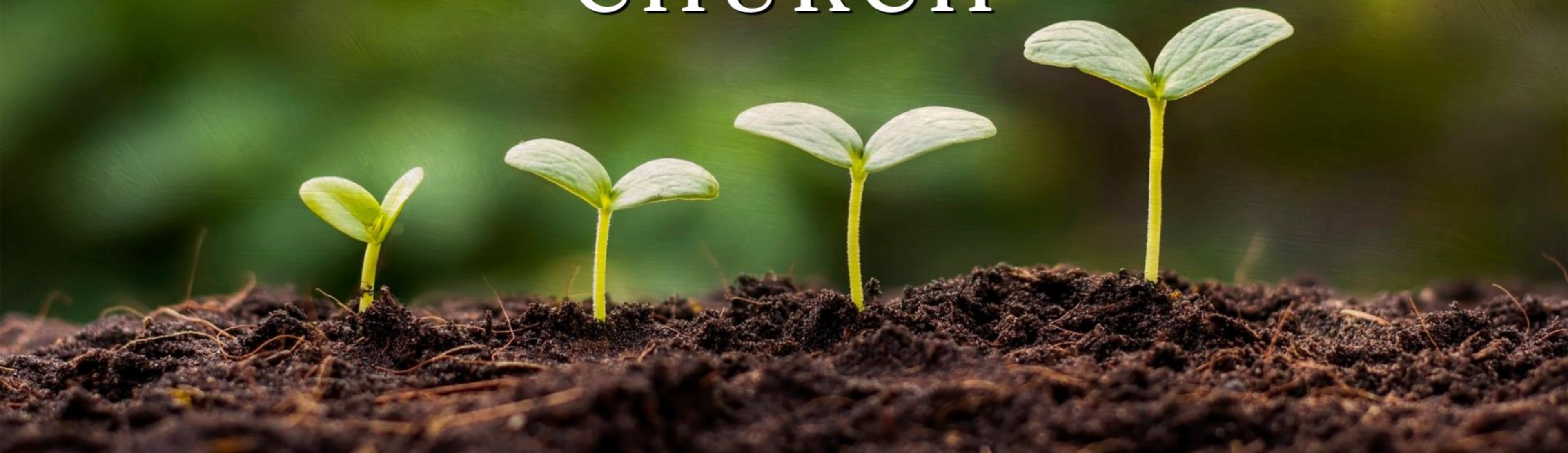


THE
MATURING
CHURCH



The Maturing Church...

Gives

Ezr. 1:3-6; 2 Co. 9:8-12

Review of last week's sermon on money...

- *Biblical Principles of Money*
 - All money is God's: We are STEWARDS
 - Money is not automatically evil;
 - Money is not permanent;
 - Money is to be used to bless others;
 - Caution re: debt.

Review of last week's sermon on money...

- Difference b/t OT tithing and NT tithing
 - Command under Old Covenant vs
 - Response of gratitude under New Covenant!
- Unfortunate Pattern in most churches/people
 - Incorrect Order and no budget/plan
 - Giving God our “leftovers” if anything at all

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

- *What is the difference b/t Giving and Tithing?*
- Tithe: regular, consistent amount given to local church/place of worship
- Gift: temporal, short-term giving for a specific event, project, need or mission. Gifts are given **IN ADDITION** to our tithe as led by the Lord.

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

- *Examples of gifts:*



Cuba Bus;

Crooksville Supplies;

Kosova Cow

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

Like our tithes, gifts are *not* given under compulsion, guilt, or command. They are a response from the Believer as each is able *because* of the Lord's goodness, grace and generosity towards us!

Let's look at some examples in Scripture...

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

- The Tabernacle and its Furnishings Ex. 25:1-8
- Gifts collected from “*every man whose heart moves him*”
 - The Table (25:23-29; 37:10-16)
 - The Lampstand (25:36-39; 37:17-24)
 - The Tabernacle (26:26-29)
 - The Altar (27:1-4; 38:1-8)
 - The Priestly Garments (28:17-20; 39:1-31)

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

- The Jerusalem Temple and Walls Ezra, Neh.
- Ezra 1:3-6 “*freewill offerings*” from “*everyone whose spirit God had stirred up*”
- Neh. 2:17-18 “*come, let us rebuild the wall...*”

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

- Collection for Jerusalem Church 2 Co. 8-9
- Paul is collecting gifts for Jerusalem church
- All saints are given opportunity to participate:
 - 2 Co. 8:1-9 The Macedonian church
 - 2 Co. 8:12-14; 9:6-15 The Corinthian church

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

- IN all 3 examples:
 - ONE GENERATION gave in order to bless future generations: their VISION was bigger than themselves.
 - Individuals/families provided the resources and sweat equity needed *AT THAT TIME* with an eye toward *FUTURE* generations!

The Maturing Church ... *Gives*

- IN all 3 examples:
 - Some gave more, some gave less. But ALL giving was driven by their love for the Lord!
 - Heb. 11:1-40 Most NEVER SAW the blessing but IN FAITH trusted the Lord's Vision for them.

Upcoming Opportunities @ Cornerstone!

- Nursing Mother's Room
- Pay off mortgage
- Shelter house
- *Who knows..??*



Prayer FIRST:

- 1. How is God challenging me to grow in my understanding and use of my finances?
- 2. In what ways have I benefitted from God's amazing generosity and extravagance?
- 3. What are the blessings that await Believers who cultivate Godly generosity and giving?