



*Home*  
for the next 100 years

# FAMILY DEVOTION GUIDE

# day 01

**“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”**

**– Luke 6:37 – 38 (NKJV)**

Jesus said those beautiful words when He was teaching the principle of sowing and reaping. It is like when a farmer sows corn seeds in the ground and the seeds grow up into corn stalks and then later the farmer reaps a harvest of corn. That's the way God works. Whatever you give out in life, you're going to get more of it back. For example, if you often yell and scream at the people around you to get what you want, then don't be surprised when they yell and scream back at you. But, if you give forgiveness when you are wronged, then you will receive forgiveness in return. Consequently, we benefit much more by giving good things rather than bad things.

Notice how Jesus said that if you give, you will get a good measure back. When you plant a seed, you don't just get back one seed in return. You get back a plant or a tree that produces many more seeds. In the same way, when you give, what you get back is often more than what you gave. A good measure is like when a generous server at Braum's scoops out an extra ginormous heaping of ice cream for your cone.

The basic problem with some teaching about giving is that teachers present material gain as the primary motive for giving. God doesn't want us to catch the vision of getting; He wants us to catch the vision of giving.

God cares more about our hearts. The Lord does not bless our giving; He blesses giving from the right attitude of our hearts. When we give, we receive blessings; however, that should not be our main motivation for giving. We must confront any selfishness in our hearts.

**What are some areas of your life where you've seen this “sowing and reaping” principle at work in the past – for either good or bad?**

Some have called this Bible passage the “Spiritual Law of Reciprocity” – whatever you give (judgment, mercy, time, service) will be returned to you in abundance.

# day 02

**“If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs. Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,’ and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you. You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all to which you put your hand.”**  
– *Deuteronomy 15:7 – 10 (NKJV)*

In order to become generous givers, we must first confront the problem of a selfish heart. God cares very much about our hearts. The verses you read directly address these matters of the heart in terms of generosity and giving. In this passage, Moses exhorts God’s people to give generously and willingly to those who need help. If a person refused to give to a fellow Israelite because they thought the debt wouldn’t be repaid before the Year of Jubilee (the year when all debts were cancelled or forgiven), then this refusal would be a direct violation of God’s command. God does not want us to have selfish, begrudging hearts.

God did not create generosity because He needs our money or resources. God owns everything, and if He did need something, He could create more of it. The reason God created giving was for our benefit. Giving, more than any other activity that we as believers can do, works selfishness and greed out of our hearts and lives.

In addition, to dealing with our selfish hearts, God wants us to take care of our grieving hearts. In this passage, God specifically says, “Your heart should not be grieved when you give.” Selfishness attacks us before we give, and grief attacks us after we give. Often the reason a person grieves after giving is because of a false perspective that he is the owner, and not the steward, of his possessions. However, God is the owner because everything belongs to Him. In our short lives, we have the opportunity to steward various resources that come our way, but God already owns all of it.

If the teller at the bank handed you one hundred dollars from money already in your account, the bank would not grieve over giving it to you because it already belongs to you. In the same way, when we give to God, we can do so without grieving if we realize that He already owns it. The fact is this: God doesn’t bless giving. He blesses giving from the right attitude of our heart.

Can you think of a time you’ve struggled with either selfishness or grief when giving?

**What are some practical ways you can work through those initial struggles in your heart and choose to have generosity with a grateful heart?**



# day 03

**“If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. And when you send him away from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed; you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD your God has blessed you with, you shall give to him. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.”**

**– Deuteronomy 15:12 – 15 (NKJV)**

God said He wants us not only to give, but also to be generous. The first time we are born in the natural, we are born selfish. Every parent knows children have to be taught how to share because they don't do it naturally. But when we are born again, we are born generous. God wants us to be generous just as He is generous.

Why did God instruct the Israelites in this passage to remember that they had been slaves? Because it would fill their hearts with gratitude for what He had done for them.

When we allow God to remind us that we used to be slaves to sin and that everything we have is by His gracious hand, this knowledge will help us to be grateful. And when we're grateful, it's easy to be generous. Genuine gratitude to God is a rare and powerful thing. And a heart of gratitude is a vital key to cultivating a lifestyle of generosity. Always remember what God has done for you. It will make generosity a natural response from your heart.

People can give of their time, treasure, and talents. How does the way people spend their time, give of their treasure, and use their talents show where their heart is? In which of these areas are you the most generous? Which is the greatest challenge for you?

One hindrance to having a generous heart is believing that what you have is yours instead of God's.

**How does having a proper perspective about God being the owner of everything make it easier for you to give? What are some practical ways for you to be aware of your status as a steward rather than the owner?**



**“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all of the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,’ says the LORD of hosts.”**  
**– Malachi 3:8 – 11 (NKJV)**

Have you ever arrived at a class only to find that the rest of the students were pulling out pencils, preparing to take a test you had forgotten about? After you realized the teacher was giving a test, were the first words out of your mouth: “What test?!?” Many people don’t realize this, but tithing represents a test for every believer.

The word translated “tithe” in the Bible actually means “tenth” or “a tenth part.” Many people don’t know that the number ten, as used in the Bible, has rich symbolic significance. Just as recurring numbers such as seven and forty carry special meaning, the same is true with the number ten.

The authors of the Bible consistently associated the number ten with “testing.” For example, in the book of Exodus, God tested Pharaoh’s heart with ten plagues. God delivered His standard of righteousness, which tests our conduct, in the form of the Ten Commandments. The children of Israel experienced ten specific tests or trials while wandering in the wilderness. In the book of Genesis, young Jacob worked for his future father-in-law, Laban. During that season, God tested Jacob’s loyalty and character ten times in the form of unjust changes in his wages. And the first chapter of the book of Daniel, he is tested for ten days by the Babylonian official. This pattern continues into the New Testament. In Matthew 25, ten virgins are tested for their preparedness. Revelation 2:10 also mentions ten days of testing.

With this biblical pattern for the number ten, we shouldn’t be surprised to learn that tithing or giving one-tenth of our increase back to God represents a key test for us as God’s children. But it also represents a test for God! This passage about tithing is the only place in the Bible where we are encouraged to “test” God.

Obeying God’s Word through tithing breaks the curse and invites God’s blessings and provision for our lives and finances. It is a test. Will you pass the test? Many believers struggle when it comes to tithing.

**Why do you think this happens? What are some of the barriers or misunderstandings that hinder believers from tithing?**

# day 05

**“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD.”**  
– *Leviticus 27:30 (NKJV)*

The Bible delivers a clear message about tithing. However, some believers today argue against tithing because they say it is a part of the Old Covenant Law, which God replaced with the New Covenant. Yes, tithing was a part of the Law given to Moses. However, the Bible shows that the principle of the tithe existed hundreds of years before the Law. It is a principle of God, not simply an Old Covenant Law. In Genesis 14, Abraham paid a tithe of everything he gained in battle to Melchizedek (an Old Testament symbol for Christ). In Genesis 28, Jacob told God he would give Him a tenth of all his increase. The Patriarchs (early fathers of Israel) understood and honored the principle of tithing long before the Law was written.

The Ten Commandments are the foundation of the Old Covenant Law. If you break one of those Old Covenant commands and murder someone, you would still experience consequences because it is wrong in the eyes of God to murder. Likewise, if you commit adultery, there will be consequences. Even though Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the Law, we still see that consequences remain for living against God’s principles.

God gave the command that all His people are to tithe; however, with our obedience also comes a blessing. The believer’s tithe helps support the work of the church, the pastoral staff, and the ministry to people. The place where we receive our “spiritual food” is the place where we are to pay our tithes. You would never go to a restaurant and eat a meal, and then leave without paying the bill. Yet people who don’t tithe come to the church and eat a “spiritual” meal, and leave without paying the bill, so to speak. Practically speaking, it is the tithe that allows pastors and ministers to spend their time preparing spiritual meals and feeding the people.

**Have you tended to view tithing as a burden or a benefit? What practical steps could you take to keep the benefits of tithing in mind?**

**“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”**  
**– Matthew 23:23 (NKJV)**

In the verses we read previously in Malachi 3:8 – 9, God not only says that we can rob Him when we don't give tithes and offerings, but He also says we are cursed with a curse. This matter is obviously serious to the Lord. Yet some believers resist this teaching and argue that believers who live by the New Covenant cannot possibly experience a curse in their finances because Jesus bore the curse of sin for us all on the cross. There is indeed a wonderful spiritual truth in Paul's words to the Galatians when he says, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (Galatians 3:13 – 14).

Certainly, Jesus bore more than we can possibly imagine on the cross. Yet, it is still possible to experience the effects of disobedience, even though Christ took the spiritual effects of the curse of the Law upon himself. If we disobey God's Word as believers, we can and do experience the negative consequences of sin. This truth applies to our finances just as surely as it applies to anything else in our lives.

In the Bible, the church is referred to as the bride of Christ. What if Jesus gave you one thousand dollars a week, but asked you to give ten percent to His bride while He was away? Would you do it? How would Jesus see the person who gave what He asked to His bride? What about the person who gave extra? What about the person who gave less, or not at all? Tithing is personal to Jesus because it is for His bride.

The author of Hebrews suggests that when we tithe here on earth, Jesus spiritually receives those tithes in heaven (Hebrews 7:8).

**How does that knowledge influence the attitude of your heart as you bring your tithes and offerings to God?**



# day 07

**“You shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the LORD’s. But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.”**  
– *Exodus 13:12 – 13 (NKJV)*

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– *Exodus 13:12 – 13 (NKJV)*

The principle of first emerges throughout the Bible, both in the Old and New Testaments. When we give the first to God, we put God first in our lives.

According to Old Testament Law, the firstborn was to be either sacrificed or redeemed. This principle is critical. No third option existed. Every time the Israelites’ livestock delivered their firstborn, they were to sacrifice it. If it was designated an unclean animal (a donkey, for example), the Israelites had to redeem it with a clean, spotless lamb.

With that principle in mind, think about the account of John the Baptist meeting Jesus on the banks of the Jordan River. One day, John was baptizing people, and he looked up to see Jesus walking toward him. At that moment, John cried out, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

With that inspired declaration, John perfectly defined the role Jesus had come to fulfill. Jesus was God’s firstborn. Jesus was clean – perfect and unblemished in every way. On the other hand, every other human was born unclean. We were all born sinners with a fully active sin nature. If you’re a parent, think about your children. You don’t have to teach them to do wrong things – they naturally do them. Instead, you have to teach them how to be good. All of us were born unclean and with a sin nature.

Now think back to the principle of the firstborn in Exodus. The Law stated that if the firstborn animal were clean, the Israelites should sacrifice it. But if the firstborn were unclean, they should redeem it with a clean animal. Do you see the symbolic parallel? Jesus Christ was God’s spotless Lamb, but every one of us was born unclean; therefore, Jesus was sacrificed to redeem us.

**Why is it sometimes easier to believe we are saved by grace through faith than it is to believe, by faith, that God will bless us and take care of our needs?**

When Jesus redeemed us by His sacrifice, He bought us back for God. Jesus was actually a firstfruits offering. In reality, Jesus was God’s tithe. Is it any wonder that the tithe is such a serious and holy thing to God?

# day 08

**“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”**  
– *Proverbs 3:9 – 10 (NKJV)*

It always requires faith to give the first to God. Before we know if we're going to have any “month left over at the end of our money,” we give in faith and trust. It is not the act of giving ten percent that God blesses – God blesses our faith. It takes faith to give the firstfruits. It doesn't take faith to give the leftovers. When a firstborn lamb is birthed into a flock, it is not possible to know how many more lambs that ewe will produce. God didn't instruct the Israelites to take one out of every ten lambs born, but rather, to give the first lamb. It is an act of faith.

By tithing, it is as if we are saying to God, “I recognize You first. I am putting You first in my life, and I trust You to take care of the rest of the things in my life.” As with most matters in the Christian life, it comes down to the attitude of our hearts. The question is, “Do I trust God enough to give the first part to Him?”

When we honor God in this way, we invite His blessing into our lives, and “your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow.” Many blessings go along with tithing, but it is the principle of faith and putting God first that initiates these blessings. The first portion, the tithe, is the portion that redeems the rest. God does not desire a legalistic, begrudging response. He desires for us to submit our hearts to Him in joy and in the faith that His principles are true.

Every time we are paid an inescapable moment of “worship” immediately follows. The first place to which we direct a portion of that money reveals something about what is “first” in our lives.

**What kinds of financial things are most likely to compete for “first place” in your heart?**

# day 09

**“And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.”**  
– *Genesis 4:3 – 5 (NKJV)*

We give God our firstfruits because God is first in creation. In fact, God cannot be second. When you study the attributes of God, you will realize that God is omniscient. He knows everything and cannot have thoughts like we have. We think to figure things out. God never figures anything out because He already knows the answer. In the same way, God is immutable: He cannot change. If God could change, He could improve. God cannot improve because He is already perfect. When you study the attributes of God, you will discover that God cannot be second. He can only be first.

God honored Abel's offering but not Cain's. The reason is because Abel's offering was from the firstborn of his flock; however, Cain's offering was not from his firstfruits. God could not respect Cain's offering because it was not his first. God can only be first. He cannot be second.

When you put God first in your life and honor Him with your tithe, it is a witness to your family. There is a powerful verse, Exodus 13:8, which says, “And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, ‘This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.’” When your children see you honor God, and they ask you why you tithe, you have the opportunity to tell them how you were a slave, lost and dead in sin, and Jesus, God's tithe, came and redeemed you. With a grateful heart, you can explain: “This is why I put God first in my life.”

**What are some of the attributes of God that make you feel the most reverent or in awe of who He is? Does it make it easier or harder for you to honor God with your firstfruits when you take time to think about His attributes?**



**“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”**  
**– Luke 16:9 – 13 (NKJV)**

The word mammon only occurs four times in the New Testament. This passage contains three of the occurrences. The fourth is in a parallel passage in Matthew 6. Jesus used the word mammon as a name here to indicate that He was talking about some kind of demonic spirit or false god.

Mammon comes from an Aramaic word that means “riches.” The Assyrians (one of the ancient peoples who spoke Aramaic) worshiped a god of riches. This false god represented the idea that people didn’t need the One True God because they could trust riches instead.

Jesus makes a very strong statement about the spirit of mammon. He says emphatically, “You cannot serve God and mammon.” The spirit of mammon diametrically opposes God. You cannot follow the god of this world, while at the same time, follow the Creator of all things. Jesus says that you will love one and hate the other. You will be loyal to one and despise the other.

Mammon tries to take the place of God. Mammon promises us those things that only God can give – security, significance, identity, independence, power, and freedom. Mammon tells us that it can insulate us from life’s problems and that money is the answer to every situation. Mammon wants to rule your life, and is attempting to steal your heart away from trusting in God.

The reason we cannot serve God and mammon is that the spirit of mammon is the opposite of the Spirit of God. Mammon tells us to take and hoard; God says to give and trust. Mammon is selfish; God is generous. Mammon is nothing more than the system of this fallen world that stands in sharp opposition to God and His ways. For example, mammon says to buy and sell; God says to sow and reap. Mammon is anti-God.

Mammon deceives us by promising the things only God can give – security, significance, identity, independence, power, or freedom.

**In the past, which of these things have you been most likely to believe that wealth could give you?**

# day 11

**“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”**  
– 1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)

This is one of the most frequently misquoted verses in the Bible. People misquote it by saying, “Money is the root of all evil,” missing the fact that it is the love of money that is condemned.

Don’t get the wrong idea. Money and mammon are not the same thing. Money is not inherently evil – it is neutral. It can be used for bad or for good. It can be submitted to God or to the spirit of mammon. The Bible warns us that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil because it leads to worshiping the wrong thing. The idolatrous love of the spirit of mammon is evil. When we serve mammon, we are allowing greed, covetousness, and selfishness, which are all manifestations of the spirit of mammon, into our lives.

The key to breaking a spirit of mammon is by tithing to your local church. When you tithe the first ten percent of your income, God redeems the other ninety percent. The ninety percent is submitted to God.

Money that is submitted to God and His purposes has God’s Spirit on it, which is why it both multiplies and can’t be consumed by the devourer. Money that has been submitted to God, or wealth devoted to serving Him rather than trying to replace Him, is blessed by God.

We can use money for unrighteous, temporal purposes, or we can use it for righteous, eternal purposes. The choice is ours. The Lord calls us to use money for what is eternal, such as bringing souls into God’s kingdom. The reality is that all things in this world will be gone one day. God is going to make a new heaven and a new earth. The only things that will remain are souls.

In Luke 16, when Jesus tells us to use unrighteous mammon to gain friends, he is not telling us to simply gain friends here on this earth. He specifically says that we are to win friends for the day “when we fail,” meaning when we die. Then, those friends we made will welcome us into our everlasting home. The only way your new friends can welcome you into an everlasting home is if they have been saved. Jesus is telling us to use money to bring people into the kingdom. The more people you bring into the kingdom, the more people there will be to welcome you into your eternal home.

Jesus said that only those who are faithful in small things should expect to be entrusted with bigger things (Luke 16:10).

**What are some of the “small things” that God has entrusted to you? How can wise stewardship of those small things lead to bigger things?**

# day 12

**“Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?’ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.’”**  
– *John 12:1 – 7 (NKJV)*

This amazing story demonstrates a sharp contrast between two kinds of hearts – the heart of Mary and the heart of Judas. The Gospel writer displays generosity and selfishness for us in one incident.

There’s an incredible selfishness at work in Judas’ heart in this account. He shows it in his comments about Mary’s offering. Judas didn’t actually care for the poor. He was a thief! Judas pretended that he was thinking about others while he was really only thinking of himself.

This same false spirituality shows up in similar comments we may hear today. “How could anyone in good conscience drive a car that expensive?” “She sure could have helped a lot of people for what she spent on that purse.” Or, “I could do a lot of good with the money they spent on that boat.” Remarks such as these are invariably based on envy, jealousy, and selfishness dressed up as religious superiority. As long as we can say, “Someone else isn’t doing what they should be doing,” then we don’t have to look inside of ourselves to see if we’re generous or if we’re selfish.

Jesus knew Judas was a thief, but He allowed Judas to be in charge of the moneybox anyway. Isn’t that interesting? Jesus could have chosen any of His disciples to do that task. So, why did He choose Judas? Jesus didn’t do this so Judas would fail; He did it so Judas would have an opportunity to pass the test. God will never tempt us, but He will test us. He will test us so we have the opportunity to succeed. God will actually test you in your finances and give you an opportunity to be successful.

God is an extravagant giver – He gave Jesus His Son for us. That kind of extravagance is difficult for our human minds to understand. There are examples of many other extravagant gifts in the Bible. David gave God the equivalent of 21 billion dollars. The widow who gave her two mites was an extravagant giver. She gave all she had. It is not the size of the money that counts, but the size of the heart in the offering.

When Mary gave her gift to Jesus, it was extravagant. Three hundred denarii was a very large sum of money. It was roughly equivalent to an entire year’s wages. Of course, what constitutes a lot of money is relative depending on each person. What seems like a lot to the typical person may not seem like much to a multimillionaire. But a year’s income is a year’s income, regardless of what it is.

Why did Mary give such an extravagant, generous gift to Jesus? Mary had a generous heart. She was grateful for all that Jesus had done for her. Just two months earlier, Jesus had raised her brother Lazarus from the dead.

The most extravagant gift we can give to God is ourselves.

**Do you agree or disagree?  
What does this look like for you personally in your daily life?**



# day 13

**“But this I say: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
– 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 7 (NKJV)**

In this passage, sowing bountifully is another way of saying to give out generously. Again, we see the principle of sowing and reaping. If one gives out generously, they will receive generously.

Generosity and selfishness are at odds with one another. When faced with an opportunity to give, our hearts will gravitate either one way or the other. God is generous and Satan is selfish.

We are born selfish. Not surprisingly, one of the first words that a child often learns to say clearly is “Mine!” And a child learns to say it at such a pitch that it will hit a nerve in the back of your neck. You’ll be watching a sporting event or something else on TV, and here’s what you will hear from the other room: “Mine! Mine! Mine!” Without even witnessing the conflict, you know exactly who is upset. The truth is we are all born selfish. The good news is that when we are born again, we are born generous. This doesn’t mean Christians are always generous. But it does mean that instead of desiring to be selfish, we at least desire to be generous. You still must crucify the “old self” and renew your mind so that you will grow in generosity the way God wants you to.

How can we give generously to God when He owns everything? Even boxes of gold would only be heavenly asphalt to Him. The gift of giving ourselves, our hearts, and our lives to God can be extravagant. It’s the attitude that matters. However, you can’t say you’ve given God your heart if you haven’t given Him your money. When God gets your heart, the fruit of that is visibly shown as you give to Him financially.

**What was one of your earliest memories of wrestling with your own selfish nature?**

As any parent can testify, children are born knowing how to be selfish. Selfishness comes naturally, but generosity must be learned and cultivated.

# day 14

**“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”  
– Matthew 6:19 – 21 (NKJV)**

Have you ever bought an expensive pair of brand new shoes and, after wearing them for the first time, noticed a permanent crease or scuff conspicuously visible on the surface of one of the shoes? That can crush your pleasure of wearing new and fashionable footwear. Similarly, I can still remember years later how bad I felt the first time I noticed a fresh scratch of paint on the first car I ever purchased. In a world where even a little moisture can ruin a vehicle's appearance or a tiny insect can render clothes useless, it is vital to value things that last.

The Bible teaches that God, His Word, and our souls are three things that will last for eternity. With that in mind, anything we give that serves God and contributes to souls entering into His Kingdom will be an everlasting investment.

To close, it is critical to remember how supremely better God's Kingdom is to anything else we have or ever will experience. Revelation 21 states that in the new heaven and new earth “there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” And the redeemed of God will dwell with Christ, our beloved big brother who cares for us like no other person on earth. If we treasure that future, our heart will be there also.

God wants to give us richly all we need to enjoy our lives as we trust Him and bless others.

**What do you truly  
need to enjoy life?  
What makes life  
good?**



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*\*This devotion was adapted from *The Blessed Life* study guide by Robert Morris.*