

WAKE MY HEART
Finish Strong



VISION GUIDE



**BECAUSE WHEN
ONE HEART
IS CHANGED,**

In the fall of 2019, Vox Church began a two-year generosity campaign focused on three major ministry priorities. This *one-fund campaign* focused around ONE unified vision directed into ONE fund. Rather than being project-focused, a one-fund campaign focuses on priorities. With three specific priorities, this campaign goes far beyond raising funds. The goal is to mature as a church in the grace of giving, grow as disciples of Jesus, and advance the mission of Christ in new arenas. But to really understand Wake My Heart, we must deeply understand the heartbeat of Vox Church.

**EVERYTHING
CHANGES.**

WHAT DOES GOD CARE ABOUT MOST?

As a church family, we want to align what we care about with what God cares about. Jesus made God's intentions clear: his heart beats for people. With a population of 14.8 million, New England has fewer people attending church or reading the Bible **than any other place in America**. We live in the greatest mission field in the Western Hemisphere, and we believe that this is the season for spiritual awakening.

Over the last ten years, Vox has planted nine churches. Six of these churches are in one of the ten largest New England cities. Over half of New England's population lives within fifteen minutes of our ten largest cities, and no church has ever had the opportunity to reach all ten cities through an ongoing, united effort. *Vox's vision is to see New England changed from the least-churched region in the United States to the most spiritually vibrant place on earth.* But before God can awaken the region, he must awaken our hearts.



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

On December 12, 2019, the Vox Church family committed \$19,590,555 in giving over two years. No one could have foreseen what happened next as the world was turned upside-down through the COVID-19 pandemic. But despite numerous trials, the family at Vox has miraculously gotten stronger, and the priorities of Wake My Heart have been advanced beyond what we imagined!

PRIORITY 1: **STRENGTHEN OUR** **CURRENT MINISTRIES**

The dramatic shift thrust upon the church through the pandemic created an amazing opportunity to rebuild our systems and develop our teams. We have completely overhauled our Vox Kids, Vox Youth, Community Groups, Spiritual Care Ministry, and Women's Ministry in the last two years. We have also built the necessary infrastructure for growth by opening our fully renovated 21,000-square-foot central offices in July 2020 and increasing our office space in Harford and Worcester. We also overhauled our central finance team, data team, and IT team. We have added ministry staff at our New Haven, Stamford, Bridgeport, North Haven, Middletown, Worcester, and Hartford locations. We've also launched Vox Church Online, reaching thousands of people across New England and the world each week. We've taken more ground in strengthening our current ministries than we ever imagined possible!

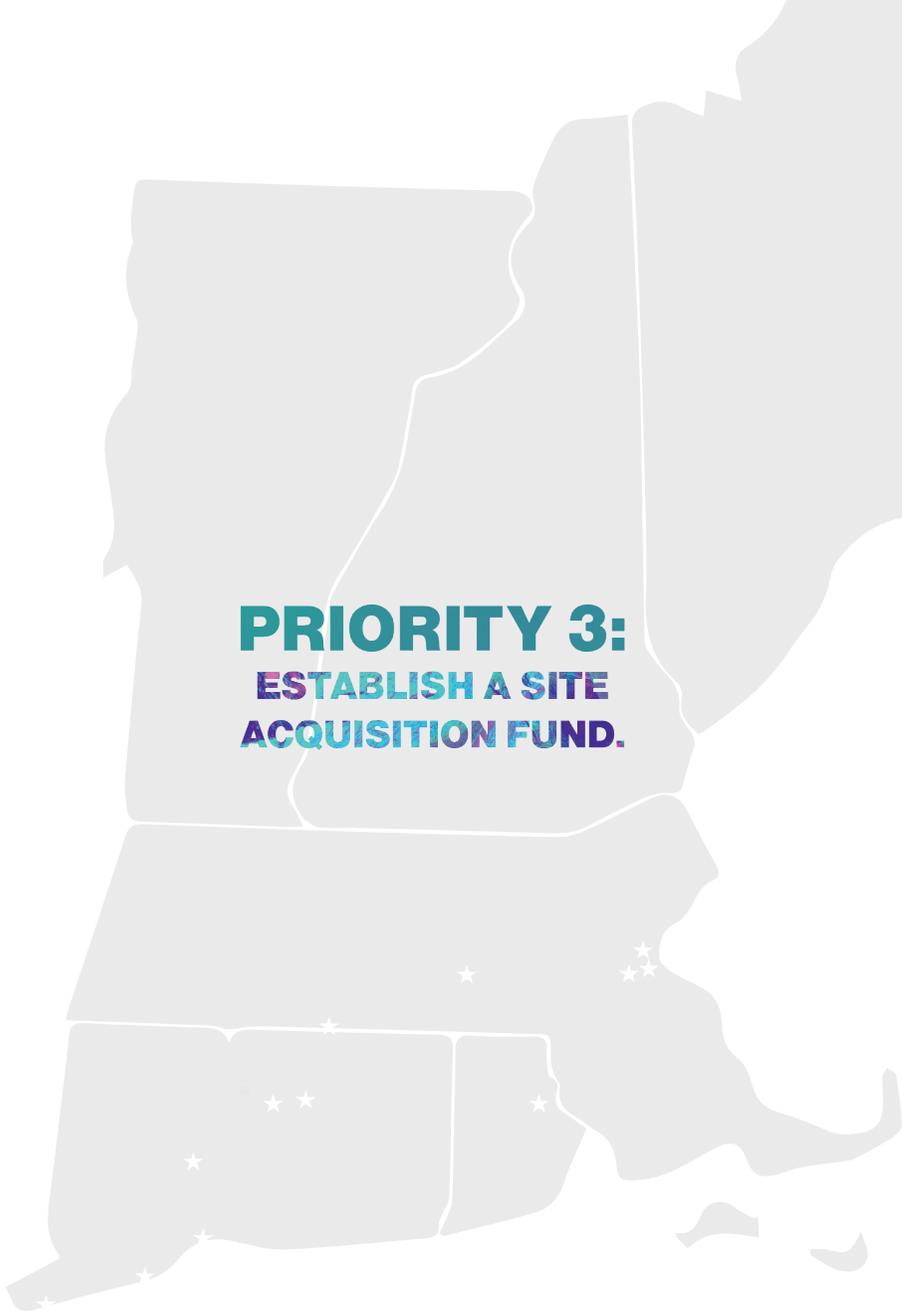


PRIORITY 2: **SECURE OUR FIRST** **ANCHOR LOCATION AND** **LAUNCH NEW CHURCHES**

We are so excited for our first anchor location to open officially by the end of 2021! Vox Church Branford began construction from the ground up this year and has moved forward with incredible efficiency. We trust God for the full commitment amount to come in for this project to be fully funded.

We have been meeting weekly with our Vox Worcester team and are planning a Sunday morning launch for early 2022. Additionally, Vox New Britain plans to relaunch in 2022.





PRIORITY 3:
ESTABLISH A SITE
ACQUISITION FUND.

As we reach the final phase of Wake My Heart, we are taking steps of faith to secure permanent facilities for our mobile locations. Our goal is to build our second anchor location in the Hartford area in 2022 as a hub for future locations in and around Hartford County.



God has worked miracles in the last two years, but it will take a significant step of faith and sacrificial generosity from our church to reach the commitment goal of \$19,590,555 by the end of 2021. As we approach our “Finish Strong Offering” on December 12, please pray and ask God to guide you in preparation for this important day of giving.

WEEK 1 (NOV 21) STRETCH:

God has stretched all of us in unexpected ways over the last two years. What is he doing? What is God’s greater purpose for his church in this unprecedented season?

WEEK 2 (NOV 28) STORIES:

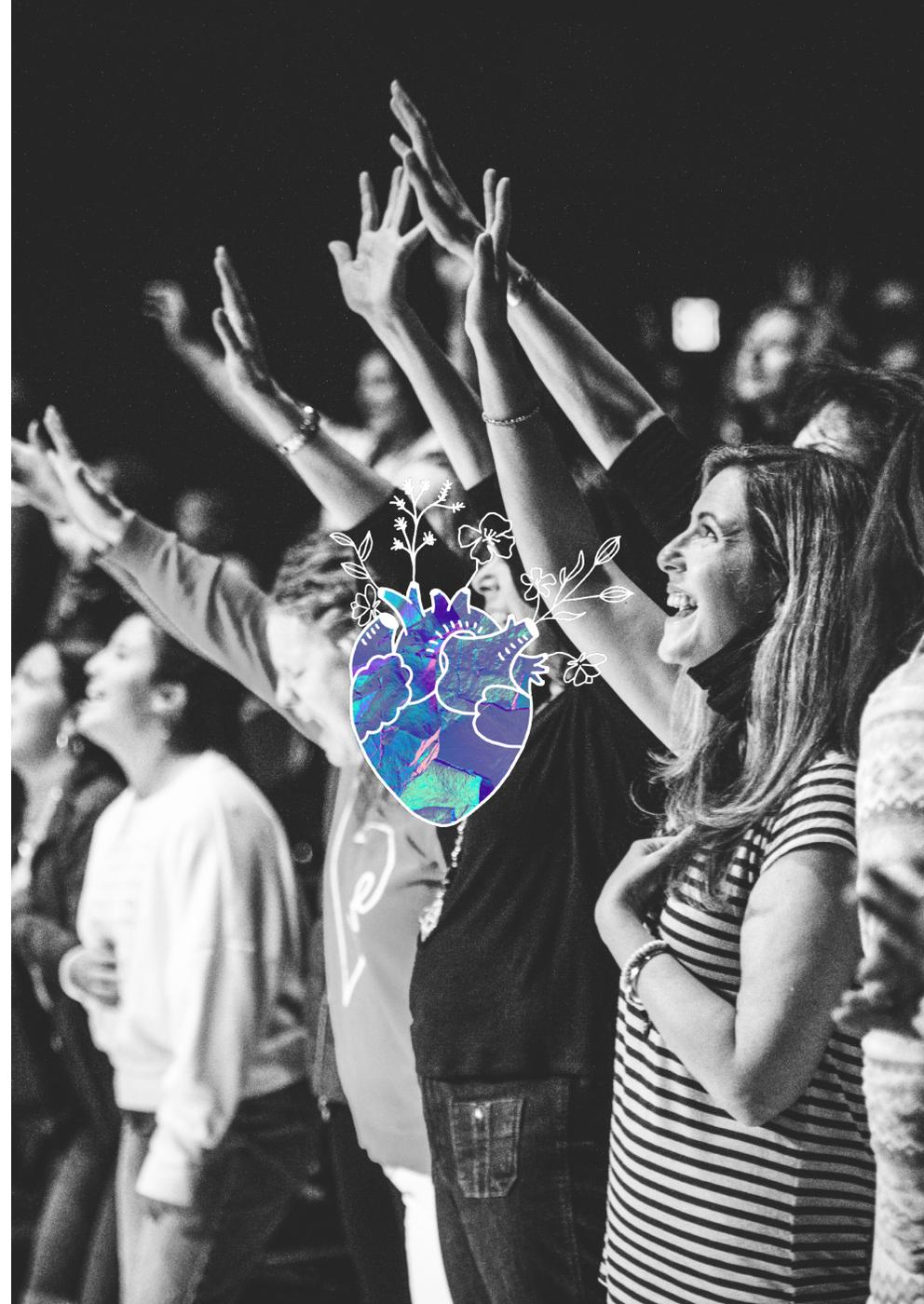
The last two years of generosity have resulted in a tidal wave of miraculous stories. How has God been intervening? Where do we see his hand at work?

WEEK 3 (DEC 5) SIGHT:

We are standing at a significant crossroads in the history of Vox Church. What’s next for us? Where are we going? How has God called you to be involved?

WEEK 4 (DEC 12) SACRIFICE:

We will conclude our two-year Wake My Heart journey together at our end-of-year offering service. By the collective sacrifice of the church, we are trusting God to reach the full commitment of \$19,590,555.



HOW DO I RESPOND?

The great prayer of Vox Church over the last two years is that God *would wake our hearts for what breaks his heart*. We want to learn to love what he loves and grow in the grace of generosity in our lives. As we conclude this two-year generosity campaign, we ask you to do three things:

1. Pray

We believe that 100 percent participation in prayer is the most significant key to fruitfulness. Would you please pray and ask God how he would have you personally sacrifice? Each of us approaches this end-of-year offering from a slightly different place. Maybe you can identify with one of the following categories:

a. I am new to Vox and didn't make a WMH commitment. Because Wake My Heart is a one-fund campaign, every dollar given at Vox goes toward reaching our commitment goal, whether you made a commitment or not. Would you pray and ask God how he would lead you to give sacrificially on December 12?

b. I made a WMH commitment, and I am close to fulfilling it. As you prepare for December 12, consider what you might move around or change to fulfill your original commitment. Ask God to give you courage and guidance as you prepare and take a step of faith. Stretch your faith and trust him at a new level.

c. I made a WMH commitment that I have already fulfilled. There are many people who have not been able to fulfill their commitment due to the challenges of the last two years. Is it possible that God has blessed you so that you could step in for this purpose? Consider an end-of-year gift above and beyond your commitment and watch how God will make a way.

d. I made a WMH commitment, and my situation has dramatically changed. The last two years have been full of things beyond our control. If your situation has changed and you cannot fulfill your original commitment, there is no condemnation! Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you on how to make a sacrificial gift during our end-of-year offering.

2. Participate

Our goal is that 100 percent of the people at Vox participate in the final phase of Wake My Heart. Maybe you've never given before. Now is the perfect time to stretch your faith and learn the faithfulness of God firsthand. You will discover that sacrificial giving leads to abundant blessing—not overwhelming lack!

3. Celebrate

God loves a cheerful giver, so let's celebrate his faithfulness in our lives over the last two years and approach our **Finish Strong Offering on December 12** with glad and thankful hearts. We trust God to reach our commitment goal, and we are so grateful to take this journey with you.



WAKE MY HEART

questions

WHAT IS WAKE MY HEART?

Wake My Heart is a two-year generosity campaign at Vox Church that began at the end of 2019 to enable us to take the next step in the vision to see New England changed from the least-churched region in the U.S. to the most spiritually vibrant place on earth.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN?

This campaign is about spiritual growth that changes our values on the inside so that we love what God loves more than anything else. Our goal is that 100 percent of our congregation would participate in prayer and sacrificial generosity, fulfilling the commitment total of \$19,590,555 by the end of 2021. Spiritual growth is what the apostle Paul had in mind when he said, “Be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?

Despite numerous trials in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the priorities of Wake My Heart have advanced thanks to the faithfulness of God and the family at Vox. Our current ministries have been strengthened, and our first anchor location is scheduled to open in Branford by the end of this year!

WHAT IS LEFT TO DO?

As the Wake My Heart campaign comes to its conclusion, our three priorities go on. Our immediate focus is fully funding the anchor location in Branford. As part of our site acquisition fund, our goal is to build our second anchor location in the Hartford area in 2022 as a hub for future locations in and around Hartford County. We have an exciting plan to continue launching new churches over the next ten years, beginning with a relaunch of Worcester and New Britain in 2022.

HOW FAR ARE WE FROM COLLECTING THE TOTAL AMOUNT COMMITTED? WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T RAISE ENOUGH MONEY? WHAT HAPPENS IF WE RAISE MORE?

First, we believe in the power of God's provision, so we trust him all the way. Whatever resources are raised during the campaign will be used to move forward. You will receive up-to-the-week updates on where we are during the WMH Finish Strong series at Vox. If we raise more than our goal, we will prepare for new locations and expand ministry at current locations.

HOW DID COVID-19 AFFECT VOX CHURCH?

When we were unable to meet in person last year due to the pandemic, we launched Vox Church Online through streaming and virtual technology, and it has been a tremendous success. As a result, our social media followers have grown

from 5,000 to more than 30,000, and thousands of people attend church online every week. After returning to in-person Sunday services, our average online weekly attendance continues at more than 3,000 people, with many tuning in from across the United States and countries like Spain, Costa Rica, Canada, Jamaica, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. While COVID-19 radically changed the financial picture for so many, the giving at Vox remained stable, and we are encouraged to see in-person attendance growing every week with many people coming for the first time.

ISN'T IT RISKY TO EXPAND DURING THE PANDEMIC? MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST STRENGTHEN THE CHURCHES WE HAVE?

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought numerous trials for people and churches, the family at Vox has miraculously grown stronger. The truth is that 14.8 million people live in New England and the vast majority are far from God. God has opened the door for effective ministry, and we must wisely and humbly walk through it. We don't have to choose between strengthening our current ministries and growing in new locations. By God's grace, we can do both. By empowering leaders and delegating responsibility, Vox can take ground on multiple fronts in any given year. Our leaders seek to move at the level God gives us grace for.

IS WAKE MY HEART A BUILDING CAMPAIGN?

No. Rather than focusing on a building project, Wake My Heart is a priority-focused campaign, looking at the big picture of what needs funding to ensure we accomplish our vision in the best way possible. Our congregation is challenged to grow in the grace of giving as the means God intends for his church to fund the ministry.

WHY DO WE NEED TO SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON A BUILDING? IF THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF PEOPLE, SHOULDN'T WE SPEND THE MONEY ON PEOPLE INSTEAD OF BUILDINGS?

At Vox, our goal is to reach people, not build buildings. However, the time has come when a larger permanent space will enable greater effectiveness and efficiency to reach people and allow auxiliary ministries to gain traction. At Vox, we are intentional and strategic in serving the poor and helping find long-term solutions to problems at home and around the world. We designate 11 percent of our annual budget toward local and global outreach, and that hasn't changed. It's just time for a new level of effectiveness, which also communicates to the cities and towns God places us in that we are here to stay, serve, and minister.

WILL THE NEW ANCHOR LOCATION REPLACE SERVICES AT THE COLLEGE STREET MUSIC HALL IN NEW HAVEN?

No. The Branford location will support our downtown New Haven location to effectively reach the Greater New Haven area, offering multiple services at different times than at College Street with live preaching at both.

WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

As we approach the campaign's conclusion, please pray and consider how God calls you to give at the end-of-year **Finish Strong Offering on Sunday, December 12th**. We trust God to fulfill our commitment goal and that as a church, we will step into 2022 stronger than ever.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CAMPAIGN IS OVER? DO I GO BACK TO GIVING AT THE LEVEL I DID BEFORE WAKE MY HEART?

Our primary goal with Wake My Heart is to bring about spiritual growth for our congregation through a revelation of God's love that would reorder the priorities of the heart. When you are deeply convinced, through the evidence of the cross, that God loves you, the spell of money is broken, and you can trust God with all that you have. This powerful change of heart grows in us as the gospel takes root, and a life of radical generosity is the proof. At Vox, we teach the concept of *priority, percentage, and progressive giving*. This means to trust God by giving first, starting with tithing (giving ten percent of your income) and growing and stretching your giving over time. Our prayer is that you have developed a habit for priority, percentage, and progressive giving that continues even after Wake My Heart concludes.

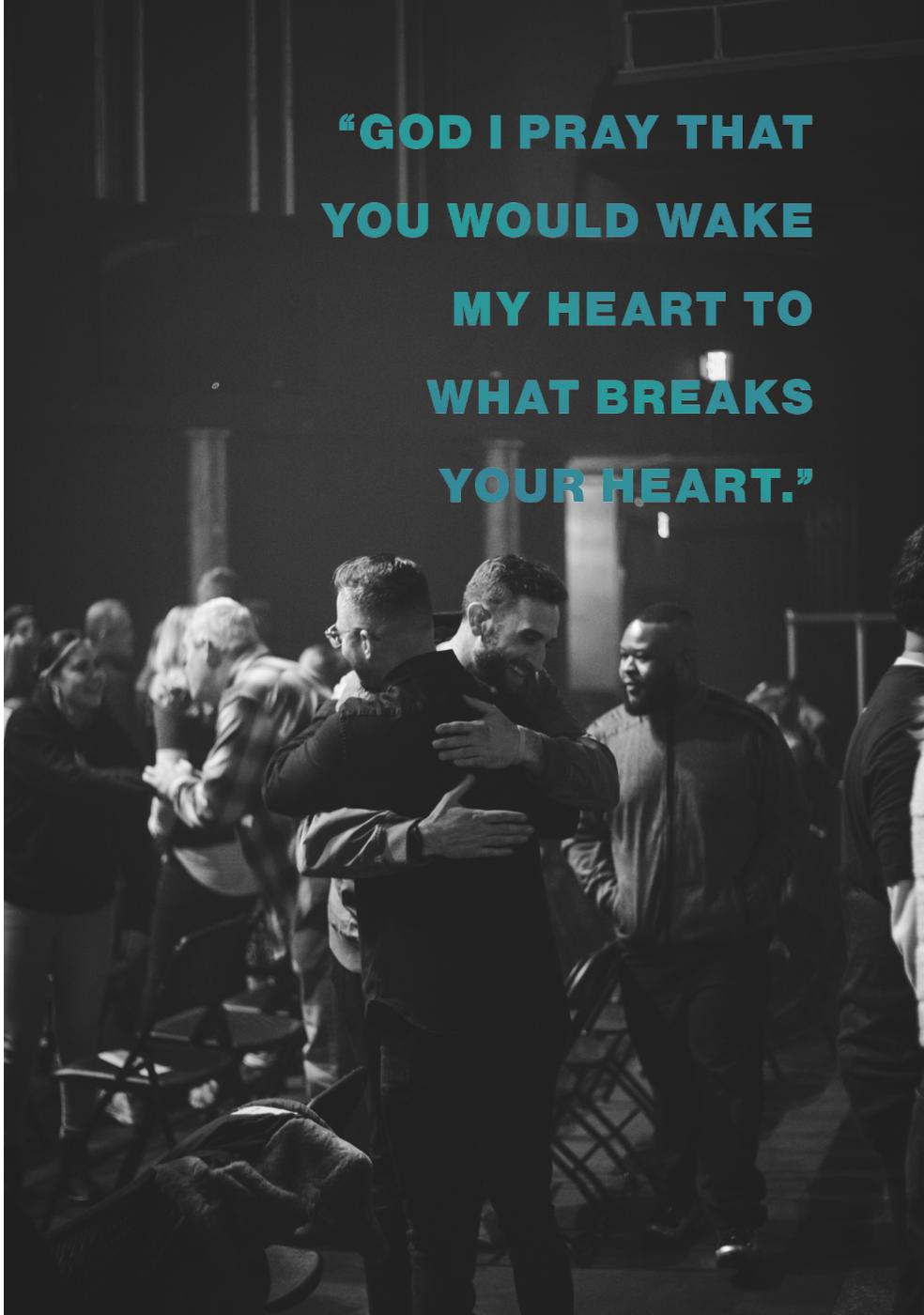
CAN YOU DEFINE SACRIFICIAL?

A simple definition of sacrificial is to give up something I want, something I need, or something that represents security. Most likely, your commitment comes from excess income, decreased spending, liquidating assets, generating more money with time and talent, or sacrificing something. It is deciding upon what I can give up, do without, postpone, or alter in order to give to the mission of Vox.

IS THE SACRIFICE OF MONEY A BIBLICAL PRACTICE?

Absolutely! In 2 Samuel, King David says, “I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.” The essence of sacrifice is that it COSTS us something. This type of giving is pleasing to God because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in him.

You can submit additional questions to:
info@voxchurch.org



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WAKE MY HEART

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EVERYTHING CHANGES**

voxchurch.org/wakemyheart

