

## Forging Our Future

### A Message about Finances and Stewardship Part 3

**Thesis:** If we are a people of his presence, then, our lives will reflect the values and priorities of the King and his kingdom regarding our finances and stewardship.

**Text:** *Proverbs 23:18 NIV: There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.*

Our God has a future and a hope for us (Jeremiah 29:11).

Forging our future is done together-- with God and with each other.

**This is where we are headed together.**

1. **Responding to God's invitation, we are a people of the presence of God.**
  - a. *After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:1–5).*
  - b. It is the Lord's presence that is our great promise, our great inheritance. God promised to be with us, to never leave us, nor to forsake us. The Lord has given us great promises, plans, purposes, and prophetic words. But God's most amazing word is his presence with us. Calvary, we are a people of the Lord's presence. The Lord's presence is everything. If we get God, we get everything else.
  - c. **So, we are forging our future with God, in God, and through God, and we are forging our future together as the community of his presence.**  
*Forging our future is done together-- with God and with each other.*
2. **With the Lord helping us, we will possess our possession.**
  - a. Defined: our promised land is the plans, purposes, promises, and prophetic words of the Lord for us as a body.

- b. Ultimately, our promised land is the Lord himself, being a people of his presence (Exodus 33:12-17; Joshua 1:5; Matthew 28:20; Revelation 21:1-3).

**This is what God is doing currently.**

1. **Anointing us with the Holy Spirit to partner with Jesus to express Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1-9.** (I spoke about this current activity of the Lord on April 18 and on May 16 in the following messages: [The God Who Speaks and Heals](#) and [The Stream of What God Is Currently Doing.](#))
2. **Releasing the fear of the Lord** (Isaiah 11:2).
3. **Realigning our lives, so that whatever happens, we conduct ourselves in a manner worth of the gospel of Christ** (Philippians 1:27-30; 4:4).
4. **Changing us for our changing context** (2 Corinthians 5:14-17).
5. **Preparing a people for the coming of the Lord** (Luke 7:27).
6. **Blessing us to be a blessing both locally and globally** (Genesis 12:1-3).
7. **Molding us into a church of intimacy, community, and kingdom.**
  - a. **Our three-fold vision** is to establish people in intimacy with the Lord, to express true Christian community, and to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.
  - b. These outcomes should be flowering in our lives and bearing fruit: **awareness** of God, **authenticity** with God and others, and **alignment** with the ways of the Jesus.

**When Joshua and the people of Israel entered their promised land, they faced obstacles, adversaries, and challenges.**

The same thing is true for us in our journey. Currently, we face a financial obstacle that we need to rise up and overcome in the months ahead.

1. **Here is our specific situation.**
  - a. We are running behind \$4,266.80/week compared to our budget.
  - b. Our projected shortfall from July – December is \$102,500.
2. In order to tackle our current financial situation, we want to come together through the ***Forging Our Future Fundraising and Pledge Campaign.***
  - a. Over the next 4 months, from July – October, we will seek to raise a special offering to meet some needs.
  - b. This special offering is over and above our regular tithes and offerings.
  - c. Our goal for the ***Forging Our Future Fundraising and Pledge Campaign*** is to raise \$160,000.

3. **The special offering goal of \$160,000 includes:**
  - a. **Addressing our projected shortfall:** \$4,266.80/wk \* 24 (July – December) = \$102,500.
  - b. **Tithing to meet Myanmar from our special offering.**
    - i. One of our guiding principles is to tithe on special offerings.
    - ii. We have significant requests from the missionaries, pastors, and church planters over the past 3 years.
  - c. **Funding some specific needs:**
    - i. The replacement of one broken a/c unit in the Prayer Room: \$20,000.
    - ii. The cost of a replacement keyboard for the prayer room: \$3,500.
    - iii. Vacation Bible School: \$6,500.
    - iv. And various other expenses.

**We want to come together through the *Forging Our Future Fundraising and Pledge Campaign*.**

In facing this obstacle together, we get a chance to grow in our individual and corporate capacity to dialogue with the Lord, to obey the Lord, and to step out in faith in the Lord.

1. **Dialogue with the Lord** (1 Samuel 30:8; Psalm 27:4 ESV).
  - a. Inquire of the Lord.
    - i. *And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue" (1 Samuel 30:8-9 ESV).*
    - ii. *One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple (Psalm 27:4 ESV).*
  - b. Ask the Lord how much he would have you give.
    - i. Listen to the impressions and promptings of the Spirit.
    - ii. If God speaks to you, great.
  - c. What do you do if you don't discern an answer from the Lord?
    - i. Offer up a number to the Lord.
    - ii. You can make an offering of an amount to the Lord, "Here is what I am thinking. Lord, what are you thinking?"
    - iii. If God hasn't spoken to you, hold something before the Lord and ask: "Lord, is this pleasing to you?"
    - iv. Ask the Lord to confirm it in your heart or to communicate what he wants you to do.

- v. "Here is what I am thinking. Lord, does this make your heart happy?"
- d. If you don't get a number or if there is no response, then give what is in your heart or capacity to give.
  - i. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful (Colossians 1:15).*
  - ii. *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).*
- 2. **Obey the Lord** (2 Corinthians 8:7).
  - a. *But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).*
  - b. Work out what God is working in you (Philippians 2:12-13).
- 3. **Step out in faith in the Lord** (Philippians 4:14-19; Matthew 6:33).
  - a. *Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:14-19).*
  - b. *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.... 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:8, 11).*

**Call to action:**

- 1. **Please fill out the *Forging Our Future* response card.**
  - a. Please look at the response card that is your seat or online in my sermon notes.
  - b. Let's look at the response card together.

2. **Please turn in your response card by July 25**, letting us know how you will participate in this fundraising and pledge campaign.
  - a. Let us know if you are giving a one-time amount, or if you are going to give a monthly amount.
3. **Please accept this invitation to participate.**
  - a. I want to invite everyone to participate in this campaign.
  - b. We are not asking everyone to give the same amount.
  - c. We are asking everyone to listen to the Lord and to give something in faith as unto the Lord.

### **The power of sacrifice:**

**Sacrifice carries great power in the Spirit.** God's blessings flow through sacrifice. The whole OT Jewish faith was built around sacrifice. Then, God flips the deck and makes the biggest sacrifice of all—Jesus on the cross. Think of the blessings that the sacrifice of Jesus unleashed on the world and our lives: mercy, forgiveness, eternal life, new creation, new beginnings, and much more. Here is another testimony about the power of Christ's sacrifice:

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross (Colossians 2:13-15).*

David said he would not give to God that which costs him nothing (2 Samuel 24:24). This man after God's own heart was a man of sacrifice, just like his Father God is a sacrificer. The widow's mite is another example of sacrifice, which gets the attention of God (Luke 21:1-4). And, remember the sacrifice of the Macedonian churches.

*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability (2 Corinthians 8:1-3).*

Sacrifice carries great power and impact in the Spirit. We are Forging Our Future together with God and one another.

### **Ministry Time:**

1. **Let's make a declaration and testimony** through this song, [Together](#), for King and Country with Kirk Franklin and Tori Kelly.
  - a. We are *Forging Our Future* together with God and one another.

# FORGING OUR FUTURE

## >>> 2021 Fundraising & Pledge Campaign

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Gift \$

Monthly gift from July 11 - Oct. 31, 2021 \$



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*Keep this copy for your records*

Special Gift \$

Monthly gift from July 11 - Oct. 31, 2021 \$

**Prov. 23:18,**  
*"There is surely a  
future hope for  
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cut off."*

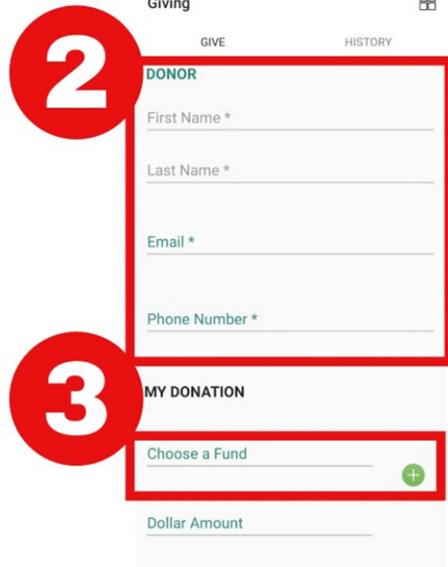
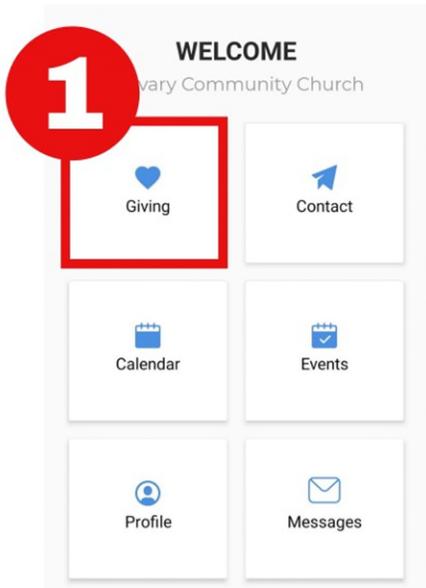
**Ways to give:**

1. Give to "Forging Our Future" on our Ministry One app, or online at calvaryhouston.com.
2. Mail a check to Calvary: 7550 Cherry Park Dr, Houston, TX 77095. Include the top portion of this card with your check.
3. Use a giving envelope at one of our services. Mark the envelope with "Forging Our Future" and place it in the offering basket.

# GIVING IS EASY WITH OUR NEW APP



Church by Ministry One



The image displays three sequential screenshots of a mobile application for making a donation, with red callouts highlighting specific features:

- Callout 4:** Points to the "Other Donations" option in the "My Donation \*" section of the first screen.
- Callout 5:** Points to the "Choose a Sub Fund" dropdown menu in the second screen.
- Callout 6:** Points to the "Other Designated" section in the third screen, which includes a note "Forging Our Future" and a dollar amount of "100000000000.00".

The application interface includes the following elements:

- Navigation:** "GIVE" and "HISTORY" tabs at the top of each screen.
- Form Fields:** "Email \*", "Phone Number \*", "First Name \*", "Last Name \*", "Other Donations", "Other", and "Dollar Amount".
- Summary:** "Total Due: \$100000000000.00" and a "GIVE!" button.
- Options:** "MAKE THIS PAYMENT RECURRING" checkbox and "Select payment method" button.