



---

# Reflection Journal

---

Meeting people where they are...  
Loving them to where Christ wants them  
to be.





Welcome to our **BREAKTHROUGH** "Pacesetter" Event!

This journal is about your journey with God. It's about what God has done, is doing, and wants to do in your life. It's a tool we've developed to help you process through and "unpack" some of the topics we will be discussing during this **BREAKTHROUGH** initiative. We will not ask you to return this booklet because we want you to keep it, to refer back to it, and ultimately, to reflect on the thoughts you've had and the notes you've made during this time.

Some of the questions asked in this journal may be easy for you to answer, others may take some time to really think through. Our hope is that this booklet will become a catalyst that helps you clarify what matters most to you, what God desires for your resources, and what next steps you plan to take.

We believe that the best years with God are ahead of us at First Church of God. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, your best days of transformation lie ahead of you. We are excited as a church family to take this journey together.

We are fully expecting a breakthrough for you personally and a breakthrough in our church body according to the power of the Lord working in us and through us.

*"Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."*

*Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)*

# ***YOUR INFLUENCE***

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:**

Who has had the most impact on my life in the area of generosity? (This could be a spouse, a teacher, a church leader, someone in your small group, a family member, a friend, a public figure, etc.)

What have you witnessed from his/her life? How has this influenced you?

Do I believe that my life choices influence others?  
How have I seen it happen? Was it for the positive or for the negative?

How might I be more strategic and intentional about my life choices?

How might these choices influence others to look to Christ for their own answers?

*"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*

*Col. 3:17 (KJV)*

# ***YOUR LIFESTYLE***

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:**

Do I see money as a tool for God or as a tool for me? Reflect on this as honestly as you can.

On the whole, what do you think keeps most people from giving to the work of God's Kingdom? What is a mind-set change that needs to occur for people to become generous?

Some sacrificial choices we make are large, and others are small. Sometimes there are choices we have made in our past that may be affecting the margins we have for generosity in the present. Is there something you feel is preventing you from become a true, sacrificial giver? What is God asking you to do about it?

If I had an area where God would ask me to stop spending, it would be:

How much realistically could you avoid spending yearly in this area(s)?

*"being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."  
Phil 1:6 (KJV)*

# ***YOUR GENEROSITY***

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:**

What giving experiences have caused me to become closer to God?

What is my percentage of giving as compared to other financial investments I make on a recurring basis? (mortgage payment, rent, car payment(s), cell phone bill, gym membership, entertainment, etc.) For comparison purposes, estimate these below.

Am I giving in a way that still challenges me, or has it become comfortable and routine? What is the evidence?

Have I shared my giving story with others? Could my story be an inspiration to help others on their journey? How might God use my strengths and my struggles in this area for His glory?

*"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."  
Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

# YOUR LEGACY

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Who is the person I think of that has left an impactful spiritual and financial legacy? What made them different in the area of generosity?

What am I intentionally doing right now to ensure that my children and others in my area of influence learn the value of generosity? What eternal impact do I wish to see from my actions for generations to come?

If I had an audit on my financial expenses over my lifetime, what would it reveal about my generosity?

Do I make large financial decisions with God's purpose and plan for my life in mind or do I make financial decisions based on the financial situations as they occur?

What can I do to ensure that I continue to see giving to the Lord as an act of worship that impacts me, others and eternity?

*"Because of service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."*

*2 Corinthians 9:13 (NIV)*

# DEVOTIONAL

## ***The Key to Macedonia-type generosity.***

Read 2 Corinthians 8-9.

The Macedonia church was in a "great trial of affliction" and was in "deep poverty," but they begged to be given the opportunity to give to the more impoverished in Jerusalem. Verse 3 of Chapter 8 tells us that they gave "according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave voluntarily."

How does someone give "beyond their ability?"

The key is in verse 5: they "first gave their own selves to the Lord."

Have you given yourself fully to the Lord or do you feel like you are holding something back? What is hindering you from allowing the Lord to work in and through you?

---

---

---

What does Chapter 9, verses 6-8 encourage us to do & what does God promise?

---

---

---

---

Verse 14 shows us that the Corinthians had the means and the heart of generosity, but God's grace was the author of it. Praise be to God for what He will do through you.





# DEVOTIONAL

## ***What is God calling you to?***

***"I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her." Matthew 26:13***

The story of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, is a compelling one for so many reasons. Scripture tells us that her life will be an example to others regarding her costly service. Yet some accounts of Mary's story do not even mention her name. Clearly it was not about elevating Mary, but instead her devotion to Jesus that would have a lasting *impact* on generations to come.

Mary led a lifestyle of hospitality, generosity and obedience. Jesus was calling her to worship Him with her life and through her life. Mary's life will forever be an example of costly service. What an incredible legacy!

What are your thoughts on your calling?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# DEVOTIONAL

## **Mary was EXTRAVAGANT.**

Read John 12:1-7.

The perfume or oil used to anoint Jesus was pure nard. Nard was a fragrant oil prepared from the roots and stems of an aromatic herb from northern India. It was an expensive perfume, imported in sealed alabaster boxes or flasks which were opened only on special occasions. Mary's extravagant gift expressed her love and thanks to Jesus for Himself and for restoring life to Lazarus. A grateful heart is an extravagant heart!

The end of verse 3 in John 12 says, "...And the house was filled with fragrance of the perfume." Not only did Mary use an expensive perfume, but she used a lot of it! The Bible tells us that almost an entire pint of oil was used to anoint Jesus. It would have cost a year's wages or equal to a lifetime of savings!

Not all extravagance is appreciated. Mary was chastised by many of Jesus' disciples, especially Judas. Judas concluded that Mary should not have wasted the oil on Jesus, but instead should have sold the oil with the proceeds benefiting the poor. Jesus assured Mary that her gift and service were a beautiful thing! Mary offered what she could while she could.

Have you ever had a time when you were extravagant? What was the occasion? How did that make you feel?

---

---

---

### **PRAY ABOUT IT:**

Pray for God to lead you to be EXTRAVAGANT. Ask Him to show you opportunities where you can be generous with your time, gifts, service and resources. Write down any thoughts God is sharing with you right now.

---

---

---

---

---

---



During this time of reflection, we encourage you to search the Word of God. Following are some verses and passages to get you started. Why not take one passage each day of the week to read and reflect upon?

2 Corinthians  
8:1-7

2 Corinthians  
9:6-8

Proverbs  
11:24-25

Proverbs  
19:17

Matthew  
6:19-21

Luke  
21:3-4

Acts  
2:42-45



First Church

OF GOD