



Building a Culture of Generosity

3 W. 63rd Street KCMO 64111 (816) 333-8111
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More Stewardship Scripture and Resources

Love those who love you, what reward will you get?" (*Mat 5:43-46*)

. . . **Forgiveness** - Putting Principle (God) over personality

In *The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery*, the Jafollas write: "Your spiritual progress is at a standstill until you practice forgiveness. "Harboring unforgiveness and resentment in our hearts does not hurt others. It hurts us. It eats away at the soul, filling it with bitterness and blocking the free flow of God's love, which is the essence of our true nature."

. . . **Service as an Act of Devotion to God** - Putting God first in our actions

We believe all service is an act of devotion to God. We draw closer to God as we draw closer, in loving service, to each other. Service is a key part of spiritual growth and personal transformation. To evolve, you've got to get involved.

Albert Schweitzer said: "The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." And Henry Drummond wrote: "You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others."

. . . **Tithing** - Putting God first in our resources

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life." (*Deut 14:23*)

The Bible is a book about giving with more promises related to giving than to any other subject. For example, the subject of "believing" appears 272 times, "prayer" 371 times, and "love" 714 times; while "giving" is mentioned 2,162 times! Jesus talked more about giving than anything else; more than half of the parables have to do with money and worldly goods.

The proven example of 1 Chronicles 29:1-22 is followed. The most encouraging aspect of this story is that all the people willingly offered from their hearts to the Lord.

1. The leader set the example in giving. (Verses 1-5)
2. The "leaders...officers...and commanders" gave sacrificially. (Verses 6-8)
3. The people rejoiced in the example established by the leaders, which then prompted their gifts. (Verse 9)
4. They had a time of prayer and praise. (Verses 10-12)
5. David publicly gave thanks to God for extending "the grace of giving" to the congregation. (Verses 14-18)
6. They celebrated the offering. (Verses 20-22)

Matthew 25:44-45

Gen 28:20-22

Ps 7:17, 57:9-10

II cor 9:7

PR 25:2

IS 58: 7-10

MT 15: 32-37

MT 26:26

Lk 14:15

Jn 6:30 – 35

Heb 7:4-7

Numbers 18:25-29

Deut 12:4-7

We are God's co-workers...God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it.—1 Corinthians 3: 9-11

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house. —1 Peter 2: 5

Without me you can do nothing.... I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16



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As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. —1 Peter 4: 10
You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. —John 15: 16

...a time to heal, a time to rend and a time to build up.—Ecclesiastes 3: 3
Take heed now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it. —1 Chronicles 22: 18

To whom much is given, much is expected. — Luke 12:48

Whatsoever a man sows, so shall he reap — Gal 6:7

The kingdom of heaven is near...Freely you have received, now freely give. — Matt 10:7

...forgive and you will be forgiven, give and it will be given to you. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you. — Luke 6:37

People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl, they put it on a stand to light the house. In the same way let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. — Matt 5:15

I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated. —Acts 20: 32

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127: 1

Remain in me, for without me you can do nothing.... I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16

I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 16

God gave [gifts]...to equip the holy ones for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the soul of God, to the full stature of Christ. —Ephesians 4: 11-13

It is in giving that we receive. —St. Francis of Assisi

A Parable and a Prayer

A boy and his father were walking along the road when they came to a large stone. The boy said to his father, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move this rock?" His father answered, "If you use all your strength, I am sure you can do it." The boy began to push the rock. Exerting himself as much as he could, he pushed and pushed. The rock did not move. Discouraged, he said to his father, "You were wrong. I can't do it." His father placed his arm around the boy's shoulder and said, "No, son. You didn't use all your strength — you didn't ask me to help." —David J. Wolpe, in *Teaching Your Children About God*

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127: 1

Remain in me, for without me you can do nothing.... I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16

Gracious and loving Father, as we prepare to build the future
in addressing the needs of our growing parish,
give us your strength for the work of our hands
Without you we labor in vain, yet with you we can do great things
and bear much fruit, fruit that endures.
Bless our efforts to build a faith community of caring people
on a firm foundation, with Christ as our cornerstone
and the Spirit as our binding force.
Amen.

A man stood before God, his heart breaking from the pain and injustice in the world. "Dear God," he cried out, "look at all the suffering, the anguish and distress in your world. Why don't you send help?" God responded, "I did send help. I sent you." —David J. Wolpe, in *Teaching Your Children About God*

I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 16



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Gracious God, in these times of anguish and distress,
we thank you for the great power of your compassionate love.

We thank you as well
for entrusting us with a share in the work of your Spirit
to bind us together as a community of faith,
to build us into Christ's body, a parish family, a caring people.

Empower us to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure
so we may build the City of God,
the only secure dwelling in our world.

Amen.

In Jerusalem I had a landlady in her fifties. Her TV set was broken and she called a repairman. It took him four visits to fix the screen. "But you knew even before he came the first time what was wrong. He could have brought the correct tube and fixed it immediately." She looked at me in astonishment. "Yes, but then we couldn't have had a relationship, sat and drunk tea and discussed the progress of the repairs." Of course, the goal is not to fix a machine but to have relationships. —
Natalie Goldberg, in *Writing Down the Bones*

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. —1Thessalonians 5: 11

God of faithfulness and love,
as we prepare to expand our educational and meeting facilities,
keep us ever mindful that the most essential building
takes place in our hearts and our families.

Bind us together with your Spirit of love into a parish family
as together we live our faith and build our future.

Amen.

My father was once walking on the beach with his three-year-old grandson when the little boy stopped, picked up a tiny fragment of a seashell and began to examine it. My father bent down and, looking at the tiny fragment, he asked the boy, "How could you see such a little shell?" "Because," said the boy, "I have little eyes." —Thomas Mann, in *To Taste and See*

Jesus called the little children to himself and said, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." —Luke 18: 16-17

Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing. —St. Therese of the Child Jesus, "The Little Flower"

Heavenly Father, you are all loving, and all wisdom comes from you;
help us to pray as we should, as you guide us in your ways.

May we see with eyes of faith as we strive to build our parish community.

In the spirit of our patroness, St. Therese,
may our offerings of time, talent and treasure be expressions of love
as we construct a school that can accommodate all those children
who are drawn to grow and learn in the company of Jesus.

Built on a firm foundation,
and faithful to a vision of extending your care into the future,
may each of us, young and old together, grow into the full stature of Christ.

Amen.

or

All loving and all wise Father,



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guide us in your ways as we strive to build our parish community
in the spirit of our patroness, St. Therese.

May our offerings of time, talent and treasure be expressions of love
as we construct a space that can accommodate all those
who are drawn to grow and learn in the company of Jesus.

Make us faithful to a vision of extending your care into the future,
as young and old together grow into the full stature of Christ.

Amen.

A young man eagerly described what he dreamed of creating. Said the Master, “When do you propose to make your dream come true?” As soon as the opportunity arrives.” “Opportunities never arrives,” said the Master. “It’s here.” —Anthony de Mello, SJ, in *More One Minute Nonsense*

...a time to heal, a time to rend and a time to build up.—Ecclesiastes 3: 3

Take heed now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it. —1 Chronicles 22: 18

Divine Master, you have blessed us with vital dreams for the future of our parish,
in these trying times, give us the strength and courage to see them through.

In solidarity with the brave efforts to rebuild New York City,
now is the time to build up our families and our faith community
on the firm foundation of your word and your loving presence in our lives.

Strengthen our resolve to continue the good work you have begun in us
as together we live our faith and build our future.

Amen.

A story is told that Mohandas Gandhi once settled in a village and at once began serving the needs of the villagers. A friend inquired if Gandhi’s intentions were purely humanitarian. Gandhi replied, “Not at all. I am here to serve myself, to find [joy] through the service of these poor villagers. —Wayne Muller, in *Legacy of the Heart*

It is in giving that we receive. —St. Francis of Assisi

I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated. —Acts 20: 32

Gracious and loving God,
bless our efforts to serve the needs of our growing parish
as we seek to build a strong faith community on a firm foundation.

Grant that our generous giving of ourselves
in the wise investment and stewardship of our time, talent and treasure
may return to us the blessings of abundant joy
in our unity as a parish family
and in our drawing closer to you.

Amen.



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Which one among you wishing to construct a building does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding yourself unable to finish the work, the onlookers should laugh at you and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish. —Luke 14:

30

Divine Master, you have blessed us with vital dreams for the future of our parish,
in these trying times, give us the strength and courage to see them through.
In solidarity with the brave efforts to rebuild New York City,
now is the time to build up our families and our faith community
on the firm foundation of your word and your loving presence in our lives.
Strengthen our resolve to continue the good work you have begun in us
as together we live our faith and build our future.
Amen.

You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. —John 15: 16

Eternal and Gracious Father, in the name of your Jesus your Son,
we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our decisions
and all our spiritual, physical and financial efforts
to build our parish community,
and thus receive your approval and divine blessing.
May all our lives, from the youngest to seniors,
be enhanced and supported, in mind, body and spirit,
by the improvements we wish to make
to our educational and community facilities.
We pray that the fruits of our labor bring glory to you, Father,
and provide for the varied needs
of our children, families, groups and organizations.
Amen.

Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. —John 15: 16

Dear Lord Jesus, as we prepare to step into the future
in addressing the needs of our growing parish,
help each of us open our minds and hearts to your Spirit.
May our vision of these needs be clear,
guide us along the paths that will help us reach our goals.
May all our lives, from the youngest to seniors,
be enhanced and supported, in mind, body and spirit,
by the improvements we wish to make
to our educational and community facilities.
May our generous gifts of our time, talent and treasure
draw us closer to you and build your Body among us.
In your name, Jesus, we offer this prayer.
Amen.



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Prayer for Committees and Organizations

Without me you can do nothing.... I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16

Dear Jesus, help us open our minds and hearts to your grace.

As each individual and each committee does its work,
may the Holy Spirit direct every decision that is made
so our efforts may bear abundant fruit in the faith life of our parish.

May our sacrifice of time, talent and treasure
be united to the sacrifice you have made
for the benefit of all people
and bind us together as it draws us closer to you.

In your holy name, O Jesus, we offer this prayer.
Amen.

Occupy yourself with my interest, and I will occupy myself with yours. —Our Lord's words to St. Teresa of Avila

Stewardship Prayer

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. —1 Peter 4: 10
God gave [gifts]... to equip the holy ones for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the soul of God, to the full stature of Christ. —Ephesians 4: 11-13

Gracious God, we praise and thank you

for the great power and tenderness of your love.

Everything we are and everything we have is gift from you.

Fill our minds with Christ's truth and our hearts with his love,
so that in his Spirit we may be bonded together as a community of faith,
built into Christ's body, a parish family, a caring people.

In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves
to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us,
to share our time, our talent and our material gifts
as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.

Amen.



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Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127: 1
May your favor be upon us. Give success to the work of our hands. —Psalm 90: 17

Without you, gracious and loving God,
what success can we hope for from the work of our hands?
Yet with you we can do great things
and bear much fruit, fruit that endures.
Bless our efforts to meet the needs of our growing parish
and to build a strong faith community on a firm foundation
with Christ as our cornerstone
and the Spirit as our binding force.
Give success to the work of our hands.
Give success to the work of our hands.
Amen.

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. Now, you are Christ's body. —1 Cor. 12: 26-27

Loving God, in these fearful and trying times, the people of our land
have found great solidarity in our shared suffering and distress.
Help us to see the improvements we wish to make
to our educational and community facilities
as a building up of Christ's body,
a strengthening of the fabric of our parish family.
In a unity with the brave efforts to rebuild New York City,
now is the time to build up our families and our faith community,
so we may know the communion of our living together in Christ.
Amen.

We are God's co-workers...God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it.—1 Corinthians 3: 9-11
Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house. —1 Peter 2: 5

Divine Master, as we prepare to expand our educational and meeting facilities
to meet the varied needs of our growing parish, make us mindful
that whenever we look to the interests of our neighbor or our community
and serve them,
we are God's own co-workers in building the kingdom.
In building up our families and our faith community
make us living stones united with Christ Jesus the Cornerstone
built on a firm foundation of your word
and your loving presence in our lives.
Strengthen our resolve to continue the good work you have begun in us
as together we live our faith and build our future.
Amen.