

# MESSAGE TRANSCRIPT //

**AWAKEN TO ACTION | AWAKEN**

**AARON BROCKETT | NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

Alright. Well, good to be with everybody today. And I want to welcome everyone gathered across all of our locations and our online family.

If you have your *Awaken* guide, go ahead and grab that and find page 80. And if you've got a Bible go ahead and find 2 Corinthians, chapter 9. That's where we are going to be together today.

As you're finding those and getting settled, let me just give you a little bit of a heads up as to where we're heading in the coming weeks together. We have had a brand new message series planned for a number of months that we were going to jump in to next weekend and take us all the way up through Christmas.

Here in the past month or so, I just had so many people reach out to me and ask me questions about the conflict in Israel, primarily around why there is such a significant conflict, where did it originate, why is this such a complex issue. And maybe even more importantly, what does this mean and how are we, as Christians, to view it and how do we think about it.

So I've just decided to call a bit of an audible, that's how we want to think about things around here. We have a play book. But when I'm in the pocket and I hike the ball and the defensive line adjusts, I'm going to call an audible and move.

That's what we did this past week. We just made the decision to punt the next series by a week and next weekend I just want to address that issue, primarily from Scripture, meaning what does God's Word have to say about it and what does God's Word say about what is next and how we are to posture ourselves as Christians. So that's next weekend.

And then the weekend after that we're going to jump into a series that is going to take us into the end of the year. And this is a high invite series, invite your family, your friends, your neighbors. And we've got invite cards for you. But I just want you to know the date on the invite card is going to be wrong because we're adjusting the series. Just so you know, so you're not confused. All of that is coming up in the coming weeks together. So, be praying that God would move and speak in the midst of all of that.

Last night, guys, we had our Student Night at our Downtown campus. I just want to show you a couple of images. We had over 400 students who gathered together at our Downtown campus. And they have been thoroughly engaged with throughout this whole *Awaken* series that we have been in.



And what I love about that is that part of the *Awaken* vision involves them in the sense that we're trying to prep and plan for the next generation, but they've been just as engaged in it all the way through. So that took place last night, which was really amazing to see.

If you happen to be, at any one of our locations right now, and this is your first time at Traders Point, you're coming in as a guest, you've never been here before, you've actually come at a really, really good day. And it might even feel a little bit like, as you walked in, "Man, I kind of feel like I've just walked in to somebody's family gathering."

And in a sense you have. That's a good thing. Because what you're going to hear in the next few moments, what you witness, and what we experience together is going to give you a good heartbeat for our church and what we are all about, because today is something that is... We don't do this very often, but it's called Commitment Sunday. And this is really the culmination of the last six weeks that we have been journeying together. We are wrapping up a message series called *Awaken*.

Now, the series is concluding, the season is not. So we are going to continue to stay awakened and attentive to the voice of God and how He wants to move in us and through us in this season.

Today is really the culmination of all of that where we are kind of laying out our two-year vision, our plans, and we're placing that in front of God and asking Him to do something in us and through us.

Here's what I want to ask you to do. Just grab that commitment card that you maybe brought with you or maybe it was on the seat when you walked in. I just want you to hold it. I'm not asking you to do anything with it, I just want you to hold it. And we just want to consecrate this time before God before we go any further with this.

Just join me in prayer right now across all of our locations.

Father, we come to You and we're just so grateful for this season of awakening that You've had us in. And we know that this isn't a season about money, but there is the by-product of You doing a work in us, that You'll do something through us. And we know, just as Jesus taught, that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also.

So, God, we want our hearts to be fully Yours. And we just want to come before You open handed to declare before You that everything that we have and who we are is because You've provided it to us.

So, God, would You please help us to be faithful. Help us to be bold. Give us a vision for what it is that You desire to do in us and through us. And we ask this in Jesus' name. And everybody said: Amen, amen.

Well, last week I said that we're wrapping up this series by walking through two chapters in 2 Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9. And chapters 8 and 9 of 2 Corinthians is the longest,



continuous teaching of generosity that we have in all of the Bible. This is Paul giving us what we might call a theology of generosity.

Now, I also said last week that if you take the entire Bible, Genesis to Revelation, and you add it all up that there are over 2,000 Scriptures that reference money, and material possessions. And the reason why is not because God is short of cash and He wants ours, but because He wants our heart.

And as Jesus taught, where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. It's like there is this thin fishing line wire between the two. And so where our treasure goes, there our heart follows.

Now, that seems kind of counter intuitive. If I was stating it I might say, "Well, where my heart is, there my treasure follows." But Jesus says, "No, where your treasure is, there your heart will follow." So, God desires our heart.

Not only does He desire possession of our hearts, but it's thinking through this lens, that the way in which we think about financial resources that God has temporarily entrusted to us in our time on earth, that money flows in through paychecks, and as it flows out through bills and expenses, it shapes our heart through a lifetime. That's why the Scriptures speak so much to this issue.

Now, what's happening in 2 Corinthians is Paul is writing to them and he's encouraging them to be generous toward the churches in Jerusalem. And we don't exactly know what was going on there.

Now, we do know that there were a lot of issues in the Corinthian church, and since this is Paul's second letter, chances are that they pushed back on him a little bit. So Paul is writing to them again and he's trying to encourage them, inspire them, challenge them to be generous by talking about the generosity of the Macedonian churches that were just to the north of them.

Now, here's why that is significant. The Macedonian churches were going through, Paul states it this way: a severe trial, and extreme poverty. So a severe trial could be a recession, downturn in the market, health issues, loss of a job. Extreme poverty: they just didn't have much, they were trying to save for the future but interest rates were super high. So those two things were working against them. And he said that even in the face of that they were still generous.

In fact, notice how Paul describes it. He says that they gave with joy, and because of that it overflowed in right generosity toward God. He says this about them. He said, "They gave out of what they had, not what they didn't have." In fact, he says, "They gave even more than what I even anticipated that they would give."

So you take those factors and you're like, that doesn't even seem to make sense. The math doesn't really seem to map here. But what he was trying to do is he was inspiring

these Corinthians, who, by the way, were actually way better off. They were in a better season of life than what the Macedonians were with their generosity.

Now, here's why we pointed that out. Most of the time, in all of our lives, me included, when God wants to do something through us, it's very easy for us to take a look at our current financial circumstances, whatever they may be, and kind of give us an out.

So we say, "I want to be. God, I want to be available to You. I want to be generous, but this just isn't the season for me. Let me wait until..." and you fill in the blank. What has it traditionally been for you?

"God, let me wait until I can graduate and get a steady paycheck. Then I'm all Yours."

"God, let me wait until we can get the kids through college and then we'll have some resources freed up for You." "God, let me wait until we get enough in the 401K and then we'll be generous toward the end of our lives."

Now, here's the problem with, "God, let me wait until..." Paul mentioned this last week in chapter 8. He said, "Let's excel in this grace of giving." So it's this idea of a particular gift set or a particular muscle that you use. Now, if you don't use a muscle, what happens to it? It atrophies. So saying, "One day I'll..." "Let me wait until, and then I'll be generous," by the time that day comes around, which, by the way it never will—there will always be a set of circumstances, always a set of unexpected bills that can keep us to where we say, "This isn't a good season."

But then we come down to this place where we think that it's time but we haven't worked out the muscles of generosity and we don't have the reps in. It's like, "I'm going to build a lot of muscle just by believing that I can but never going to the gym." I don't have the reps in.

This is what he is talking about when it comes to generosity. Can I say it this way? This will be on the screen behind me:

**If you're waiting for your financial circumstances to change before you engage with God in generosity, you'll miss all the ways He wants to demonstrate His power in this season that you are in.**

So you're actually coming before God and you're saying, "God, I'm just simply available to You." And here's what God says, two words that start with "t". God says, "I want you to trust Me in this," which means that it's going to require some faith. And then, "I want you to test me," which means that I've got to take a step out in faith. Trust and test.

Now, here's how I've oftentimes thought about this in the past. When my kids were really little, between the stage of baby and toddler, to where they are not fully aware. They are aware enough but they are not fully aware of how much danger they may be in. And I loved that season because I would take them and just throw them up in the air. And I would catch them.



But here's the thing. When they were suspended up in the air, they were laughing, they were having the time of their life. They had no idea how much danger they were really in. They just blindly trusted me.

But then that day came where they became cognitive of how much danger they were really in and then they weren't so excited about me throwing them up in the air any more.

Here's how the conversation would go. I would get ready to throw them up in the air and I'd start to do it and they would cling to me with a death grip and then I would say, "Hey, do you trust daddy?" And they would go, "Yes." And then I would go, "Well, can I throw you in the air?" "No."

And many of us do that with our finances. God says, "Do you trust Me?" "Absolutely, I trust You. My arms are raised in worship. God, I trust You." "Okay, will you let Me throw you in the air?" "Oh, no." Trust and test.

Guys, I wish I could forward on to you all of the emails the DMs the conversations that I've had with people just through this whole series. They've just shared with me how God has been at work in their lives.

My assistant actually prints for me all of my emails, the stories that people share. And she gives them to me on Thursday afternoon. So I got a stack of those on Thursday and I actually went to lunch and I was sitting there eating lunch reading through the emails and I'm tearing up because of how God is moving so powerfully in so many of your lives, because so many of you are learning to trust and test. And God is coming through in big ways.

I just want to read one story to you. I actually got her permission to share this. This is from a college student. She's 19 years old. She came up to me after one of the services last weekend with her dad. She was super excited to share this story with me. And after I heard it I was like, "Man, that is amazing. Do I have permission to share it?" And she said, "Yeah. I'll email you."

So this is her email. I just want to read a portion out of it. This is what she said. She said:

I'm a full-time college student. I have two jobs and I also have a Tik Tok platform that is geared toward Christian and college lifestyle content. I've recently been convicted to surrender this platform to the Lord and invite Him into every part of it. I've been praying that He would transform me into a vessel that displays His love and truth.

I was attending week two of the *Awaken* series when I felt for the very first time in my life the Lord telling me to do something very specific. I had a brand partnership scheduled to be posted the next day where I receive a percentage of commission from every unit I sell through my affiliate link.



By the way, I have no idea what she is talking about. My part-time job in college was pushing carts at Sam's Club. Alright? So, things have changed. I'm assuming this is good stuff here.

So she goes:

The Lord told me to give all of what I made from this link to the church. I was hesitant at first as I'm a college student. I'm currently saving up for a car. My current car is being held together by zip ties.

She goes:

Then in the middle of my reluctance and negotiation with God...

Ever do that? Yeah, me either. Alright? So, she's negotiating, that's sometimes what we do when we are convicted, sometimes we negotiate.

...about what percentage of what I should give. You mentioned the story of Cain and Able. You reminded us to give our first and best. And like Cain, who presented only some of his crops to the Lord, I immediately knew that the Lord was speaking directly to me and confirming that He wants me to give the entirety of what I make from this collaboration.

She said:

I posted the two videos the next day.

Now I want to give you a little bit of context. This isn't in the email. She told me traditionally she has about 8 to 10 thousand views per video. The most she's ever made on a video is about \$1,500 dollars. So with that in mind, she said:

I posted the two videos the next day. They are the highest performing videos on my page, with one at around 4 million views and the other around 10 million.

I have estimated \$30,000 dollars of commission that I've made in the past two weeks. I'm only 19 years old and could never have dreamed of making this amount of money in such little time. I feel so strongly that God's fingerprints are all over my life right now and I want to be obedient to His initial request of me to give it all back.

That's incredible. Now, here's what I said to her as I... Number one, I kind of put myself in her shoes and was like, "Man, if I was in her shoes would I have that kind of faith?" I don't know if I would have shared that conversation with God publicly because she could have given a part of that and it would have been really, really generous.

Here's what I told her. "This is only half of the story. I can't wait to see what God is going to do with your faithfulness to provide." So this is the idea of trust and test.

Now, I want to read verses 6 through 8 of chapter 9. By the way, these are my favorite verses out of these two chapters. There is so much packed into them. Listen to what Paul writes. He says:

*"Remember this,"*

This is like the idea of, "Hey, don't forget. Don't forget." In fact, so much of what we're going to read, we probably know. We just need to be reminded of what we know. So much of the time God wants to speak. He's spoken into this area of our lives, but we've sort of grown deaf to what He has said. So we've got to recall what it is that He's originally promised. He goes.

*"...a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop."*

That makes sense, doesn't it? You can't expect to plant a garden or a crop just with a couple of seeds or no seed at all. You're going to get a small crop if you just plant a few seeds.

*"But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop."*

This is just simply, this is actually sort of like the law of physics here, or biology. You're going to reap what you sow. Oftentimes we think about that in actions, but this is true in gardening and farming, you reap what you sow. We know that. He goes:

*"You must each decide in your heart how much to give."*

So this is this idea that this is a matter of the heart, this is an issue between you and God. By the way, we can be tempted to maybe rip that sentence out of context and say, "Well, you know, God just wants me to decide in my heart how much to give." Yeah, but that is sandwiched between these principles of reaping and sowing.

Here's the principle that comes the principle that comes in behind it.

*"...don't give reluctantly,"*

So this is this idea of passive aggressive giving, "Here You go, God. Get off of my back. This is Yours. I'm going to go live in a cardboard box now." It's this idea of I'm going to give reluctantly or here's the other one:

*"or in response to pressure.."*

So these high pressure appeals, "I'm going to twist your arm, shame you, or guilt you." Don't give reluctantly or under pressure. And here's why:

*"For God loves a person who gives,"* just say it out loud with me, *"cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you"* what's the word? *"need."*

Not want, that's different, "God, I want a Corvette." And He goes, "Yeah, but all you need is a Chevy." Okay? It's funny, I used that example in the previous hours and all the

Corvette owners found me in the lobby. I just said, "Promise to take your pastor for a ride." Alright? Anyway, he goes:

*"Then you will always..."*

Isn't that word interesting? You'll always. This isn't some of the time, or part of the time—no, it's you'll always:

*"have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)*

This is the idea... The story that immediately comes to my mind when I read that is Jesus feeding the 5,000 with a boy's Lunchable. That's what I think about. It's like, "Hey, watch what I can do with a little. I'll generously provide and have some leftovers."

Here's the first thing that I want you to see in the passage and I want you to write this in your notes:

### **We commit today with a spirit of readiness**

Now, what I mean by that... If we take the plant generously, reap generously principle, it would make no sense if you were to walk up to a farmer, he's standing at the edge of his field, he's looking at the dirt and you say, "What are you doing?" And he says, "I'm just waiting for a crop." And you say, "Well, what did you plant?" And he says, "Nothing." You go, "Well, you're going to be waiting for a while." So that's the idea of sowing and reaping. The idea is: what do you sow in order to reap?

Now, here's the second idea. He says God wants us to give cheerfully.

### **Cheerful: "hilaros"**

Last week I said that word cheerful in the Greek is the word *hilaros*, the root is where we get our English word *hilarious*. So this is the idea that God loves hilarious givers. But it actually means even more than that. In Greek writing they would oftentimes use that word *hilaros* with this idea:

### **"At the ready"**

It's this idea that you are on the balls of your feet, you're ready to go, you're alert to what it is that God is asking you to do.

Several weeks ago I shared with you just a prayer that I prayed as an 18-year-old young man where God kind of got a hold of my heart and I said, "God, the answer is yes. Now what's the question?" That is an at the ready kind of prayer.

This is the kind of stance that you will find runners in who are getting ready to run a race or a marathon. They are at the ready at the start line. I ran the Indy mini last year and when I got to the start line there were like hundreds and hundreds of people all gathered at the start line and there wasn't anybody taking a nap. Everybody was at the ready. This is the idea, this is the word.





So if you were to reread that verse with that understanding you'd read it like this, "Don't give reluctantly or under response to pressure because God loves a giver who is at the ready." And that's what this series has been about. God awakening us, speaking to us, making us alert to what it is that He desires to do in us and through us.

I hope as you have kind of come through your *Awaken* group, as you've studied your notes, as you've been here through this series, as you've come to Vision Nights, that you're at this place now where you're at the ready, "God, I want to be used by You."

Here's the second thing:

### **The commitments we make shape who we become**

We are the sum of our commitments over life. Not our good intentions, but our commitments. Look at verses 10 through 12. It says:

*"For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you."*

He doesn't say through you, but in you.

*"Yes, you will be enriched..."*

There is a difference between getting rich and being enriched. So much of the time we get focused on being rich, and God says, "Well, I want you to be enriched,"

*"in every way so that you can always be generous."* Regardless of what current season you're in right now. *"And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God."* 2 Corinthians 9:1-12 (NLT)

### **Prosperity theology: give in order to receive**

It would be easy to think that verse 10 is about something called prosperity theology. And unfortunately there have been a lot of sweaty TV preachers who have hijacked this idea. It's this idea, "Well, you just sow a gift and God will do this in your life." And it's unfortunate that that idea has been hijacked, because it's a very biblical idea.

But there is a difference between prosperity theology and generosity theology. Prosperity theology says this, "Give in order to receive." And that's not what the passage teaches. So if you're thinking to yourself, "Well, this is a way for me to get rich by being temporarily generous, then that is what I'll do," you're actually missing the whole point of what Paul is trying to say.

This is the whole problem with sowing gifts kind of theology. This idea that in order to receive, I guess I'll give. That's not what the Scriptures teach. The Scriptures teach generosity theology, which is simply this, "I want to be a blessing with what I've already

received.” Here’s a better way to say it, “With what God has already entrusted to me, whether it’s a little or a lot. So, God, right now I just want to recognize that I’m simply a steward, a conduit of what it is that You’ve entrusted to me.”

He says, “When you are able to do this, when you are able to manage what it is that I have entrusted to you, then I’m going to take care of you, then I’m going to enrich you. I’m the One who provides and will always make sure that you have enough and you have enough left over to be generous.”

And it gets to this place where the stories move me but they don’t surprise me anymore, when people finally come to this place. In all my days of pastoring, people come to me and they say, “You know what? I was in this wrestling match with God, we had this commitment that we were wanting to make. We’re going to trust God in this area, but we had this financial need. As soon as we made the decision to be generous toward God, then all of a sudden He took care of the need.”

It’s just amazing to me how those stories just continue to come in so consistently. Why? Because God has promised it here in the passage. He says, “Just trust Me and test Me.”

So, we’ve got to begin to view everything that God has entrusted us with as a temporary steward, not an owner. And then when we do, God says, “Well, I’ll trust you with more.”

Some of you, you don’t have to imagine this because you are a business owner or you started a business, you’re an entrepreneur. Others of you may just need to imagine that you have a business and you’ve got to go away for a year. You’ve got to take care of some aging parents or something. You’ve just got to be away, so you hire a manager to oversee your business. It’s not his. He is simply managing it, stewarding it.

You go away for a year and when you come back you say, “Hey, would you give me a report of how you managed it over the last year?” And if he’s been a poor manager, and squandered the resources or maybe he began to act like an owner and kind of act a little bit entitled, then here’s what’s going to happen, you’re not going to entrust him with more and you’re likely going to replace him.

In the same way, God say, “I’ve entrusted to you a certain amount of resources and when I return I’m going to ask you what you did with what I entrusted to you.”

Here’s a really convicting question. And It’s not a fun question. It’s not a question that I can ask of you. It’s a question I’ll lay in front of you and you can ask it of yourself. I’m not going to ask it of you. That would be meddling. And there is a fine line between preaching toward conviction and meddling. And I don’t want to meddle. So, I’m just going to lay the question out in front of you, you do with it what you will. Here’s the question:

**If you were God, would you entrust you with more money?**



Given how you've handled money up to this point in your life, and I'm not just talking about the tithe, you can give the tithe legalistically to God and still dishonor Him with the remaining 90 percent—so given how you've traditionally handled the resources that God has entrusted to you, if you were God, would you entrust you with more?

I know it's not a very fun question. But it's a question that I think all of us have to really wrestle with. And we've got to say it's not just about giving God His cut; it's about recognizing that He owns it all. Actually, not even just what is in your bank account, it's your gift set, it's the opportunities in front of you. God is the giver of all gifts. We've got to acknowledge that.

And what we do today, like it really matters for all of eternity. Look at what it says in verses 13 through 15 as we finish up this section of the passage today. He says:

*"As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient,"* that's the word, obedient, *"to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!"* 2 Corinthians 9:13-15 (NLT)

Here's the last thing I'm going to ask you to jot down in your notes:

**Generosity doesn't just fund the mission. It IS the mission**

It is the mission. What God desires to do is take available men and women and students who are just fully surrendered to Him. And God says, "A fully surrendered life, man, I can do a lot with that. So I want to do a work in you for the purpose of doing a work through you."

And God has always been and will always be, on this side of eternity, in partnership with fallen, broken human beings like you and me. He comes and He rescues us and then through that rescuing He says, "Now, I want you to be available to let me do a ministry through you to others." This doesn't just stop with you.

That's the big thing that I just want to remind you of. Earlier in the series, I can ask you to do it again, but some of you will recall, you were here that day when I just asked across all of our locations that if you met Jesus through the ministry of our church, or if you got reacquainted with Jesus, or if you came here to heal in some way, or your marriage got restored, or you found hope, or you got set free from an addiction of some kind, you had a spiritually significant moment through the ministry of this church I just asked people to raise up their hands.

And there were so many hands that went up around the room. What I said then I just want to remind you of today, if that is true for you, then you are the recipient of somebody else's generosity who decided to sow generously. And that shouldn't stop with us. We need to remember that on into the future. This is what has been so helpful

for me at times—to just imagine the people who are going to walk through our doors at all of our locations, or the people who are going to find us online are going to find hope.

And what we do, right now, today is going to change the life of a single mom who is going to walk through our doors barely keeping her head above water and she's going to find acceptance and she's going to find hope.

What we do today is going to change the life of a former convict who just got out of prison and he's going to walk through these doors, doesn't want anybody to know about his past because he kind of feels like if people found out about his past the roof would cave in. And he's going to discover, just like the thief on the cross, that he is not his past and he can have a new beginning in Jesus Christ.

Because of what we do today there is going to be a teen-aged girl who is wrestling with her body image or maybe she's been cutting in some fashion because she is struggling with her identity, and she's going to hear that God has a plan and a purpose for her life. And she is not who her peers say she is. And she is not who media says who she is. She is who God says she is.

Because of what happens today there is going to be a married couple who drove in separate cars to church on a Sunday because their marriage is on the brink of divorce and they are going to experience something supernatural and they are going to fight for their marriage and they are going to find healing and fruit is going to grow in what was once a very barren place.

Because of what happens today there is going to be a broken man who walks in here and he has lost everything that has been important to him because of an addiction that he couldn't shake and he's going to find freedom from those chains by the grace of Jesus Christ and the hope of the Holy Spirit.

Because of what happens today, there is going to be an older couple who is going to walk in here and they are in the twilight of their life and they are trying to figure out, "What is the plan and the purpose for our life now because we've already kind of raised our kids and we're empty nesters and we kind of turned all of our attention to our grandkids, but then they grew up too. What does God have for us now?" And they are just going to discover that now they are in a season of life where they can be sages and they can speak into the lives of future generations.

Because of what happens in this moment an abused woman is going to be seen and she's going to realize that God grieves over how she has been mistreated and she's going to find healing and wholeness.

Because of what happens here, hundreds of disillusioned people who have been hurt by people claiming to know God are going to get a renewed sense of hope in who Jesus has called His people to be.

Because of what happens today, thousands of people are going to be lowered into the waters of the baptism and resurrected as new creations in Jesus Christ.

Because of what happens today...

A week ago last Saturday night about 1,000 people decided to go first. They gathered here at the Northwest campus for something called Advanced Commitment Night. And I just want you to hear directly what God has been doing in their hearts and to see just a glimpse of the powerful moment that took place last Saturday night. So, take a look at the screen.

Aaron

What we do here tonight, it matters. You are not an accident.

You are alive right now, in this generation, in this time in history to be God's ambassador to earth in the midst of the brokenness, to be a light in the darkness.

Wake up oh sleeper.

Alexandra

What I feel like God is teaching me in this season of *Awaken* is that I need to let go of control. I have always lived with fear and anxiety where money has been pretty much at the root of that. And we're having a second child too. We want to have all of those things planned. And God's just been like, "If you don't know the next steps, can you trust Me? Can you step out in faith and take that next step? And God has just been like, "Just let go."

Russ

The timing of this thing in my life, right now is the time I think is relative to where you are in your stage of life. I'll be 74 this Christmas. So is life short for me? Yeah. I have to seize the moment. For years I pushed this off. Where I am now, God is calling me to step out in faith to trust Him.

Franklin

What God did in me was first and foremost, He nearly begged me to appreciate and realize that this work of the *Awaken* series is what is meant to inspire.

Emily and Tyler and Grant

We'd like to say and tell you what we have in raising our family and our finances instead of trying to grab on and grab a hold of every dollar that we make, and every decision we have for Grant, we're really trying to open our hands to God and let God take dictate the way that we spend our money and the way that we pay rent and ultimately how we live our new life.

Emily and Seth



My eyes have been opened to why I have been working hard for my business and for a while it's been for earthly treasures, for the money, for the recognition, for the praise of people. But I have realized that I don't want to be selfish with my resources and I want to give back to the kingdom in whatever ways that I have.

Emily

Last year was the most challenging year of my life. And through that time I was still staying true to my rhythms. However, I realized that I was sleepwalking through them and wasn't bringing my all. I think through *Awaken* Aaron challenged us to take the baton and run the next leg of the race. And that's what I want to do now.

Jasen

At the beginning of the series I naturally wanted to check box and say, "Hey, we've been tithing. We've been giving for years and we're there." The *Awaken* part was that some good things have put me to sleep. The fact is that I've gotten complacent in the fact that I was giving, I got complacent in the time I was spending with God, and that there wasn't as much passion. I was really just checking a box.

So this awakening has changed my passion, it has changed my focus. What I'm realizing is that He's looking for some financial dependence and the full release of control, control I thought I'd let go of years and years ago, but I still held on to a piece. This is a new day. I have no idea what is coming next. And for the first time, I feel like that's exactly where I need to be.

Aaron

Right now as God looks at the condition of the world, what He is looking for is a handful of committed men and women and students and kids whose hearts are fully surrendered to Him to be awakened.

End Video

That's incredible.

We've got an opportunity today to have that same kind of encounter. So that's what we're going to do today as we just wrap up our time together in this. I just want to encourage you to just pull out this commitment card right now, if you would. And this is just our response in worship to God, "God, I trust You and I'm willing to test You."

Some of us, I just want to celebrate with you because you're going to step out in a faith journey that maybe you've never stepped out in before. And God is going to take that and He's going to use it to make a difference, because, as I have said so many times before, what we do in this moment really, really matters.

So, I just want you to know that you don't have to fill in all of these boxes inside. That's mostly just a worksheet just to help you kind of think through what it is that God is



leading you to commit. The biggest thing to remember is your name and then that final box there at the bottom.

And what this is, all it is is, “This is what I intend to give to Traders Point in the *Awaken* vision over the next two years.” So, if you’re somebody who already gives, you just take that number and you include it in whatever it is that God is calling you to do.

For some of you it’s going to be adding extras. For some of you it’s going to be stored resources. You just fill in that final box. Some of you, this is the very first time you’ve ever committed to anything and I’m so excited for you and the faith journey that you’re going to be walking into. For others of you, this is going to be the largest commitment that you’ve ever made.

I want you to know that Lindsay and I are with you in this. We have always faithfully tithed to our church family, and in the previous generosity initiatives we’ve always tried to give sacrificially above and beyond that. But God has taken us to a new place with the number that we are committing to *Awaken*. It’s a faith journey. So, we are with you in that.

For some of you, God is leading you to a place where you are like, “Man, I didn’t even know that that was possible.” I’ve had so many people come up to me and say, “I had a number in mind and then God changed it on me.” Here’s the deal. They made a safe choice and God was taking them to a courageous choice. And maybe that’s a work that He’s doing in you as well.

I just want you to take a few minutes and I want you to spend some time thinking about that and for some of you, maybe you’ve already got your card filled out. You’ve already got your commitment. And you are like, “Man, this is what God is asking me to do.” I just want to ask you to take a moment, if you’re here with your spouse, or your small group, or family—just take this time to consecrate this before the Lord. Just commit it to Him. And He sees your heart in that.

For others of you, maybe you haven’t fully written a number down because it kind of makes you nervous to write a number down because that makes it more real. And I just want to encourage you to have the boldness and faith right now, in this moment, to make that commitment before God.

I just want you to spend a few moments praying and offering this up to Him. And then I’m going to come back up here in just a few minutes to give us some instructions as to how we’re going to close up our time together today. So, just take a few moments and work on this and pray and then we’ll come back up and wrap this up in just a few minutes.

Resume Message



Guys, I just want you to know that it is just the honor of Lindsay and my life to be able to serve you in this way and to be on this journey with you. We're so excited for the future that God has in front of us.

What I want to do is I want to ask you to stand to your feet, if you would, across all of our locations. We're going to pray together as a church family and then we're going to close out our time in worship, dropping off our commitments.

God, we come to You right now and we're so grateful for how You're such a good and gracious and generous God. And we just want to be awakened to Your presence and Your power and what it is that You want to say and do in each one of us so that we might be available for You to do a work through us. So, God, would You use our church in the years to come to be a beacon of light and hope in a world that is hurting and in the darkness.

God, I pray that You'd be honored by our commitment to You. That You'd be honored by our faith, by our generosity, by our availability for You to do a work in us and through us. So would You do more than we could possibly ever ask or imagine—far more. And we give this to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

