



# FINANCIAL CONNECTION

It is the goal of the OroNaz Finance Team to keep this church family updated on our financial blessings and challenges. Through this expanded Financial Connection we will share biblical teachings that direct the decisions made by the CLT and we hope you can find application to your life as well.

This month we'll focus on *worrying*.

There are so many things that people choose to worry about, too many things to even attempt to list! Did you know the Bible instructs us not to worry?

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" Matthew 6:25*

It seems fairly straight forward, right? Jesus is encouraging us to widen our focus beyond our life in this physical world; to a life that is Christ-like and kingdom focused. This verse speaks directly about not worrying but why does it begin with "THEREFORE"? Matthew 6:25 is found in the middle of a series of Jesus' teachings known as the Sermon on the Mount. If we look at the previous verse we get a more clear picture about the whole lesson Jesus is teaching:

*"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24*

This verse adds another layer of understanding how we, as followers of Christ, can release worry. To be wholly committed to God as our provider (our master) we are free to trust in His plan, even when we may not understand. When we become focused on doing things on our own, achieving and needing to provide for ourselves or our family, we choose to serve money and it becomes our master.

But that is not the life that God wants for us! God provides for us beyond the needs of this world, freeing us from worry while at the same time entrusting us

as stewards to manage the resources He has given us. We live intentionally with our finances so that we may bring glory to His name, not so that we don't have to worry. We are often tempted to try to solve things by our own power, forgetting that we are not the master. Rather, we should lean in to our loving Father to provide a solution or understanding. Doing so will remind us in humility that we are serving a good and faithful master.

We do not need to worry about our lives. Walk in faith and trust in God's plan for your life.

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**FINANCIAL CONNECTION:** As Paul writes, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ". We are keeping the church family updated on our financial blessings and challenges. Please pray and/or give as God leads.

**January** is the 11th month of the annual budget year that runs March 2023 to February 2024. Thank you for your continued financial commitment; it is a testament to what God is doing in us and through us.

Our Pastor, CLT, Treasurer (Joey McCoy) and Finance Team welcome your questions and feedback. Please email the Finance Team at [finance@oronaz.org](mailto:finance@oronaz.org) to start a conversation.

Projected budget March 2023-February 2024(adjusted):	\$711,650
Needed for January 2024	\$ 59,304
Giving for January 2024	\$ 36,530
Expenses paid in January 2024	\$ 55,623

<b>Needed Year to Date</b>	<b>\$652,344</b>
<b>Giving Year to Date</b>	<b>\$667,434</b>
<b>Expenses Paid Year to Date</b>	<b>\$642,518</b>

Shares for Others Paid Year to Date

World Evangelism Fund	\$ 35,792
Pensions & Benefits	\$ 14,642
Education	\$ 14,642
District Ministries	\$ 26,031