first-time giver, of any amount, is your first step onto the generosity ladder.