



LIVE, GIVE, LOVE GENEROUSLY

SCRIPTURE & DEVOTIONAL READING

JANUARY 3 – 30, 2022

Pastor Michael has prepared these devotionals to complement the sermon series *"Live, Give, Love – Generously."* A characteristic of a Spirit-empowered disciple is a lifestyle of giving first to God and one another. To get the most out of this series of devotionals, keep a journal of insights and prayers in response to what God is teaching & share daily what you are learning with someone else. Discuss in your home and Life Groups. May the Spirit empower us to be free to live generously.

JANUARY 3RD – MONDAY – READ

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 8.

BACKGROUND

Deuteronomy is the second giving of the law by Moses to remind the new generation of God's People who emerged from the 40 years of wilderness wandering. They were about to enter into the Promised Land (as described in the book of Joshua)

Pause and reflect on **Vs. 18** – *"but remember that the Lord your God gives you the power to gain wealth, in order to confirm his covenant he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."* Why was it important to remember with humility the Lord as the Giver of wealth and all good gifts? – see Vs. 19

A Spirit-empowered disciple encounters Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christlikeness. Pause & encounter Jesus as the Source of blessing for your life. He has given you *life and life in all of its abundance* (John 10:10b). Reflect on the blessings and provisions Jesus has provided for you. **Write out a prayer expressing your heart of thankfulness to Him.**

"Lord, Thank You for Your generosity that is beyond words! You are the greatest Giver and my true friend, knowing my needs even when I don't. I'm thankful Your ways and plans reflect Your giving heart that I want to show to others in my life, for I humbly pray in the name of Jesus, Amen."

JANUARY 4TH – TUESDAY – READ & REFLECT ON **JAMES CHAPTER 1.**

BACKGROUND OF TEXT –

James is the half-brother of our Lord who did not believe in Him until after His resurrection. There are many takeaways of this chapter but focus on verse 17. Notice how James describes the Real God as revealed in Jesus – *"The Father of Lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* James knows and expresses the Real God as One of excited grace from whom "every good and perfect gift is from above."

PAUSE & REFLECT –

As you consider some of the good and perfect gifts that have come down from the Father above into your life, write down several of them in a prayer of gratitude to God. Think of relationships, housing, clothes, financial resources, etc.

Express your confidence in the Lord's generosity to continue toward you. – for *"He does not change like shifting shadows"* but will continue to startle you with His grace.

"Abba Father, You are our Father who is in heaven, and I bless You for generously giving good and perfect gifts each new day of my life. May I reflect Your giving heart to others, especially _____. May my loving gifts of time and encouragement be shown, for I pray in Jesus' name, Amen!"

PRAY FOR OTHERS –

"I pray for _____ to know and accept You as Giver, the One who knows every need and gives according to Your perfect

wisdom. May he/she see You as unchanging, never fickle, always faithful, in Jesus' name, I pray, Amen!"

JANUARY 5TH – WEDNESDAY – READ AND REFLECT ON **PSALM CHAPTER 24.**

BACKGROUND –

Psalms is an ancient song book for God's people in the Old Testament. Join the Psalmist who penned this text by prayerfully confessing each line of this Psalm. Focus on **Vs. 1** as the Lord is the Maker and Owner of all of creation. This Creator desires to be intimate with you as He invites you to "*ascend to His mountain*" by the cleaning power of the blood of Jesus.

PAUSE & REFLECT –

Think of Creation around you; maybe outside of your window. Consider that Your Father in heaven owns all of this. Now read this text aloud – We are "*children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.*" **Romans 8:17.** The God created the Universe and made planet earth and formed you in your mother's womb has shared this with you as an inheritance.

What does this do to your heart? Express your heart to the Lord by writing out a prayer.

JANUARY 6TH – THURSDAY – READ AND REFLECT ON **LUKE CHAPTER 6.**

BACKGROUND –

This chapter is incredible, for it records the red-letter words of Jesus. There is so much to unpack; but focus on **verse 38**. Jesus instructs His disciples *not to be filled with criticism toward others* but generosity. His disciples are to be *'giving-first' as a lifestyle*. Jesus promises this life of generously giving will be richly rewarded by his description of *"Pressed down, shaken together, and running over."*

PAUSE & RESPOND –

Jesus instructs His disciples to be *'giving first,'* for He is a *'giving first' kind of God*. Think of these Bible texts – *"We love Him, because He first loved us."* *"For God loved the world in this way, that He gave His One and only Son..."*

What does God's 'giving first' nature do to your heart?

Pray that as You encounter Jesus in the Word that you will be deeply transformed in His likeness to become a 'giving first' disciple.

Write out a Prayer of Yieldedness to Him:

"Jesus, You gave Your life for me; You gave first. May Your Spirit empower me to become a 'giving first' disciple. For I humbly pray in Your name, Amen!"

JANUARY 7TH – FRIDAY – READ & REFLECT ON **ACTS CHAPTER 20.**

BACKGROUND –

This chapter focuses on the apostle Paul's farewell to leaders and disciples from Ephesus where he had imparted the Gospel and his life. Paul quotes Jesus' words in Verse 35. *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* He encouraged them to *"remember"* these words. Jesus' teaching is counterculture. The culture is all about 'getting'; but Jesus' kingdom is all about 'giving.'

PAUSE & REFLECT –

Recall a time when you have given to help someone in a time of need. How did that make you feel? Did you experience Jesus' promise of *"being blessed?"*

Pray and ask the Lord to show who could benefit from your generosity.

"Abba Father, as I consider the blessing of living generously, empower me by Your Spirit to give to _____, for I pray in Jesus' name, Amen!"

JANUARY 8TH – SATURDAY – MATTHEW CHAPTER 6.

BACKGROUND –

This chapter is just one of 3 chapters of Jesus' sermon on the Mount. This sermon is the greatest message ever spoken by the greatest Preacher who ever lived, Jesus! Focus on Jesus' instructions about 'generosity' in Verses 2 – 4 & Verses 19 – 24. In Verse 33, Jesus gives the *antidote to anxiety*.

PAUSE & REFLECT –

Reflect on Your Father in heaven providing for every need in your life. Humbly acknowledge with Humility Him being the giver of wealth and all good things in your life.

Hear Jesus whisper His words to you of verses 19 & 33. Respond with a prayer of surrender to Him as you seek to use wealth as a testimony for the eternal versus worldly priorities.

JANUARY 9TH – THE LORD’S DAY – READ ACTS CHAPTER 2.

BACKGROUND –

This chapter records the first days in the life of the church. The Spirit indwelling believers, the manifest Presence of God, the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus, and many people being saved. Focus on Verses 42 – 47. These verses are the vision of what we pray Roswell Street will become. Notice the *spirit of generosity* of the early disciples.

Generosity is to become the lifestyle of every disciple, and it is to be experienced together in community – just like in Acts 2.

PAUSE & REFLECT –

Generosity has a spreading affect to other followers of Jesus. Because others give to support the Kingdom work of Jesus, your heart is moved to give. Pray for generosity to overflow from your life and the Roswell Street church family for God’s glory.

"Lord, I pray that You would pour out Your Spirit in our hearts as You did in Acts chapter 2. May we become a people who generously receive Your Spirit and generously give to meet the needs of others, for we pray in Jesus’ name, Amen!"

JANUARY 10TH – MONDAY - READ **1** **CHRONICLES CHAPTER 29.**

BACKGROUND –

King David is making preparations to the building of the future Temple in Jerusalem as instructed by the Lord. His son, Solomon, would be the one who would construct the Temple, which would be the dwelling place of the Lord among His people.

Notice that King David gave generously to the work of the Lord and the leaders followed His example. See Verse 9 of how this kind of leadership resulted in the rejoicing of all.

PAUSE & RESPOND –

Pray aloud David's prayer to the Lord beginning in Verse 10 - 19. If you are able, pray this from your knees.

Note the humility of King David's heart in Verse 14 –“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your own hand.”

All that you give only comes from what is in the Lord's hand. As you have freely received from the Lord, you can freely give to the Lord.

HOW'S YOUR GENEROSITY?

The pastors and leaders of our local church family lead with generosity – giving first themselves to the Lord and also their resources. This means that leaders of Roswell Street lead by giving

the first 10 percent of their income to the Lord (tithe) and giving above this level as an offering to the Lord. Knowing the generosity of leaders (past and present), what does that do to your heart? Are you inspired and encouraged to participate in the culture of generosity?

"Abba Father, Who am I that You would freely give to me all the many blessings from Your gracious hand? May Your Spirit empower me to increase generosity by freely giving to Your Mission of the church and needs of others, for I humbly pray in Jesus' name, Amen!"

JANUARY 11TH – TUESDAY – READ **LUKE** **CHAPTER 12.**

BACKGROUND –

Jesus is warning against religious hypocrisy and its spreading influence. He teaches the importance of walking in reverential fear of the Lord and boldly acknowledging a relational loving loyalty to Him. In the midst of His teaching, someone from the crowd inquires about wealth and inheritance. Notice verse 15 that Jesus warns about greed, *"because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions."*

Consider – *If your life is not about possessing things, then what is it really about? Your life is about the One who possesses you!*
Prayerfully embrace that *Who You Are* is more important than *what you possess*.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF –

"Abba Father, may Your Spirit help me to think differently than the world around me. My life is not about what I possess, but about You

possessing me. I surrender my heart to You once again and I pray that I will boldly acknowledge Your Son in everything I do, for I humbly pray in Jesus' name, Amen!"

JANUARY 12TH – WEDNESDAY – READ ACTS CHAPTER 17.

BACKGROUND –

This is an action-packed chapter of the movement of the Gospel through the missionary journeys of the apostle Paul and his friends. They are traveling through Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. Paul is standing in the marketplace (Areopagus) and He proclaims in midst of many altars and idols 'the Unknown God' as the *Real God* of Creation who has come to rescue the world by the sending of His One and Only Son. Consider how He does this in **Verses 22 – 31**. Focus on **Verses 24 – 25** of how Paul describes the Real God to the crowd – *God is the one who gives life and breath and everything else.*

PAUSE AND RESPOND –

Take a deep breath and realize it is the Real God who really loves You that has given you that breath (and your next one).

"God, thank You that You have given me life and breath and all things; May I continually value my relationship with You and Your favor above earthly resources. May my love for you continue to grow as I rightly view this world as fading away, for I pray humbly in Jesus' name, Amen!"

PRAY FOR OTHERS –

"I pray for _____ to recognize You as the Maker and Source of everything good in life, better than any accumulation of wealth. May he/she guard against greed, realizing life, eternal life, and abundant life are given by You through the Lord Jesus Christ, I humbly pray in Jesus' name, Amen!"

JANUARY 13TH – THURSDAY – READ **1** **TIMOTHY CHAPTER 6.**

BACKGROUND –

The letter of 1 Timothy was written by the older apostle Paul to the younger Timothy of how to lead in the local church. This book provides amazing insight not only how to live out the Christian faith in the church but also in daily life. Chapter 6 records the culmination of what Paul is sharing of godly wisdom. This is imparting of faith by the Holy Spirit to the next generation.

Focus on **Verse 6 – 10**. What is great gain? What does Paul warn Timothy of pursuing? **Write down in your journal what God is speaking to you from this text.**

Focus also on **Verses 17 – 19**. *God gives us freely all things to enjoy* and the fruit of a Spirit-empowered disciple is becoming generous and willing to share with one another.

PAUSE & REFLECT –

Prayerfully seek to utilize your material resources as a testimony of *the eternal versus worldly priorities*. **If accumulated possessions on earth have no eternal value, where should be our focus?** Someone

has well said, "We cannot carry anything with us when we die, but we can send them on ahead."

WRITE OUT A PRAYER –

In a journal, write out a prayer expressing to God what You desire to become generous with what He has generously given to you to enjoy.

JANUARY 14TH – FRIDAY – READ ECCLESIASTES CHAPTERS 1 & 5.

BACKGROUND –

Ecclesiastes is the last of King Solomon's writings. He is writing reflectively with regrets of his life as an old man. He is filled with 'godly sorrow' over wasted time and investment. His theme of the book is how everything under the Sun is "empty and futile" without a relationship with the God above the sun.

PAUSE AND REFLECT –

5: 10 – "The one who loves silver is never satisfied with silver, and whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with income. This too is futile."

Worldly possessions can never satisfy the eternal desire of our heart. Only the Lord Jesus can satisfy our hearts by giving us freely abundant Life (John 10: 10) and eternal life which flows like rivers of living water within our hearts (John 7: 37-39).

HUMBLY ACKNOWLEDGE WITH KING SOLOMON –

"Abba Father, I recognize that no amount of things in this world can ever satisfy my heart; Only You can give me fulfillment. I am grateful that Your One-and-Only Son came to give me life and life to its fullest. Turn my eyes from worldly possessions to Your eternal kingdom, for I pray in Jesus' name, Amen."

Write in your journal ways to utilize your resources/ wealth as a testimony of eternal verses worldly priorities.

JANUARY 15TH – SATURDAY – READ PROVERBS CHAPTER 3.

BACKGROUND –

The book of Proverbs is the writing of a loving father (King Solomon) to his son. The King is passing faith to the next generation, and so the King of the Universe who is your Father speaks these words into your heart. The Holy Spirit has given us this book today for wisdom and insight in how to practically live out our faith. Each verse is like a sermon in itself and provides wise counsel for the new year.

PAUSE AND REFLECT –

Verses 9, 10 – *"Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest; ¹⁰ then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine."*

Solomon wisely instructs his son to give the first part of the produce to honor the Lord. Why would that be important?

Solomon gives an incredible promise to the one who is generous. Notice what happens to the 'barns' and 'vats' of one who honors the Lord with his/her possessions.

So it is today as we generously live, give and love the work of the local church. God's kingdom is being expanded in Marietta, our nation and the world through the mission and ministry of His local church. Embrace the priority of giving 'first' to honor the Lord through regular offerings to the church.

PRAYERFUL GOAL OF A DISCIPLE –

Honor the Lord with sacrificial giving and serving.

"Lord Jesus, You said, 'Come, follow Me.' Please help me see others and all You have given me in the way You see it. Show me how to follow with Your kind, generous, and even sacrificial heart to serve the mission of Your church and others. May I honor You with my first and best, for I humbly pray in Your name, Amen"

JANUARY 16TH – LORD'S DAY – READ LUKE CHAPTER 19.

BACKGROUND –

Jesus and His disciples' journey through Jericho, and He calls Zacchaeus by name to come down from the tree. What made Jesus' invitation to Zacchaeus so special? He was a well-known sinner and he was despised by the people because of his occupation as a tax-collector. Jesus spends the day with him. *What was the outcome of Zacchaeus' salvation freely given by Jesus?*

PAUSE AND CONSIDER –

What changed Zacchaeus from a life of greed and self-indulgence to a life of generosity?

What is changing you from selfish priorities to a life of selflessly giving, living, and loving others?

Surely, it is the mercy of God in encountering Jesus which changes us from the inside out!

PRAY FOR OTHERS –

Abba Father, I pray that _____ encounters Jesus with open arms of love and compassion. Your love that leads me to repentance can change him/her. I am believing in You to change this one, for I pray in Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

JANUARY 17TH – MONDAY – READ 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8.

BACKGROUND –

Live, Give, Love Generously is a theme clearly developed in this chapter. The apostle Paul is writing to the 1st century church of believers in Corinth. He is encouraging them to practice generosity in the exercise of 'grace-giving.' The church is to practice a culture of generosity of each member living with open hands and hearts in giving to needs that fulfil the Lord's mission for the church.

PAUSE AND CONSIDER –

In **verses 1 – 6**, what compelled the poor believers of Macedonia facing turbulent times to give so generously?

In **verse 9**, what is the compelling reason for believers today to become 'giving first' disciples?

Notice in **verse 12**, God is not expecting believers to all give 'equal gifts' but with 'equal sacrifice.' Prayerfully consider giving 1/10 of your income to the Lord. The 'tithe' places all believers on equal standing of giving with the same heart to honor the Lord. According to Scripture, an offering is anything you give over and above the 'tithe' to the Lord.

RESPOND WITH YOUR HEART –

Write out a pray expressing worship and wonder for the grace God has given to you in Christ.

Ask the Spirit to empower you to increase your level of generosity –

- In faithful giving to His mission being carried out through the ministries of His church.
 - In being generous to give, live and love others.
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JANUARY 18TH – TUESDAY – READ

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 9.

BACKGROUND –

This letter is written by the apostle Paul to the 1st century church in Corinth. *What verses in this chapter speak to you of becoming a generous disciple?*

Write down Bible verses and insights of being generous.

RESPOND WITH YOUR HEART –

"Abba Father, as You are teaching me about generosity, I pray You will empower me to live my life explained as one of 'experiencing Scripture.' I pray that what I learned of _____ will be evident in my life, for I pray humbly in Jesus' name, Amen!"

**JANUARY 19TH – WEDNESDAY – READ
LUKE CHAPTER 21.**

In **verses 1 – 4**, Jesus is observing people who are giving Temple offering and He takes special notice of the widow who gave 2 mites. **What do you learn of Jesus' evaluation of her offering?**

As Jesus observes your offerings, what would He say about your practice of generosity to His kingdom's work through the local church? Respond with your heart to His invitation to *"Lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth."*

Write down insights and impressions you gain from this encounter with Jesus.

A Spirit-empowered disciple faithfully shares their time, talent, gifts and resources in furthering His mission.

JANUARY 20TH – THURSDAY – READ **1** **JOHN 3.**

As you prayerfully read this entire chapter, focus on **Verse 18** – *"Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth."* To live, give and love generously requires more than just agreeing with the need to do so, but actually doing it by your actions.

What action did God take based on His Word to demonstrate His love to you? – see **Verse 1**

What heart responses to God demonstrate your love for Him? – i.e. – heart of *gratitude, surrender, listening...*

What actions might you take demonstrate your love to others? – giving attention, appreciation, respect, compassion...

PRAYER RESPONSE -

"Heavenly Father, empower me of Your Spirit to move beyond words to actions of love. May I become a 'giving-first' disciple of Jesus who demonstrates your love by actions of kindness and patience, for I pray in Jesus' name, Amen."

JANUARY 21ST – FRIDAY – **READ JOHN** **CHAPTER 13.**

In this upper room setting with His disciples, Jesus issues a new commandment in **Verses 34- 35**. What is His command? Why is it different that the previous commands in the Old Testament to *"Love your neighbor?"* What is new about His command?

Reflect and write down the ways that Jesus has demonstrated His love for you.

As you think of the '*near ones*' in your life, who might the Spirit desire you to express Jesus' love?

Write out a prayer of surrender to live generously by joining Jesus in loving this one well.

JANUARY 22ND – SATURDAY – READ 1 SAMUEL 18.

BACKGROUND –

This chapter takes place in the life of young David. David had slain the giant Goliath, and his popularity was growing. King Saul was insanely jealous of David. Jonathan, Saul's son, and David formed a close friendship.

Notice **verses 1 – 4** of the deepening friendship that David and Jonathan enjoyed with one another. **How is mutual generosity displayed between these two friends?**

PAUSE AND CONSIDER –

Recall a close friend the Lord has given you. Express your heart of gratitude to God for this one.

Consider how you may be generous with gifts of time, attention, support or other means to this friend. Take time to communicate by a text, phone call or visit.

RESPOND IN PRAYER –

"Abba Father, just as David and Jonathan enjoyed a special friendship, I am grateful for the special friendship with _____. I pray that You would show me a practical way that I can display generosity to my friend, for I pray in Jesus' name, Amen!"

JANUARY 23RD – LORD'S DAY – READ MATTHEW CHAPTER 25

Reflect on the parable in **Verse 14 – 30**, Jesus explains *the kingdom of heaven like an owner who entrusted to his servants with talents and went away for a time.*

What are several insights you gain from this parable?

Jesus is the Owner of all things, and He has entrusted you with His possessions. You are God's money manager. He will return, so invest His possessions wisely to produce gain.

RESPOND WITH YOUR HEART TO JESUS -

Write out a prayer expressing your heart to please Him in all things by becoming a good and faithful servant –

Gratefully acknowledge, as a good steward, that you have freely received, and so you freely share.

"Abba Father, thank You for all You have freely given me. May I be a good manager, pleasing You and guided by You as I freely and joyfully give. Empower and guide me in using my God-given spiritual gift in the various ministries You give, trusting You with the results.

May I be found faithful with whatever You entrust into my care, for I pray in the wonderful name of Jesus, Amen!"

JANUARY 24TH – MONDAY- READ **CHAPTER GALATIANS 6.**

Live, Give, Love Generously is not just about generously giving physical resources; it is also about giving of ourselves to meet relational needs in the lives of near ones.

Pause and reflect on **verse 2** – *"Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* This text encourages us to meet one another's need of support.

GRATEFULLY REMEMBER -

Remember a time when You experienced someone coming alongside of you in a time of 'burden' and who helped carry you. Write a prayer of thanks for this one and God who is the ultimate one who daily 'carries our burdens.'

FREELY GIVE TO MEET THE NEED OF SUPPORT -

We all need support by someone lovingly coming alongside to provide gentle, appropriate help with a problem or a struggle.

Support looks like helping someone with a big project, teaching someone how to do something or willing to do hard things together.

WHO might be facing a problem or struggle that could benefit from your support?

Pray and ask the Spirit how you might support this 'near one.'

"Heavenly Father, You have brought _____ to my heart who needs support. May Your Spirit empower me to meet his/her need of support by _____, for I pray humbly in Jesus' name, Amen!"

JANUARY 25TH – TUESDAY – READ **1** **CORINTHIANS 16.**

BACKGROUND –

The apostle Paul is writing to the local gathering of disciples in the city of Corinth giving instructions on many things. Here in this text He is teaching them the importance of generosity in **Verse 1** about a *'collection'* for the believers who were suffering financial hardships from persecution in the city of Jerusalem. In **Verse 2**, Paul instructs them 'when' the offerings should be received and 'how' they should be received.

PAUSE AND REFLECT -

What insights about **GENEROSITY** toward the mission of the church do you gain from this text?

What are the Mission & Vision of the Church at Roswell Street in Marietta?

What are some ministries and missions work that is supported through the *'collection'* that is received *'on the first day of the week'*?

RESPOND IN PRAYER –

"Abba Father, Thank You for allowing me to be a part of such a generous body of believers in our local church. I am grateful for the mission of the church to _____ and I am especially grateful for the ministries that meet the needs of _____. May hearts of generosity multiply that Your church today can be a vibrant witness of Jesus' love that the church in the 1st century was. For I pray in the powerful name of Jesus, Amen!"

JANUARY 26TH – WEDNESDAY – READ MARK CHAPTER 8.

This chapter is a part of the action-packed Gospel of Mark which shows the powerful activity in the life of Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus taught His disciples to live a lifestyle of 'giving first' by first giving their lives to Him.

PAUSE AND REFLECT ON ON VERSE 35.

"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me and the gospel will save it."

ENCOUNTER JESUS & RESPOND –

Picture Jesus with a cross on His back walking up to be crucified. What might He be feeling in these moments? Imagine what He looks like? Why is He doing this?

Whisper these words in prayer – "Jesus, you are carrying that cross for me!" Pause and worship Him.

Now hear Jesus say to you – *"I gave my life for you; Come, lose your life because of Me and the gospel. For in giving Yourself to Me, you will find life's true meaning."*

Express Your heart of surrender to Jesus by writing out a prayer –

JANUARY 27TH – THURSDAY – READ LUKE 18.

Pause and Consider Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler in **Verses 18 - 23**. This young man had everything going for him, and he inquires of Jesus how he can inherit eternal life.

Why do you think Jesus instructed him "sell all you possess and distribute it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then Come, Follow Me"?

PAUSE AND RESPOND –

How would you respond to Jesus if you were the 'rich young ruler'?

"Lord Jesus, You have asked me to give my all to follow after You. My answer is 'Yes, Lord!' You are the Pearl of great price, for which I am willing to give everything to follow you, for I humbly yield my heart to you, Amen!"

A Spirit-empowered disciple faithfully shares their time, talent, gifts and resources in furthering His mission.

JANUARY 28TH – FRIDAY – READ

MATTHEW CHAPTER 10.

Jesus is sending His disciples out to advance the kingdom of heaven. Pause and reflect on Jesus' focus on **verse 8b** – *"Freely you have received, freely give."*

What have you freely received from the Lord?

What might the Lord be leading you to freely give? To whom might He want you to freely give?

PAUSE AND RESPOND –

Gratefully acknowledge, as a good steward, that you have freely received and so, you can freely share.

"Abba Father, I recognize that all that I possess was freely given to me by You. May You empower me of Your Spirit to freely share the things entrusted to me to further Your mission, for I humbly pray in Jesus' name, Amen!"

A Spirit-empowered disciple lives a life explained as one of "experiencing Scripture." **Seek to experience Matthew 10:8b by freely sharing with someone today.**

JANUARY 29TH – SATURDAY – READ 1

PETER 4.

Background –

Peter is writing to persecuted believers who are scattered in the 1st Century in the Roman Empire. There are many insightful parts of this texts but pause to reflect on Verse 10 – “Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.”

PAUSE & REFLECT -

What gifts have your received that you may use to serve others?

Pause and rejoice in your identity as a *"good steward of the varied grace of God."* God has freely given grace to you so you may be His manager to freely give grace to others. What does that do to your heart?

PRAY FOR YOURSELF -

"Abba Father, thank You for all You have freely given me. May I be a good manager, pleasing You and guided by You as I freely and joyfully give. Empower and guide me in using my God-given spiritual gift in the various ministries You give, trusting You with the results. May I be found faithful with whatever You entrust into my care, for I pray in the wonderful name of Jesus, Amen!"

PRAY FOR OTHERS –

"Abba Father, I pray for _____ to acknowledge and be a good manager of Your multifaceted grace working in his/her life. May he/she recognize the God-given spiritual gifts and serving opportunities You provide, whether they appear small or large, for I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen!"

JANUARY 30TH – LORD'S DAY – READ PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4.

BACKGROUND –

The apostle Paul is writing from prison to the 1st century believers in Philippi expressing gratitude for their support and partnership with him to advance the Gospel. He shares several insights that are empowering for us today.

PAUSE AND REFLECT on **Verse 19** – The Real God of the Bible is the One who meets all our needs according to His riches in glory. What an amazing description of the God who loves us!

What needs has the Lord met in your life? Write them down in a journal and write out a prayer of thanksgiving.

"Abba Father, as I write down the many needs you have met in my life spiritually, relationally, wellness, financially and vocation – I am in awe. I confess with this text that I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me, for I humbly trust You in Jesus' name, Amen!"