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TheGoodInitiative.com

A LETTER FROM PASTOR MIKE

The most-prayed prayer in all of history is the *Shema* from Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

At Grace, we believe this is the crux of our faith: How to Love God. Since last December, we have been living out this prayer through The Good Initiative, and it's been incredible to watch Him work through you as we do. By focusing on our love for Him — and His love for us —Grace has become a place of hope for so many.

As you have shown up, He has shown up, and thousands of lives are being changed through the power of God and the gospel. **Grace has truly become a teaching and healing church, bringing good to our city by continuing the spiritual and practical ministry of Jesus Christ.**

As we approach the midpoint of this two-year discipleship journey, I want you to be encouraged. I also want you to be challenged. We have been entrusted with the most powerful and most beautiful message in history, and we will keep going. We will stay faithful to the work.

Whether you're brand new to *The Good Initiative*, staying faithful through it, or deepening your commitment to generosity, **I invite you to trust Him more in this season.**

Your initial outpouring of generosity last year was unprecedented at Grace, and we're going to keep doing good, expecting the good, and proclaiming the good. Together.

Mike Adkins

Pastor Mike

Senior and Founding Pastor of Grace Church



What We Set Out to Do





THE NEXT STEP OF SURRENDER.

What are we not giving to Jesus and His mission, and why?



THE NEXT STEP OF FAITH.

What steps do we need to take that lead us to trust our comfort zone less and trust God more?



THE NEXT STEP OF GENEROSITY.

What can we give that will express our gratitude for what He has done for us? Do we give in a way that places Christ first in all things?

The GOOD INITIATIVE

COMMITMENT CARD



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HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US ON CAMO TO ALL WHILE A SHARE

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The GOOD INITIATIVE

What God Has Done Since TGI Began

WE EXPANDED OUR TEACHING MINISTRY.

1,500

5,000+

8,372

1,500 more people have come to Grace this year

5,000+ people worship with Grace each week on average

8,372 people have taken a next step at Grace in 2023

1,565

1,030

1,884

1,565 people have attended a Grace class

1,030 people have accepted Jesus Christ 1,884 kids have learned about Jesus with us

727

1,257

727 students have heard gospel teaching at Grace

1,257 people serve on Team Grace each month

WE EXPANDED OUR HEALING MINISTRY.

928

5,081

100+ people have been baptized 928 people are a part of a Group

5,081 people have been served through our pastoral care ministries

2,852

4,600+

7,500+

2,852 prayer requests have been personally prayed for

4,600+ appointments have been kept so far this year at **Grace Counseling**

We'll keep more than 7,500+ counseling appointments by the end of the year

WE CELEBRATED WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH YOU.

\$9.7 MILLION DOLLARS

You have given more than \$9,700,000 to The Good Initiative since we began

2,825

425

2,825 people made a commitment to The Good Initiative

425 households have given for the first time since The Good *Initiative* began



Where We Are Going

The Good Initiative is helping us innovate in our week-to-week ministry every day:







- Beginning construction on the Center for Teaching and Healing – home to Grace
 Counseling next door to Grace's Orlando Campus – in early 2024 (plans are approved!)
- Actively searching for a worship facility for Oviedo
- Laying the groundwork to expand the Orlando campus, including more space for worship and for families

- Adding more people to our teams and more tools for our gospel work at all campuses
- Growing the ministry capabilities and reach of Grace Online
- Expanding our groups and classes to care for more people, including launching a regular event night for young adults
- Creating innovative
 ministries for families
 including Life Prep, a
 practical year-long class
 for seniors; Parent Connects
 that teach moms and dads
 how to address current
 cultural topics; a Sidekick
 ministry for kids with special
 needs and more.

- Helping more heal by
 expanding our two inperson locations for Grace
 Counseling and expanding
 our telehealth offerings
- Serving more of our neighbors by launching
 Grace Does Good, a regular event that will help our community in practical ways
- Inviting more people to
 know Jesus through regular
 First Steps Weekends
- Offering spaces to
 heal through pastoral
 care classes like Griefshare,
 DivorceCare, Loss of a
 Spouse, & Life's Healing
 Choices.

What Is Your Role?

Throughout 2023, the Lord has done amazing things **in** us and **through** us at Grace. We have shown up and God has shown up.

At this midpoint in our *Good Initiative* discipleship journey, pray about your commitment to generosity for the sake of God's work at Grace – and in your own life.

Here are three paths you can take:



MAKE A NEW COMMITMENT

If you're new here in 2023, welcome to the family! The Good Initiative lasts till December of 2024, and is for anyone who calls Grace home. We hope you will join us as we do good here at Grace and make a one year generosity commitment (Dec. 2023 - Dec. 2024) to be a part of The Good Initiative and help us end well.



FINISH STRONG

If you made a commitment one year ago, thank you for your faithfulness! Maybe this journey has been a challenge, and maybe it's taught you new things about God and His role in your life. We ask you to continue to ask Him to help you as you persevere, and to finish strong in this journey we began together in 2022.



INCREASE YOUR COMMITMENT

Some of you made a commitment one year ago, and since then you've had an increase in your faith or your finances. Maybe it's been easy to reach your goal, or maybe it's taken a lot of sacrifice. But you sense God is asking you to take another step and do more in this season.

••• Me • IATIV •••



What kind of giver are you?



The five stages on the next page focus on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts – our discipleship – rather than on amounts or percentages. Each step represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice that transforms us into the likeness of Christ, who gave up everything.

Scripture encourages us to grow in every facet of our walk with Christ, including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

Where are you on the Giving Discipleship Journey?



INITIAL GIVER

An initial giver is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift. They experience the initial joy of putting Jesus' words into action (Matthew 7:24).

CONSISTENT GIVER

A consistent giver is someone who decides to give something, and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the joy of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires more discipline. They experience the joy of excelling in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7).

PRIORITY GIVER

A priority giver is someone who understands the pre-eminence of Christ and that He is before all things – that all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving. They experience the freedom of serving "one master" and declaring Jesus is first. (Matthew 6:19-24 and Colossians 1:15-20).

It doesn't matter where you are. It matters that you take a next step.

04

SURRENDERED GIVER

A surrendered giver is someone who recognizes that Christ surrendered His whole self for us, and therefore we desire to surrender our whole selves to Him, in love (Ephesians 5:1-2). This giver would say, "My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It's also changing me!" They also look at what they're not giving away and ask, "Is it surrendered too?" This informs how they use everything they've been blessed and entrusted with – whether that be through direct monetary giving or through a God-honoring use of an existing resource (i.e. honoring God with the use of your home, etc.)

05

ETERNAL GIVER

An eternal giver is someone who sees the eternal impact of their giving – on them and on others – not just the immediate programs and ministries it helps accomplish. This giver has been captivated by the knowledge that the more they are led to "do good, to be generous and ready to share," the more they "take hold of that which is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:19). This encourages them to keep growing! They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact.

Two-Year Gift Chart

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool – let it be something that challenges you toward greater generosity for Christ's kingdom as we do good, expect the good, and proclaim the good.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFTS LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$104,167	\$2,500,000
1	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$1,500,000
2	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$2,000,000
4	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$2,000,000
5	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,250,000
7	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,050,000
15	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$1,500,000
18	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$1,350,000
25	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$1,625,000
45	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$2,250,000
80	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$2,800,000
95	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$2,375,000
125	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$1,875,000
175	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$1,750,000
225	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$1,687,500
275	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$1,375,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$1,112,500

TOTAL GIFT GOAL: \$30,000,000

I Am/We Are New to The Good Initiative

	I/We would like to n the amount of*:	nake a one-year commitment to The Good Initiative in		
	\$			
	Dec 2023 - Dec 2024 *This includes your regular gr stored resources.	iving over the next year as well as your expanded giving and		
		Are Already Committed to The Good Initiative		
	\$			
	At the midpoint of <i>The Good Initiative</i> , I/we would like to:			
	Confirm my/our commitment to finish strong.Increase my/our two-year commitment to:			
	\$			
NAME	Dec 2022 - Dec 2024			
ADDRESS		CITY		
ST.	ZIP	CAMPUS		
PHONE		EMAIL		

TO LOVE MIDPOINT OF THE GOOD INITIATIVE



One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-31

"Loving God with All Your Heart"

NOTES

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-31 John 17:20-25 John 13:34-35 Matthew 5:23-24

Discussion Questions

01	Jesus calls us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourself. What are the specific implications of this in your life currently? How are you doing good to those around you and loving them wholly and completely? How could you better love God by loving others?
02	By loving God and loving others, we show that God's love is IN us, and we point others to who God is. Do you feel you are an effective conduit of God's love? Are you openhanded with everything you have and everything you are? How could you grow to be more like this?
03	Jesus shares in Matthew 5 that we are to reconcile with our brother or sister before offering our gifts at the altar. Jesus asks us to bring those gifts to the altar but to leave them there until we have reconciled with those who have something against us. Is there someone in your life currently whom you need to reconcile with in this season? What might it look like to take a step towards that reconciliation?

"Loving God with All Your Soul"

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-31 Luke 12:13-34 Matthew 16:26

NOTES	

Discussion Questions

01	The parable of the rich fool is a powerful example of someone who did not fully love God with all his soul, as he was focused more on amassing the possessions of this world rather than giving to God and to God's people. An earthly perspective on our possessions is easy to fall into with the messages of the world that say, "more, more, more." Do you find yourself falling into this trap, seeking to build bigger barns to store your surplus? How have you or are you combating this?
02	As Jesus is explaining his impending death to His disciples, He explains to them about followership and that it requires that we take up our cross and follow Him, sacrificing the comforts of this world for a greater good. By gaining in the world's standards, it often comes at the cost of losing our soul. Have you ever experienced this? How can you be rich towards God as opposed to merely rich in this world?
03	Jesus also asks the question, "What can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" How is God currently asking you to love Him with all of your soul? What does that practically mean in your life right now?

"Loving God with All Your Mind"

NOTES

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-31 John 8:31-44 Matthew 6:19-24; Romans 12:1-2 1 John 2:15-16 1 Timothy 6:17

Discussion Questions

Jesus shares in the gospel of John chapter 8 that holding to the truth of His teachings will set us free. By this we can love God with all of our mind. This seems to become more and more challenging in a world that communicates relative truth. What are the truths you hold to that keep you from being a slave to sin?
Jesus shares in Matthew 6 that we cannot serve both God and money. Money is the only thing that God puts in opposition to Himself other than the enemy. Jesus writes that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. What are things in your life right now that are competing with Jesus for your heart?
It is often too easy for our minds to be shaped by the things and messages of this world rather than the truths and promises of God. When the Apostle Paul writes that we should offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, he shares that this will help renew our minds in Jesus. What might this specifically look like for you in your life currently?

NOTES

"Loving God with All Your Strength"

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-31 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 2 Timothy 4:6-9

Discussion Questions

01	The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the church at Corinth the importance of self discipline and that this race we run in our followership of Jesus requires training and commitment to achieve the goal set before us in Christ. Do you consider yourself a person of commitment, or is commitment something that is challenging for you? How so or how not?
02	Paul shares in his second letter to his apprentice, Timothy, that he is being poured out like a drink offering. In order to be poured out, there must be something in our cup to pour. Do you feel "filled up" with the things of God in your life right now, or are you running on empty spiritually?
03	Paul shares that he has fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. The strength that this requires after everything Paul has been through is immeasurable. Some of us go through more life struggles and temptations than others, but holding fast to Jesus' teachings and to His ways require strength and commitment to finish the race strong. As you think about your role in <i>The Good Initiative</i> , where do you find yourself on this journey? How can your group encourage you in this?

"Loving Your Neighbor As Yourself"

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-31 Luke 10:25-37

NOTES	

Discussion Questions

01	Jesus talks about what is required in order for us to inherit eternal life, and He shares that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. That's what we've been talking about in this series, and it is the key to following God and the key to eternal life. Do you feel that you're taking hold of the life that is truly life, the eternal one? Or if you're honest, do you feel that you are pursuing earthly passions that point more to a love of self or to selfish desires?
02	Jesus shares in the parable of the good Samaritan what it looks like to love our neighbor. The good Samaritan sacrificed in order to care for this other man, sacrificing convenience, comfort, time, and even money. Why did he do that, and would you find yourself with the same willing heart in this situation?
03	As you think about your role in <i>The Good Initiative</i> , what excites you about the future and what God is doing at Grace? How can your group be praying for you and supporting you in your next steps on this journey?











MEMORY VERSE

God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or

WEEK 01

Genesis 1:26-28 Bottom Line: You were made in God's image.

WEEK 02

Matthew 9:9-13 Bottom Line: Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.

WEEK 03

Acts 16:13-15 Bottom Line: Use your gifts to help others.

WEEK 04

1 Timothy 4:12 Bottom Line: You can make a difference right now.



WEEK 05

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Bottom Line: Together we can do good.



Acts 4:32-35; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
Bottom Line: There is enough when we share what we have.

2 WEEK 2

Acts 2:42-47; John 6:8-11 Bottom Line: When we show up, God provides more than enough.

3 WEEK 3 Acts 11:29

Bottom Line: Don't give up when you feel like you can't do enough.

WEEK 4
Acts 16:25-36
Bottom Line: God's love is always enough.

WEEK 5

Galatians 2:11-13; Acts 10Bottom Line: Our words aren't enough if our actions don't align.





