



VISION BUILDERS

PRAYER JOURNAL



So they said, **“Let us rise up and build.”** Then they set their hands to this good work.

Nehemiah 2:18

10 Benchmarks to Discern God's Voice in Your Vision Builders Giving

By Pastor Eddie Elguera

Friends and Family, as we journey together towards the miracle that God is going to provide through us at "Vision Builders" October 27th, 2023, the most important decision that you or your family will make is what God is asking you to do in your giving commitment.

As you know, I have asked that each of us, starting with my own family, to give the most significant and sacrificial offering we've ever made to the work of God. Remember, your "Vision Builders" commitment is a 12-month giving commitment over and above your regular tithes and church giving. We are also asking each of our church family to bring the very best First Fruits cash offering as a part of that 12-month commitment on our "Vision Builders Gala," October 27th, 2023.

Here are 10 benchmarks that you can use to navigate your giving potential in helping to buy our home for C3 Church.

01. Determine to give by revelation rather than by reason.

People that give by reason do the following: They look at what they have, figure out what is "reasonable" and commit that amount. It takes no faith to give by reason. Reason simply asks, "What can I afford?" On the other hand, people that give by revelation do this: They start the process by going directly to the Lord and praying, "Lord, what do you want to give through me?" This kind of giving requires faith. The Bible says, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God." (Heb. 11:6) Then once you have settled on the amount God puts in your heart, ask Him to guide you in the steps you should take in being able to fulfill that offering.

02. God came up with the idea of multiplication.

If you give Him your time, He multiplies it. If you give Him your money, He multiplies it. If you give Him your talent, He multiplies it. If you give Him your energy, guess what? He multiplies it.

It's the same principle as planting seeds. 2 Corinthians 9:10 (GW) says, "*God gives seed to the farmer ...*" Farmers know that seed must be given away for it to increase. If you keep seed in a sack, it doesn't do any good. But when you plant it, it multiplies. When you plant one corn seed, do you just get one corn seed back? No, you get a stalk with hundreds of corn kernels. When you plant one watermelon seed, do you only get one seed back? No, you get a bunch of watermelons with hundreds of seeds in them. God multiplies whatever little bit you give him.

03. God gives cheerfully and He wants us to be like Him.

The scripture says that God "loves a cheerful giver." When God throws blessing our way, He does not do it with a grudge or hesitation, He does it with joy because we are His children. We ought to give in the same way. Let me say this very clearly: if you are upset by the idea of giving to this campaign, then do one of two things. Either get your heart right and become joyful in the process or just don't participate. Although the former would be better than the latter, God would rather you didn't give at all than to give without your heart in it.

04. If you are married, come to agreement in your giving.

Jesus said that "if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." It is important that we involve our spouse and even our children in praying and discerning what God would have each of us to give. I would encourage each head of household to gather your family together, do two things. First, spend some time talking about what resources that God has put into your hands and will put into your hands over the next twelve months. Then pray together and ask the Lord to help you settle in on what it is He would have you do.

05. Make your gift a "sacrifice" to the Lord.

When the widow gave her two coins, it was a huge sacrifice because it was all she had. Her gift put her at risk... she was left totally dependent on God! And Jesus honored her offering above those that gave more than her, because they had not given sacrificially. God

does not measure our giving by the size of our gift, but by the size of the sacrifice. He does not count how much we put in an offering as much as He counts how much we have left.

You will know when you've given sacrificially, because it will impact your lifestyle. You may have to give up a vacation, sell a possession or give up an investment, but remember that you can never "out-give" God's ability to bless.

06. Your offering should not put your family's well-being in jeopardy.

While your gift should be sacrificial and significant, that does not mean that it should leave your family in a position of going without the essentials of food, clothing and other daily needs that God expects us to be responsible towards in our home. While it is important that we are willing to sacrifice some of our wants and extras in life, He does want us to be able to provide for the basic needs of our spouse and children along the way.

07. One of the great lessons that Dawna and I have learned is that you cannot out-give God.

Whatever you give him, he takes and multiplies. This was a lesson we learned on a personal level. There have been several times in our marriage God told us to give away significant possessions or very large sums of money. Each time we obeyed; God would replenish it in greater ways than ever before.

I'll never forget during our "Former Church" building campaign when Dawna and I prayed about what our sacrificial amount should be. God told us to give my 1967 Fully Restored Ford Mustang. But God said to do it, so we did it.

08. When you build God a home, He will build your home.

God has always blessed my children, partly because I have spent the better part of my life blessing other people's children. When you get involved in building God a place that C3 Church can call home, I believe that there will be a reciprocal covenant blessing that will come upon your home and family. God said in Genesis that seed produces after its own kind. Apple seed produces apples. Well, in this case we

are planting “home” seed, and it will produce a home harvest. Expect God not only to bless you with physical houses, but also all that goes into our houses... furniture, appliances and most importantly our own family.

09. Once you decide on the amount of your gift, pray over your offering before you bring it.

If you have a family, I encourage you to gather your family together, hold hands and have a prayer of consecration like this: “Dear Heavenly Father, this is a big step for us. We’re asking you to strengthen our faith and help us to grow closer to you through our giving. We thank you for blessing us in such a way that we can be a blessing in helping to build your church. We are giving with cheerful hearts because we love you and know your promises are true. We stand on your word that as we delight in You, the desires of our hearts are granted unto us, according to Psalm 37:4. Thank you for using us to grow C3 Church. In Jesus name, Amen.”

10. Finally, give without regret.

The Bible promises this when our trust is in God... *“You won’t regret it. No one who has sacrificed his home, spouse, brothers, sisters, parents, children – whatever – will lose out. It’ll all come back, multiplied many times over in your lifetime and then the bonus of eternal life.”* (Luke 18:29-30, Msg)

That’s a promise of Jesus Christ directly from his lips. *“So always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”* (1 Cor. 15:58, NIV)

DAY 1
- October 9 -

History or Destiny?

“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.” Proverbs 11:24-25

Displaying a life of generosity is the single greatest act of faith that declares, “My future is brighter than my today!” When we are generous in our giving, we are giving according to our destiny, not according to our history. If we give based on where we have been we may never get to where we are supposed to be going. Does the giving of your time, talent, and treasure reflect your history, or your destiny? Isaiah 32:8 declares *“A generous man devises generous things, and by generosity he shall stand.”* Thus, the fruit of generosity is the “ability to stand.” Generosity gives us strength and power to stand in this day of uncertainty. Selfishness actually causes us to be weak, powerless, and unable to stand.

It should be noted that the word “generous” in Isaiah can also be translated “noble.” In Bible times, a person of noble birth was expected to be generous and unselfish. As Christians, we too are of noble birth. We are sons and daughters of the King of kings. As such, we are to be free from selfishness and live a life of generosity.

Prayer

Dear Lord, sometimes it seems all backward. Please continue to teach us to trust You and to love others through being generous with what we have. For the sake of the multitudes who will experience Your anointed power upon us, grant us victory to obey You even when no one is looking. Amen.

Prayer Target

God’s guidance for each person and family for their part in the “Vision Builders” Campaign

NOTES

DAY 2
- October 10 -

We All Have an Inheritance

“To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
Ephesians 1:6-7

This is the most foundational of all Christian truths, but one of the most difficult to comprehend – we are accepted by God in Christ! Partaking of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil causes us to think that we must “do” something to earn our acceptance. Our Creator did not make us human doings – He made us human beings.

Do you feel like you are continually being judged by your performance by which you are either rewarded or punished? We don't want our lives to be a constant battle of trying to measure up to someone else's expectations. We have already received the ultimate reward – adoption into the family of the King – by nothing but putting our faith in Christ and receiving what He accomplished on the cross. When we act on the knowledge that we have the forgiveness of sin through the blood of Jesus, and recognize that everything we receive is according to the riches of His grace, God can further illuminate our glorious calling in a way that will not feed our pride, but rather continually direct our attention upon His glory and grace.

Prayer

I praise You for what You did for me at the cross, Lord Jesus. Help me to stay focused on Your ultimate purpose for my life – which is to be conformed to Your image. Spirit of the Living God, when I get distracted by the cares of this life, draw me back to the Tree of Life who is Christ Himself.

Prayer Target

Pastor Isaac & Emily Elguera & family

NOTES

DAY 3

- October 11 -

Going Beyond Average

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

Ephesians 3:20

Deep down inside, don't you feel as though God has called you to something beyond “normal?” It is one of those inherent, essential qualities that God has put inside our hearts. We have this inward knowledge that our lives are supposed to be about something great. But figuring out what that “something greater” is can be difficult.

Are you at that place in life where no matter what you have, whom you know, or what you have accomplished, there is still an unquenchable desire for something more? That hunger and thirst is for the extraordinary life, the life God put you on this earth to live. God has invested a unique portion of Himself in you so that you may bring an expression of Him into the earth.

You are not insignificant! You are alive to accomplish a particular purpose that God created you to fulfill. God, according to His own counsel, determined for you a certain distinct individual destiny and put in you the potential needed to realize that destiny. You have been distinguished by God Himself to accomplish infinitely more than you could ever dare to ask or hope.

Prayer

Today, Father God, help me to value more the unique person You made me to be. Protect me from comparing myself to others and becoming envious. I accept myself, faults and all, just as You have accepted me. Thank You for choosing me.

Prayer Target

C3 Kids

NOTES

DAY 4
- October 12 -

With You Every Step of the Way

“God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13

God knew you before you were you. He also knew everything you would become. Your Heavenly Father knew what your strengths and weaknesses would be and He still chose you to experience salvation. Aren't you thankful He doesn't make mistakes?

Our Creator does everything with intent and purpose. He doesn't do something “just to do it.” Thus, since *God called us with a holy calling*, He called us for a specific purpose. An important thing to remember concerning God's will for our lives is that Scripture declares it to be *good, pleasing, and perfect*. Let us be encouraged by this truth.

Many times our world doesn't make sense. The question often asked is, “What kind of God would allow such tragedy and pain to exist?” While we will never completely understand why God allows some things to happen we must always remember that our God is not the author of things contrary to His will. The good news is that even though God was not the originator of some things in our lives, He still will enter into our circumstances to fulfill His purpose. The plans God has for us are *for good and not for disaster, to give us a future and a hope*.

Prayer

Oh God, help me to be confident that since You have begun a good work in me, You will complete it. Blessed Lord, be the Author and the Finisher of my faith and grant me a heart that is soft and pliable. In Your name I pray, amen.

Prayer Target

Pastors Al & Lisa Thomas & family

NOTES

DAY 5
- October 13th -

What is God Word for Me Today?

“I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.” 2 Peter 1:12

God desires a relationship with us on a level in which we move forward in our lives based upon what He is “currently” speaking to us. God wants us to be established in His present truth – truth that He is emphasizing in a specific season. This is called being led by the Spirit of God. Jesus said we should live our personal lives according to every word that proceeds (present tense) from the mouth of God to us individually.

Since those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, we cannot expect to understand the deeper things of God (which is currently coming forth from His heart) unless we are living from His “proceeding word.” This is why we should not refuse Him who speaks. Aren’t we told repeatedly in the Bible to activate our spiritual ears to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to us?

When we hear our Lord speak, our faith is strengthened. When we don’t hear Him saying anything, we should look at it as an opportunity to have our patience and endurance matured. Meanwhile, we should continue to be obedient in what we know to do. This develops strength of character that helps Christ emerge in our lives to a greater degree.

Prayer

Father, I put my trust in You today. I purpose not to lean unto my own limited understanding of what I see going on in my life. Grant me the power to act on what You are revealing to me so that I may be obedient to Your progressive revelation.

Prayer Target

God’s anointing on Vision Builders

NOTES

DAY 6
- October 14th -

The Call

“Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did.” 1 John 2:6

As God’s children, we have a predetermined destiny. That destiny is to be conformed to the image and likeness of His Son Jesus Christ. Why? So we can have a deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father. This is our destiny. This is God’s purpose for our life. This is our calling in life!

The call of God is an invitation to allow the Creator of the universe to step into our circumstances and shape our lives along the same lines as the life of our Savior. Have you accepted and acted upon this invitation? It’s that simple! If we complicate our calling, we’ll only become confused. The call of God is not about something we do, it is about who we were created to be. Let us never mistake the “gifts and callings” in our lives as “The Call” on our lives.

If you ever find yourself in the place where you feel like you just have to “do” something, then focus your attention on walking out what Micah 6:8 says our Lord requires – do what is right, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. Let us never be drawn away from the simplicity and the purity of devotion to Christ.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I see in You all I want to be. I desire with all my heart to be like You. Holy Spirit, help me to define true success as attaining one goal: possessing the glorious nature of my Lord and Savior. Amen

Prayer Target

Pastor Chris & Lana Elguera & family

NOTES

DAY 7
- October 15th -
Greater Things

“The end of a thing is better than its beginning.” Ecclesiastes 7:8

When we surrender our lives to God, He promises to do something in our lives that we wouldn't believe even if someone told us about it. No matter what is happening currently, our future includes God doing some great things to accomplish His will for us – incredible things we didn't expect; greater things that will amaze and utterly astound us; new things that we can't even imagine; extraordinary things whereby God will receive all the glory, honor and praise.

As a child of God, we must be open to Him working in unexpected and unusual ways. We know this much to be true: God didn't call us unto Himself to leave us to ourselves. The Bible says, *“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”* We can count on the Holy Spirit to help us.

It may be easier (and seem right) to do things according to our own way. But our limited ways are not God's ways. His ways include a future that has our most outstanding miracles ahead of us. As we answer His call and move forward together in this journey, let us dare to believe that God will do some great and mighty things.

Prayer

Dear God, Your eyes are searching the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to You. I want to be found in Your search, oh God. Holy Spirit, help me to believe that all things are possible.

Prayer Target

C3 Youth

NOTES

DAY 8
- October 16th -

Life's Most Beneficial Pursuit

"The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Daniel 11:32

God invites us to "know Him." Seeking to know God is the most meaningful and authentic pursuit in life. Nothing will benefit us more in day-to-day living than the knowledge of God. It gives us the ability to respond correctly to the circumstances we encounter in our journey. Knowing who God is defines who we are. Understanding who God is provides us with insight for living life. It is important to have an idea as to how the world works from a Christian perspective. If we lack the correct knowledge, when trials come our way, we will be caught off guard and find ourselves unprepared to wage war against the spiritual forces of wickedness that are coming against us.

How we live our lives is a function of how we think. If our minds are constantly focused on natural, worldly, everyday things, our source of strength will be limited to earthly resources. As we grow in our knowledge of who God is, our trust in Him grows. This is how we receive more of His comfort, encouragement, and assurance in the midst of our doing *great exploits* for Him.

Prayer

I desire deeply for You to reveal Yourself to me, oh God. May the quality of my life be suitable to carry out great exploits for You. Lord, by Your grace I commit myself to Your purposes, that my words will be worthy of the endorsement of Your power.

Prayer Target

Pastor Mike & Stephanie Turrentine & family

NOTES

DAY 9
- October 17th -

The Priceless Gain of Knowing Christ

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.” Philippians 3:8

Yes, everything we think is so important is really worthless when compared to the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. For this reason, we should give all diligence to learning about our Master. As we grow in the knowledge of our Creator and His Son, grace and peace are multiplied in our lives.

Everything we need is found in our Heavenly Father. His power extends over everything. Understanding God’s character helps us encounter His greatness and empowers us to diligently seek Him. The good news about this truth is that *He rewards those who sincerely seek Him*. Yes – the kingdom of God has a “benefit package” that is available to every son and daughter of the King.

In order to access God’s benefits, there are certain things the Holy Spirit will lead us to “do.” Trusting in the Lord and being personally responsible are not mutually exclusive. Since the Spirit of God is called our “Helper” and not our “Doer,” God requires some participation on our part. What is your Lord leading you in?

Prayer

I draw near to You today with all my heart and soul, Father God. Thank You for drawing Yourself to me and allowing me to find You as I seek You. Speak to me today as to what You are leading me in. Amen.

Prayer Target

C3 Church Volunteers

NOTES

DAY 10
- October 18th -

God's Sovereign Goodness

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33

When we receive Christ, we enter into His kingdom. Living in God's kingdom brings blessings, but we don't get the blessings of the King if we are not willing to live for His kingdom. God has appointed us as stewards (or managers) of His kingdom in this age. When the advancement of the kingdom is our primary concern, God will give us all we need in the midst of these uncertain times.

As we are living for the kingdom, we have positioned ourselves under God's sovereign rule. Sovereignty refers to God's supremacy over all of His creation. This is an important truth because God's sovereignty means when something goes wrong, He knew it was coming and knows what to do.

If we try to own our lives, when something breaks we get to fix it. But if God owns our lives, when something goes wrong He helps us fix it. This is how we can intuitively know that despite circumstances, when we love God and are committed to His purpose, He *enters into all things and causes them to work together for our good.*

Prayer

Gracious Father, I am asking You to reach back into my life, redeem everything that has happened, bring it into my present, and make something good out of it all ... something that will help me fulfill my destiny. In Jesus name, amen.

Prayer Target

Pastors Eddie & Dawna Elguera & family

NOTES

DAY 11
- October 19th -

In the Kingdom

“The kingdom of heaven is like ...”

Matthew 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52; 18:23; 20:1; 22:2; 25:14

Since we live in God’s kingdom, it is important to know how it operates. The kingdom of heaven has rules, regulations, principles and language which are revealed throughout the pages of the Word of God. Since we live in a democracy here in America (and not a kingdom) it can be difficult at times to understand kingdom principles. Have you ever found yourself not experiencing kingdom benefits? In fact, the kingdom of heaven actually works against us when we are not relating to it correctly.

The message Jesus entrusted to the church is the message of the *kingdom of God*. While Jesus preached the gospel of salvation, He also brought the message of *the kingdom*, and this is the message we have been given to live out.

The message of the kingdom is essentially one basic but all-encompassing truth – Jesus is the King! He reigns, and His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom. When He returns to set up His kingdom on the earth, our Lord will bring the whole creation into harmony.

Prayer

Father in heaven, let me never be deceived into thinking that there is good outside the realm of Your kingdom. Jesus, I bow my life before You as King and submit to Your Lordship. In Your name I pray, amen.

Prayer Target

C3 Church Leadership Team

NOTES

DAY 12
- October 20th -

Power Seed

“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.”

Deuteronomy 8:18

Here and in eternity, God’s nature is to be a rewarder. He supplies our needs in this life, He blesses the generous giver, and He promises eternal rewards. Jesus famously declared, *“If you give, you will receive. Your gifts will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together, to make room for more, and running over.”*

Scripture is clear that giving is a part of a whole-life transformation that is reflected in our stewardship. One of the ways we release the flow of God’s power in our lives, and establish His covenant in the earth, is through our giving.

God’s power *“to get wealth”* is found in the seeds that He has given us to sow. Therefore our harvest is found in the seeds we cheerfully scatter. Again, our harvest in life depends entirely upon the seeds that we bountifully sow. As we are led by God’s Spirit in this area, God encourages us *not to grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Prayer

Father God, You’ve given me from Your limitless reserve of resources, so for me to give to others is merely a joyful distribution of Your riches. By Your grace I take responsibility for my church and what You have called us to. Amen.

Prayer Target

Pastors Richard & Michelle Villanueva & family

NOTES

DAY 13

- October 21st -

Trusting God's Character

"Your are good and do good" Psalm 119:68

We must keep in mind that our Christian life will never be void of periodic suffering. Nobody likes the word "suffering." Nonetheless, that word is found in Hebrews 5:8 – *So even though Jesus was God's Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered.* The verse preceding this scripture states that during the days of Jesus' life on earth, He cried out to God in pain and wept in sorrow as He anticipated His death. Did you realize that even Jesus struggled with the will of God for His life? His will and God's will were united in Gethsemene.

Thankfully, Jesus submitted to the will of the Father even though it was excruciatingly unpleasant for Him. How was Jesus able to do what He did? Because He knew that the foundation of God's character is goodness. This is how He could say, *"Father, if You are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want Your will, not mine."*

No matter what we are going through, if we believe that God is good and does only good, the truths we believe in will pull us through our valley of the shadow of death. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends on start to finish.

Prayer

Pushing on past the fear and unbelief, Lord, I find Your strength. What would I do without Your encouragement and without Your tender mercies that lift me up when the load I bear seems too heavy for me? Thanks for giving me an extra measure of Your grace for this day. I love You. Amen.

Prayer Target

To reach or exceed our financial goal of \$1,000,000 over the next 12 months.

NOTES

DAY 14
- October 22nd -

Hopes Up

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13-14

There are times when the wear and tear of life can discourage and overwhelm a child of God. When we find ourselves in that place, it is critical that we get a hold of the hope God has set before us. When we are stressed out, hope acts as an *“anchor of the soul.”* Hope stabilizes us and keeps us from going crazy in the midst of trials.

The God-kind of hope is very different than “desire.” Hope actually draws us into our future with the confident expectation that something good is going to happen. Setting our hope in God fills our hearts with joy and peace in spite of what is going on. This is very different than simply “wishing” that everything will eventually work out.

For all of us, unforeseen circumstances, tragedy, bad news, unexpected turn of events, hardship, and pain produce defining moments in our lives. In these moments, we must not be afraid to trust in the God of hope – and firmly anchor ourselves to Him. These seasons often solidify what God has been working in us and make us even more prepared for greater success had we not gone through what we went through.

Prayer

Dear Lord, when I experience unrelenting disappointment, I still believe that You are going to work something out in my life that is going to be awesome. I encourage myself in You today, Lord Jesus.

Prayer Target

For God’s anointing on the “Vision Builders” Gala, October 27th, 2023.

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