

## THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

### PRECEPT

#### Psalm 145:4

<sup>4</sup> One generation will declare your works to the next and will proclaim your mighty acts.

### PROMISE

If the Church acts as a Church, we can make a difference in the world. If we commit to being the Church that Jesus is building, we will be unstoppable; lives will change. The Church rises or falls on the faithfulness of its people, not the preaching or the program, but the people who commit to being the Church Jesus is building. People are empowered to forgive, love their enemies, pray and restore relationships. The early church helped break addictions and created a loving community where people from different backgrounds and cultures became one family. The truth is, the past generations of Christians—those who truly represented the Church made an impact that still shapes the world today. They gave, served, and sacrificed, and since they committed, the Church advanced, lives changed, and society transformed. In this generation, we are the representatives of the Church, the past generation did their part, and now we are called to do ours.

**GIVE.** Support your local Church financially and become a blessing. Be generous; an average person gives when asked, but a generous person gives even when not asked and gives out of love. Make a Plan, set a particular % and commit to giving regularly. Generous people never miss the money they spend on the people they love, and you will never miss the money you give to the organization you love. It goes down to love—the true identity of the Church. Give because you love. Give and support your local Church financially, and that's a commitment to a true Church that Jesus is building.

**CARE.** Share your Church so others can experience Jesus. Be inviting! And that will make our church inviting. When you invite people, you will stop complaining about little things. You stop noticing little annoyances, and you will start caring about the bigger picture. The reason people don't come back to the Church is that something in it is not inviting, and the reason people come back to the Church is that something in it is so inviting. The people will decide if they are coming back or not, even before the preacher comes up and starts preaching. It's about the environment, it's the atmosphere, it's about the people. So let's create a community, a family like the kind we have received. A place that welcomes, supports, and cares.

**SERVE.** Serve with your gifts to build up the body. The best investment you can make—outside your family—is your local Church. The local Church is the activity of God here on earth. It is an invitation, an opportunity of a lifetime to be actively involved in your local Church. This is how we can impact the community and eventually the world around us. This is the commitment of the Church Jesus is building. Galatians 6:9 says, "Don't get tired of helping others, for at the proper time, you will be rewarded." The foundation is love—give generously, care deeply, and serve faithfully. What we give today, God multiplies tomorrow. Faith becomes contagious. Then lives are changed—not just ours, but the next generation's too. We become the kind of Church others will thank God for in the future.

### PRACTICE

1. **Church.** How is your commitment to the Church? Are you giving? Caring? Serving?

2. **Our commitment.** Is there anything that's hindering/ stopping you from committing? And how can we encourage and pray for you regarding this?

### PRAYER

#### I. Growth

- May He guide us as we seek to grow in faith and character, and to learn from Christ

#### II. Pastors

- Pray that God may grant them strength, & wisdom as they lead.

#### III. Leaders

- Pray that they will lead with integrity & uphold justice, among all.

#### IV. Service

- I Pray that we may serve God & His people faithfully and proclaim His truth boldly.

#### V. Gifts

- Pray that we may be equipped with the gifts of the Spirit to serve God.

#### VI. Community

- Pray for safety and may His presence & love be felt in our families & communities.

#### VII. Church

- May each of us extend His love to our family & communities.