

Why do our commitments matter?



February 16, 2020

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"A startling account of the elusiveness of the American Dream." —*TIME* MAGAZINE

"You should read this book!" —DR. PHIL

The TWO- INCOME TRAP

**WHY MIDDLE-CLASS PARENTS
ARE GOING BROKE**

THE BREAKTHROUGH BOOK THAT
PROVIDES SOLUTIONS TO THE BIGGEST
CRISIS FAMILIES FACE TODAY

With a New Introduction by the Authors

ELIZABETH WARREN &
AMELIA WARREN TYAGI

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Convictions → Commitments

Our commitments should flow naturally from our convictions and help us remain faithful to our priorities.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Agenda

1. Update on our commitments (David)
2. Discussion (All)
3. Biblical & Wisdom Perspective (Todd)

Commitment Update

2019 Giving Recap

128 Giving Units (includes anyone contributing more than \$1)

2019 Giving Recap

128 Giving Units

	2019			
	Goal	Commit		
Budget	\$475,000	\$437,000		

2019 Giving Recap

128 Giving Units

	2019			
	Goal	Commit	Actual	Actual / Commit
Budget	\$475,000	\$437,000	\$464,390	106%

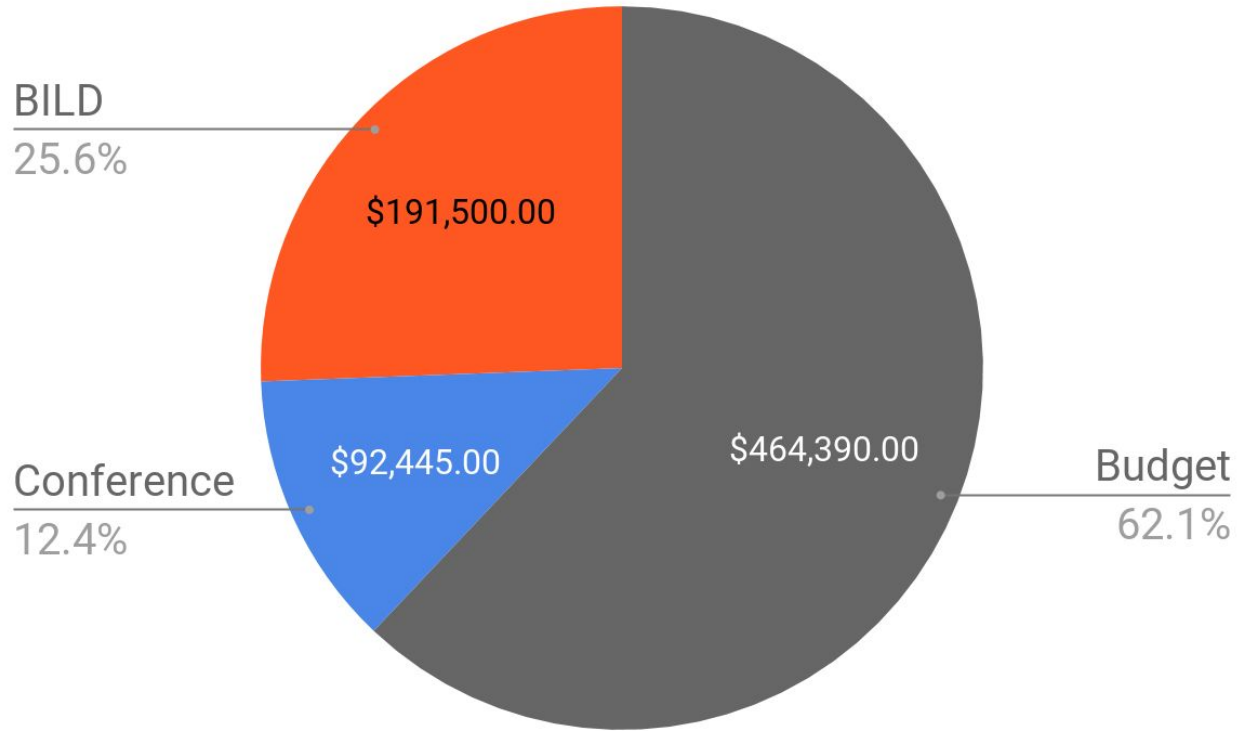
2019 Giving Recap

128 Giving Units

	2019			
	Goal	Commit	Actual	Actual / Commit
Budget	\$475,000	\$437,000	\$464,390	106%

Only **half of the story**, well **62.1%** to be exact...

2019 Giving Recap ~ \$750,000 Total



2019 Giving Recap

	2019			
	Goal	Commit	Actual	Actual / Commit
Budget	\$475,000	\$437,000	\$464,390	106%
Conference	\$80,000	\$90,540	\$92,445	102%
	\$555,000		\$556,835	



Summary



2020				
Goal		Commit		
\$500,000		\$470,335		
\$90,000		\$94,355		

- Estimated response rate: **81%**!

Year over Year (YoY)



	2019				2020				
	Goal	Commit	Actual	Actual / Commit	Goal	Goal YoY Δ	Commit	Commit YoY Δ	Forecast?
Budget	\$475,000	\$437,000	\$464,390	106%	\$500,000	5%	\$470,335	8%	\$499,814
Conference	\$80,000	\$90,540	\$92,445	102%	\$90,000	13%	\$94,355	4%	\$96,340
	\$555,000		\$556,835		\$590,000				\$596,155

Thanks to all who helped with the process!

Discussion

Discussion (10 min)



1. What is the value of making a financial commitment to the church?
2. How do you (individual or family) go about making that commitment?
3. What issues do we have to deal with in making the commitments we want to make?

Biblical & Wisdom Perspective

Why Make Commitments?

- We are under constant ideological attack
 - Sometimes fighting very direct lies, and other times we're dealing with slight deviations from the truth
 - We commit and re-commit as a part of countering these attacks
 - We are constantly renewing our minds in order to build and maintain convictions - this is theology in culture
- OT Examples
 - Nation of Israel committing to following the Law (Exodus, Deuteronomy)
 - Nation of Israel committing to following the Law (after it was found in the reign of Josiah)
- NT Examples
 - Lord's supper
 - Not neglecting to meet
- Others - Marriage

Why Make Commitments?

- Commitments aren't about making a law to follow, it's about being established in God's wisdom. We need help, we need reminders, we need discipline.
- Colossians 1:9-14

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,^[e] 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Stewarding our Finances

How do most effectively steward our finances?

1. Getting established in the church
 - a. Being around others who are putting things all together
 - b. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
 - c. If we aren't established in the church, we're just living a guess and check life
2. Master of our money
 - a. Not boxing ourselves into commitments that don't advance lifework priorities
 - b. Budgets
 - c. Further accountability, as needed

Getting Established

Life comes at us in waves



Getting Established

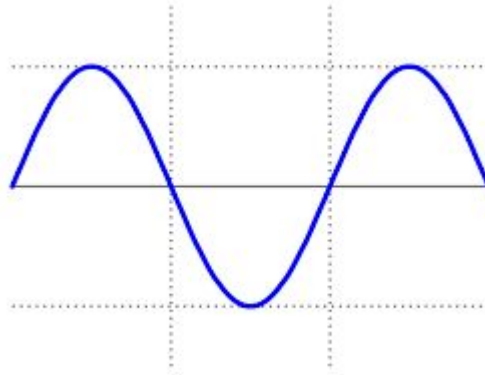
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Getting Established

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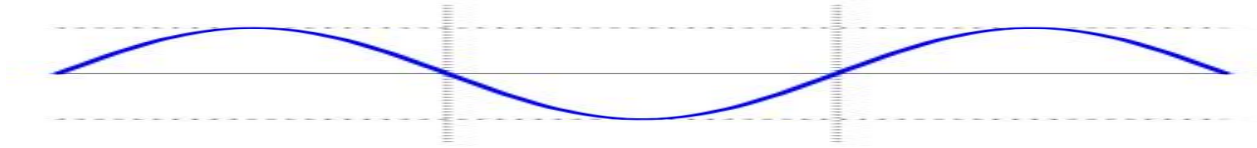
- These waves are events and issues in our lives and the community around us
- Most of the time the peaks and valleys are manageable



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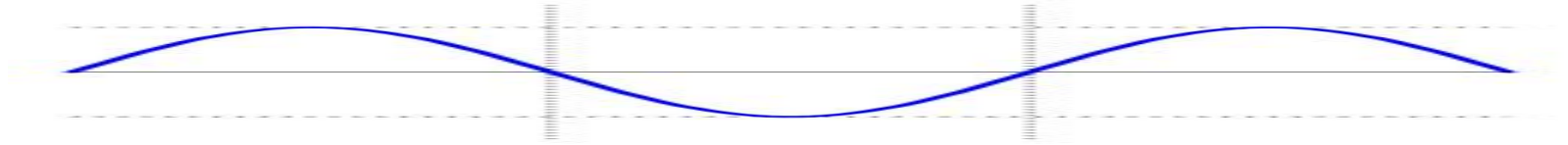
- Life is complex - we're not just managing one wave at a time...
- The good and bad thing with waves is that they add and subtract from each other
 - Like two people jumping on a trampoline - jumpers can time their jump to:
 - Have no impact on the other jumper
 - Fling each other sky high
 - OR make it extremely difficult for the other person to get any bounce or possibly get knocked down
- So, things can be really good, really bad, or some mix



Getting Established

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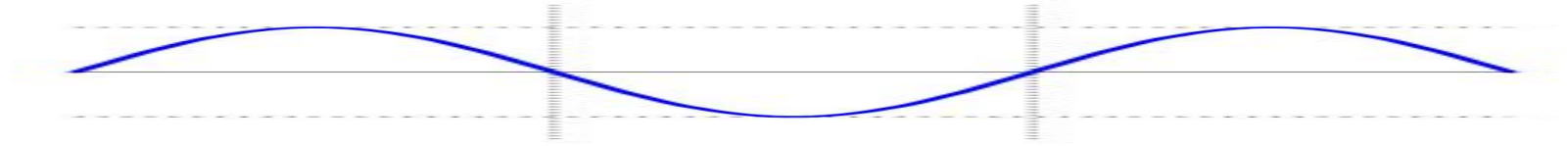
- Waves can be:
 - Marriage



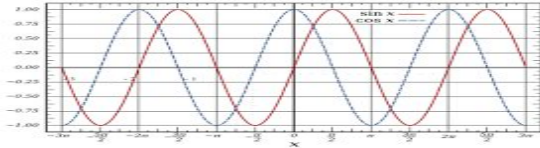
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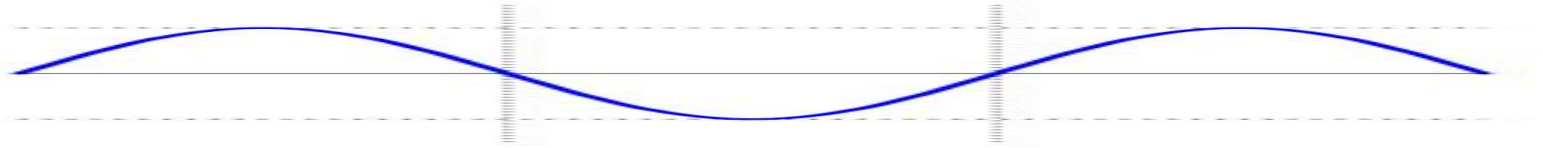
- Kids



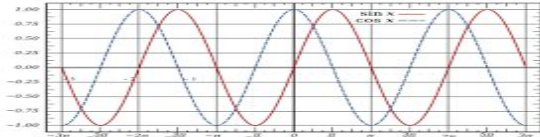
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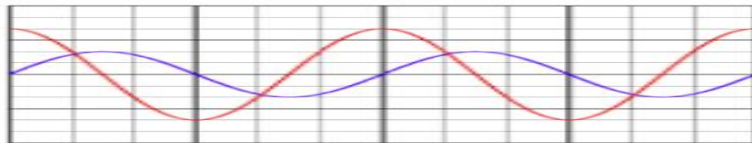
- Waves can be:
 - Marriage



- Kids



- Interactions with other people



Getting Established

Life comes at us in waves

- Waves can be:
 - Work
 - School
 - Financial
 - Things in the news (tragedy, political, issue du jour, etc)
 - Social media



Getting Established

Life comes at us in waves

- Waves can be:
 - Work
 - School
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 - Things in the news (tragedy, political, issue du jour, etc)
 - Social media
- We need to be established so that we can deal with complex life issues in a way that avoids craters, but also gives us enough perspective and vision to climb back out of the lowest valleys we will find ourselves in.



Getting Established

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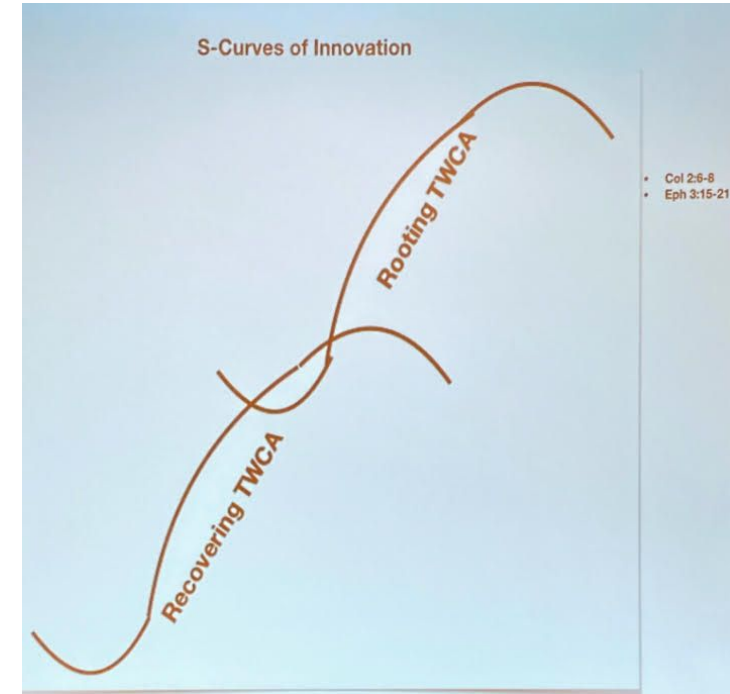
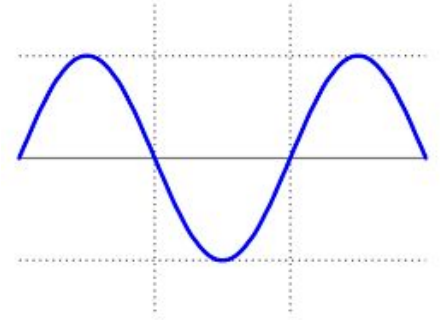
- Waves can be:
 - Work
 - School
 - Financial
 - Things in the news (tragedy, political, issue du jour, etc)
 - Social media
- We need to be established so that we can deal with complex life issues in a way that avoids craters, but also gives us enough perspective and vision to climb back out of the lowest valleys we will find ourselves in.
- We also need wisdom to understand how to respond to waves coming at us



Getting Established

Life comes at us in waves

- The strength of us as individuals, families, and a family of families depends on us being able to handle issues in our life as the system of issues they are
- As we are rooting the paradigm, we have to continue to work towards understanding the full truth of God's Word, and the application of that truth in our lives.



Master of Our Money

- We either control our money, or we are a slave to it. It's a part of our stewardship!
- Not a rich or poor problem - either group can be a slave to money
- 20% of households making \$100,000/year live paycheck to paycheck
 - Heavily skewed towards more expensive areas (NYC, Bay area, etc)
 - BUT - this can happen anywhere at any income level



Master of Our Money

1. Understand your priorities
 - a. Full stewardship of all your lifework, not just money
 - b. LifeN timeline is a great tool for this!
 - c. What do you need to be doing to hit priorities in each stage of life?
2. Make commitments that set a foundation for fulfilling those priorities
 - a. Marriage, work, housing, transportation, etc
 - b. Losing focus leads to poor choices which can lead to 5-10 year+ delays in advancing priorities
 - i. Don't box yourself in with long term commitments on unnecessary expenses (or income)
 1. 7 or 8 year car loans
 2. Mortgage at high % of income, changing homes in 1-2 years
 3. Huge student loan debts
 4. Low quality durable goods
 5. Some types of investments, insurance, etc
 - c. Both spouses REQUIRED to work full-time due the decisions you make early in marriage

Getting Boxed In Example

\$60,000 Income (\$5000/month)

Getting Boxed In Example

\$60,000 Income (\$5000/month)

Running Total: \$1600

Type	Expense	Cost
Payroll	Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,000.00
Payroll	401k	\$ 300.00
Payroll	Health Ins	\$ 300.00

Getting Boxed In Example

\$60,000 Income (\$5000/month)

Running Total: \$3807.52

Type	Expense	Cost
Payroll	Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,000.00
Payroll	401k	\$ 300.00
Payroll	Health Ins	\$ 300.00

Type	Expense	Cost
Home	Mortgage	\$ 1,074.18
Home	Tax/Ins	\$ 558.33
Home	Utilities	\$ 575.00

Getting Boxed In Example

\$60,000 Income (\$5000/month)

Running Total: \$4458.92

Type	Expense	Cost
Car	Cars	\$ 396.40
Car	Insurance	\$ 95.00
Car	Registration	\$ 50.00
Car	Gas	\$ 110.00

Type	Expense	Cost
Payroll	Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,000.00
Payroll	401k	\$ 300.00
Payroll	Health Ins	\$ 300.00

Type	Expense	Cost
Home	Mortgage	\$ 1,074.18
Home	Tax/Ins	\$ 558.33
Home	Utilities	\$ 575.00

Getting Boxed In Example

\$60,000 Income (\$5000/month)

Running Total: \$4978.60

Type	Expense	Cost
Car	Cars	\$ 396.40
Car	Insurance	\$ 95.00
Car	Registration	\$ 50.00
Car	Gas	\$ 110.00

Type	Expense	Cost
Payroll	Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,000.00
Payroll	401k	\$ 300.00
Payroll	Health Ins	\$ 300.00

Type	Expense	Cost
Home	Utilities	\$ 575.00
Home	Tax/Ins	\$ 558.33
Home	Mortgage	\$ 1,074.18

Type	Expense	Cost
Loan	College	\$ 289.68
	Phones	\$ 130.00
	Entertainment	\$ 100.00

Getting Boxed In Example

\$60,000 Income (\$5000/month)

Running Total: \$5000.00

Type	Expense	Cost
Car	Cars	\$ 396.40
Car	Insurance	\$ 95.00
Car	Registration	\$ 50.00
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Type	Expense	Cost
Loan	College	\$ 289.68
	Phones	\$ 130.00
	Entertainment	\$ 100.00

Expense	Cost
Giving	\$ 21.40

Getting Boxed In Example

\$60,000 Income (\$5000/month)

Running Total: \$5000.00

Type	Expense	Cost
Car	Cars	396.40
Car	Insurance	95.00
Car	Registration	50.00
Car	Gas	110.00
Payroll	Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,000.00
Payroll	401k	\$ 300.00
Payroll	Health Ins	\$ 300.00
Giving		\$ 21.40
Loan	College	\$ 289.68
	Phones	\$ 130.00
	Entertainment	\$ 100.00
Home	Utilities	\$ 575.00
Home	Tel/Ins	\$ 558.33
Home	Mortgage	\$ 1,074.18

Understand your priorities before making major commitments

- **You may not like the box you're in if you don't**

Master of Our Money

3. Maintain your budget and commitments to fulfill your lifework priorities
 - a. Pressures will come on your budget
 - i. Banks are willing to lend based on your income, not priorities
 - ii. Financial advisors may not understand your priorities or recommend spending in spite of your priorities
 - iii. Generally based on percent of income
 - iv. Your life situation may not be right for the expense
 1. Rent vs Own decisions for housing - if you're not going to be somewhere for AT LEAST 5 years, buying a house is a gamble as an investment alone
 2. Your future plans may need to exclude some income
 3. You may have a significant expense that isn't in their model
 - v. You may need to run a VERY tight ship for a season, or make significant adjustments in other seasons of life.
 - b. Allow others to keep you accountable if you need the help
 - c. You can't control everything - that's why it's important to steward wisely what you can

Shepherding our Finances

- How do we shepherd others?
 - Establishing!
 - Sharing stories and experiences in community - good and bad
 - We all need the encouragement that we aren't the only crazy person doing _____
 - Helping develop convictions on priorities
 - Bringing perspectives on the next stage(s) of life
 - Bringing perspective into difficult times (refocus)
 - Remind each other of the real freedoms we have in Christ!

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 - Remind each other of the real freedoms we have in Christ!
 - Accountability, a helping hand, an encouraging word, one anothering
 - As invited in, and you have relevant skills to share - very different avenues to pursue depending on the situation.

Items to Shepherd

1. Encourage people to fulfill their commitments
2. Make an effort to follow up with people who you'd expect to have committed, but have not for one reason or another.
 - a. A first step may still be to determine who hasn't made a commitment
 - b. Even if commitment isn't reflected here, we'd like for them to make one and fulfill it
3. Continue to establish those who may not be ready to make a commitment.
4. Help those who desire to give more, but can't/don't
5. Encourage people to reassess their commitments
 - a. Whatever cadence makes sense in their situation - ask before December
 - b. When situations aren't changing much, this doesn't need to take much time

