



# **A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO GIVING**

**27 Days of Devotions**

*"But just as you excel  
in everything...  
see that you also excel  
in this **grace of giving**"  
(II Cor. 8:7)*



## DAY 1

### **Biblical Concept**

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Notice the pattern established by the early church. God blessed the priorities they established and many believed. As Christians use their material possessions in harmony with the will of God, it will encourage people to believe in Jesus Christ. Pray that God would use the faithfulness of those giving in our church as a strong testimony in the community. Pray that your personal priorities would also be a strong testimony for the cause of Christ.

### **Practical Question**

What kind of statement do I make with the use of my resources?

## DAY 2

### **Biblical Concept**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (Matt. 6:19-20)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Whatever excess material possessions God enables Christians to accumulate should be used in creative ways to further the kingdom of God. Pray that God would show you how you can store up treasures in heaven.

### **Practical Question**

Have I used my resources creatively for the work of the Lord? What are some ways that I might store up more treasure in heaven?

## DAY 3

### **Biblical Concept**

"Barnabas sold a field he owned..." (Acts 4:32-37)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

It is sometimes the will of God that Christians share their material possessions in order to encourage others in the Body of Christ. Pray that God would give the people of our church discernment in determining how to best use possessions for His work.

### **Practical Question**

How might God lead me in this area?

## DAY 4

### **Biblical Concept**

"No one can serve two masters...you cannot serve both God and money." (Matt. 6:24)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Slavery is a thing of the past in our country. But, it is possible for a Christian to be in bondage to material possessions.

### **Practical Question**

Am I in bondage to material possessions? What material possessions might enslave me?

## DAY 5

### **Biblical Concept**

"Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or field for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." (Matt. 19:28-29)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Believers may be motivated to share their material possessions in hopes of receiving present blessings. They must realize that the most important perspective in Scripture involves eternal blessings and that their reward may not come in this life.

### **Practical Question**

What is my primary motivation for giving to the Lord's work?

## DAY 6

### **Biblical Concept**

"The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position..." (James 1:9-10)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians in the church who do not have a lot of material possessions should not feel inferior to those who have more and vice versa. Pray that your attitude would not be influenced by social status.

### **Practical Question**

Do I have preconceived notions about those who are of a different social standing than myself?

## DAY 7

### **Biblical Concept**

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income." (I Corinthians 16:2)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians should set aside a certain percentage of their income as regularly as they are paid in order to be able to systematically give to God's work.

### **Practical Question**

What are my giving patterns to the church like? Do I even know what percentage of my income I give to the Lord's work?

## DAY 8

### **Biblical Concept**

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have." (2 Corinthians 8:10-12)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Believers may not be able to give as much initially—until they have their economic lives in order; however, God accepts and honors believers' gifts when they begin to give regularly and systematically.

### **Practical Question**

Do you understand that, once you begin to give regularly and systematically, God honors your gifts based on your willingness to give at that moment in your life? Have I started giving or am I putting it off because I haven't previously given?

## DAY 9

### **Biblical Concept**

"Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account." (Philippians 4:14-17)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christian leaders are to encourage God's people to give, not for the purpose of gaining a reward themselves, but so that believers might store up treasure in heaven.

### **Practical Question**

Do I pray for the leaders of our church and listen carefully to their teaching? Or, do I resent anyone challenging me in the area of giving?

## DAY 10

### **Biblical Concept**

"This is what the LORD says: Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strongman boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians should boast only in Christ. Wisdom, strength, or riches should never be a source of pride.

### **Practical Question**

If I was forced to drive a less expensive car, or wear a different brand of clothes, would it offend my pride? Do I pursue a better knowledge of God on a daily basis?

## DAY 11

### **Biblical Concept**

"But just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

It is God's will that all Christians excel in the grace of giving.

### **Practical Question**

What evidence is there that I excel in my financial commitment to God's work?

## DAY 12

### **Biblical Concept**

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Every Christian is ultimately responsible to give to God on the basis of his or her own heart decision.

### **Practical Question**

Am I making a decision to give because I know it is honoring to God and I want to love Him? Or, is it grudgingly out of a sense of obligation?

## DAY 13

### **Biblical Concept**

"From time to time, those who owned lands and houses sold them, and brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 4:34-35)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians should be willing to make special sacrifices in order to meet special needs within the Body of Christ. Pray that we would be a church which recognizes special needs and makes sacrifices honoring to God.

### **Practical Question**

Define sacrifice. When is the last time I made a special sacrifice for the Lord? What is a special sacrifice that I need to consider making now?

## DAY 14

### **Biblical Concept**

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." (1 Corinthians 16:2)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Pray about having regular, systematic, and proportional giving. Christians are out of God's will when they cannot give God the "first-fruits" of their income because they have obligated themselves to pay off debts.

### **Practical Question**

Do I have consumer debt that affects my ability to give? Do I have credit card loans that I am so enslaved by that I can't regularly support the Lord's work?

## DAY 15

### **Biblical Concept**

"There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." (2 Timothy 3:1-2a 4b-5)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

As the Day of Christ draws nearer, Christians should avoid the increasing tendency to intensify love for self, money, and pleasure.

### **Practical Question**

How have the materialistic and hedonistic philosophies prominent in our culture today affected me personally?

## DAY 16

### **Biblical Concept**

"Instead, you ought to say, 'if it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 4:15)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

All economic and financial planning should be done with an intense desire to be in the will of God in every respect.

### **Practical Question**

What is the will of God for my financial planning?

## DAY 17

### **Biblical Concept**

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

God first commands that we love him with everything that we have. This section of Scripture then goes on to emphasize how we are to train our children. The priorities we maintain in our home and the ways that we make daily decisions about our resources will teach our children in powerful ways.

### **Practical Question**

What lessons do I teach by the ways that I use my resources?

## DAY 18

### **Biblical Concept**

"For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings." (Romans 15:27)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

All Christians have an obligation to support God's work in material ways.

### **Practical Question**

Does my life reflect that I believe Christians have an obligation to support the Lord's work financially?



## DAY 19

### **Biblical Concept**

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians who are generous in their giving will receive generous blessings; conversely, Christians who are not generous in their giving will not receive generous blessings.

### **Practical Question**

How have I been sowing? Generously? Or sparingly?

## DAY 20

### **Biblical Concept**

"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." (1 Timothy 6:6-10;17-19)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

A Christian's first priority should be to focus on godliness and contentment rather than on riches, which often bring discontentment.

### **Practical Question**

What is my attitude toward my accumulated wealth?

## DAY 21

### **Biblical Concept**

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt. 6:31-33)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians are commanded not to worry. We have an all-powerful God who knows our every need. We are to spend our energy serving God to the best of our abilities.

### **Practical Question**

What do I spend time worrying about for which I should trust God?

## DAY 22

### **Biblical Concept**

"Do not love the world or anything in the world." (I John 2:15-16)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians must be on guard against establishing false distinctions between what is "material" and what is "spiritual."

### **Practical Question**

What things do I love more than God and His work?

## DAY 23

### **Biblical Concept**

"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked." (Revelation 3:17-18)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Christians must be on guard against self-deception and rationalization when they are living in an affluent society.

### **Practical Question**

Could I be self-deceived by the materialistic philosophy that permeates our culture, causing me to rationalize away a selfishness and lack of generosity?

## DAY 24

### **Biblical Concept**

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'" (Luke 19:8)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

Those saved by Christ immediately demonstrated that they were changed in their whole orientation to material possessions.

### **Practical Question**

Are you a changed person as it relates to the use of your resources?

## DAY 25

### **Biblical Concept**

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:10-21)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

It is foolish to plan for this life and be disobedient to God. Our lives may not last another 24 hours.

### **Practical Question**

What changes do I need to make in light of the shortness of life?

## Day 26

### **Biblical Concept**

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations." (Psalm 67:1-2)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

The Psalmist prays for God's blessing in the context of asking that God's name would be made known throughout the entire earth.

### **Practical Question**

Why do I ask God for things? Am I asking so that the cause of Christ might be made known throughout the whole earth?

## DAY 27

### **Biblical Concept**

"According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 drachmas of gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priestly garments." (Ezra 2:69)

### **Meditation & Prayer**

The Old Testament establishes a pattern of giving in proportion to what one has.

### **Practical Question**

Does my gift to our project reflect a generous and sacrificial gift?

