

## A Guide To

# Discerning

## GOD'S WILL

### THERE ARE TWO BASIC APPROACHES TO GIVING...

#### 1. I can give based on *FEELINGS*.

This means I look at how much money I feel I have, figure out what is "reasonable," and commit that amount. This method doesn't require you to trust God. It asks, "What can I afford?"

#### 2. I can give based on *FAITH*.

This means I determine my gift by praying, "Lord, what do you want to give through me?" then trust Him to provide. When you make giving a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship. Giving by faith asks, "How much am I willing to trust God?"

For many of us the *Crazy Love* Campaign is going to test our faith in ways nothing else has. You may struggle with determining what to give either because you are afraid you cannot afford it or it will require you to sacrifice something you want. That's why it will be important to take the emotion out of your decision when determining what God wants you to give. To help you do that, we've provided a guide on the back of this card. By following these steps, you will be able to arrive at a specific amount to give. Be prepare for the amount to be larger than what you were thinking. Remember, the goal is to give in a way that pleases God and builds your faith. That's what matters most of all!

*"Without faith it is impossible to please God."*  
Hebrews 11:6

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## SUGGESTED STEPS FOR DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

**1** Pray every day, "Lord, I want to give by faith and not my feelings. Now please show me how to give a gift that will stretch my faith." If you're married, pray together with your spouse.

**2** Give yourself time! Don't rush your decision. You'll find that the longer you genuinely pray, "Show me how," the more ways God will show you and you'll be able to give more than you think!

**3** If you're married, discuss with your family ways to give. Ask them to think of ideas in advance. If you have children, be sure to involve them no matter how young they are.

**4** Individually or with your family, read the following Bible promises and make a list of what you learn:  
*Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 11:24-25; Matthew 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 8:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Philippians 4:19*

**5** Ask yourself or your family these questions:  
*Regarding our cash gift:* How much cash could we gather by March 7? Is there anything we could sell or convert to cash? Do we have any tangible gift we could give?

*Regarding our 15 month commitment:* Are there ways we could decrease our expenses in order to make a larger commitment? Are there ways we could increase our income in order to make a larger commitment?

**6** Decide the total amount you'll give and have a prayer of commitment similar to this:  
*"Father, this is a big step. I'm asking you to strengthen my faith and help me grow spiritually through giving. I thank you for all you have given me. I know I wouldn't have anything if it weren't for You. I want to be a cheerful giver. I'm claiming the promises you've given in your Word that you'll take care of my needs if I trust you. Thank you for this opportunity to grow. Thank you for our church. Help us to reach our goal in this Crazy Love Campaign. In Jesus' name, Amen!*

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