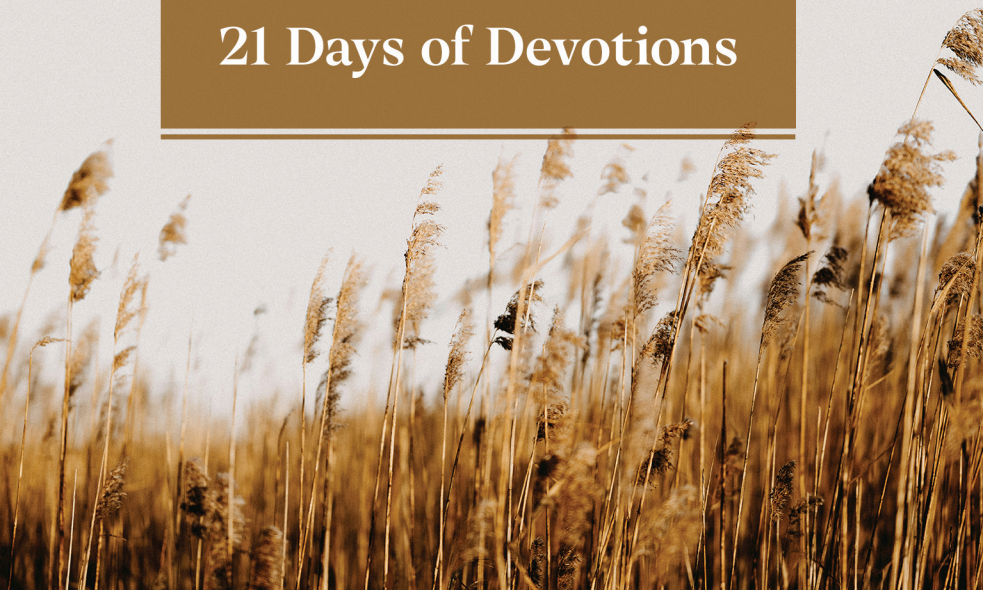




A MORE GENEROUS LIFE

21 Days of Devotions



A More Generous Life

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WEEK THREE

October 25-31

Faith

DAY 15- October 25

Walking by Faith After a Storm (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Written by Erica Allen

For we live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV

There are moments in life when the ground beneath our feet feels steady, and there are times when everything crumbles in an instant. In 2024, my family and I lost our home and our church building in back-to-back hurricanes. Both storms hit during the dark of night, and once they passed and the damage was revealed, we stared at desolation like we had never seen before. I asked myself, “How can I possibly move forward when all I can see is loss?”

Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 5:7 speak powerfully to moments like this: “We live by faith, not by sight.” In the midst of turbulent and difficult circumstances, Paul contrasts the temporary (and big) struggles of life with the eternal hope found in God’s promises. Sitting in jail, with all rights, respect, and human dignity stripped away, he urges us to cling deeply to faith. When everything we once relied on was stripped away, we tried to trust in what we could not yet see. Faith didn’t require me to deny pain or pretend loss isn’t real; rather, it urged me to believe that God’s presence and promises are true, even when everything around me said otherwise. After the hurricane, all

I could see was destruction, and the future was clouded with uncertainty. Faith revealed that God was with us in the wreckage. Faith pushed us forward even though the path was unclear. Faith whispered, “There is hope beyond what your eyes can see right now.”

God rebuilds what has been lost, and God brings healing where there is hurt. Walking by faith means taking one step at a time, one day at a time, believing that God is not finished with your story.

Prayer: God, even in the midst of tragedy and uncertainty, assure me that you have a plan to restore and rebuild. Strengthen my faith today and give me hope for tomorrow. Help me to trust in your unfailing love. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. When you think about living by faith, what areas of your life feel hardest to trust God with?
2. What reminders of God’s faithfulness can you hold onto when you can’t see a way forward?
3. How have you witnessed God’s process of rebuilding after tragedy and loss?

DAY 16-October 26

Jehovah Jireh: The Lord Will Provide (Genesis 22:14)

Written by Daniel Dennison

So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

Genesis 22:14 NIV

In Genesis 22:14, I love what Abraham calls the place where he is set to sacrifice his son Isaac. He names it “Jehovah Jireh,” which in Hebrew means “The Lord will provide.” Despite the extraordinary faith that Abraham demonstrates in this story, he gives all the credit to God. Abraham doesn’t name the place “I came, I saw, I conquered.” The name “Jehovah Jireh” or “God will provide” gives all glory to God.

This story from Genesis also beautifully foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice of Christ. Jesus was born of a virgin; Isaac was born to a barren woman nearly one hundred years old. The text mentions a three-day journey to the place of sacrifice—the same number of days Jesus was in the tomb. Abraham placed the wood for the sacrifice on Isaac’s back to carry, just as Jesus carried his own cross to the place of his sacrifice. This parallel points directly to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Abraham’s faith in God makes him willing to sacrifice even his son at God’s command, and his story shows that

he understood something many Christians struggle with today: we cannot earn God's love or favor, so why should we give generously and sacrifice?

When we give sacrificially, we demonstrate our trust that God knows what's best for us and is sovereign over our lives. We believe that a God who was willing to give God's Son for our sake loves us unconditionally, regardless of anything we can do. When we grasp the depth of this sacrificial love, it frees our hearts to be more generous and sacrificial in return.

Prayer: God, I stand in awe of your faithfulness and love. Just as you provided for Abraham, you have provided for me and the whole world through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Help me to trust you completely, knowing that you see and meet every need. Teach me to give generously, not out of obligation, but as a joyful response to your grace and provision. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the parallel between Abraham's story and Jesus' sacrifice deepen your understanding of God's generosity?
2. How has God's faithfulness and provision been present in your life?
3. How might God be calling you to step out in faith and give beyond your comfort zone?

DAY 17-October 27

Everybody Needs a Little Jesus (Matthew 9:18–22)

Written by Dustin Cooper

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.”

Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.”

Matthew 9:20–22a NIV

“Everybody needs a little Jesus!” That’s how a friend once greeted me as he shook my hand, leaving in my palm a small silicone Jesus figurine. I responded with an amused groan quickly followed by a sense of perhaps a deeper truth.

This scripture from Matthew tells the story of a woman who had been struggling with an untreatable illness for twelve years. When she heard that Jesus, the one known to have healed many people, was coming to her town, she felt a glimmer of hope. But who was she to approach Jesus? She might have felt too ashamed to seek him directly, or it could be that her faith suggested even a little bit of Jesus would be enough. With courage and determination, she wrestled her way through the crowds and touched the hem of his garment. Jesus, having sensed her touch, turned and saw her and called her “daughter,” signaling not only her

physical healing but her restoration into the community. A slight touch, motivated by faith, changed her life.

It's natural to be in awe of some of the larger gifts given to the church. However, sometimes the deeper sacrifice is reflected in the smaller acts of faith, such as the woman touching the hem of Jesus' garment. Regardless of its size, every gift can be used to fulfill God's vision. A gift given in faith transforms the one who gave it and allows the giver to get a little more Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, you are the source of hope, healing, and restoration. Thank you for seeing me, even when I feel unseen or unworthy. Just as you honored the faith of the woman who reached out to touch the hem of your garment, teach me to trust you with my needs and my offerings, no matter how small they may seem. Help me to give generously, knowing that even the smallest act of faith can create transformation and renewal. Thank you for always providing me with just what I need—more of you. Amen

Reflection Questions:

1. When were you blessed by a small gesture from someone else?
2. Why might you feel ashamed to approach Jesus, and how can you learn to trust him?
3. How can sacrificial giving bring us “a little more Jesus”?

DAY 18- October 28

Without Applause (Luke 8:1–3)

Written by Tom Melzoni

The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

Luke 8:1b–3 NIV

Unlike the apostles, the women mentioned in this passage—Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna—largely went unrecognized in the early church despite their generous contributions. (In fact, this is the only time we hear of Joanna and Susanna in Holy Scripture.) They provided support to the disciples and Jesus' ministry without acknowledgment or applause. They did not offer their gifts with hopes of accolades but rather out of a desire to give back to Jesus' ministry.

God's work relies on all people being engaged with it. Without applause or recognition, these women gave generously, motivated by gratitude for what Jesus had done in their lives. They didn't seek the spotlight but found joy in simply giving to help further the gospel.

Though these women's stories don't take center stage in the biblical narrative, their influence is undeniable. Without their support, Jesus' ministry could not have impacted

as many people as it did. Their silent faithfulness made a public difference.

On occasion, we might feel like our generosity goes similarly unnoticed. Perhaps we even wonder if our generosity matters without acknowledgment or thanks to affirm it.

However, this story of silent service assures us that God values every act of generosity, even those that go unnoticed by others. Faithful generosity doesn't seek applause; it seeks to glorify God. Like these overlooked women, we are called to give faithfully, knowing that God values and applauds our sincere generosity.

Prayer: Lord, when I feel unappreciated, remind me that you applaud every act of faithfulness. Receive my giving, no matter how small or silent, and let it create an eternal impact for your kingdom. Keep reminding me that you desire faithfulness, not outward success. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does knowing that God values silent service encourage you to care less about the opinions of others?
2. Are there areas of your life where your generosity is being received without applause? How does it make you feel?
3. What is one thing you can do in secret this week to try to break the addiction to recognition from others?

DAY 19- October 29

Trusting God Leads to Generosity (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Written by Rick Vilarado

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5–6 NIV

When we think about what holds us back from giving, it often comes down to trust. Can I afford this? What if I need this money later? Will I have enough for myself and my family? These questions reflect our human tendency to rely on our own understanding of how things might work out rather than trusting in God's provision.

This passage reminds us to place our trust fully in the Lord, not in our own calculations or fears. When we trust God with all our hearts, we're freed from the grip of worry and can approach generosity with faith, knowing that God will provide and guide us.

It's natural to hesitate when faced with opportunities to give. Our understanding often tells us to hold onto what we have, to save for the unknowns. Trusting God breaks down barriers to living a more generous life. We aren't asked to trust God with our finances only but with our entire lives. When we submit to God, trust God's wisdom over our own, and align our hearts with God's, the door to living generously easily opens.

These Bible verses invite us to shift our perspective—from seeing ourselves as owners to understanding that we are caretakers of God’s resources. When we embrace this truth, giving becomes a joyful act of obedience and trust in the journey to living the abundant life that Jesus promises us. As you lean on God’s wisdom and submit to God’s leading, you’ll discover that generosity isn’t just an isolated act—it’s a reflection of a heart fully trusting in God.

Prayer: God, I want to trust you with all my heart, but sometimes my own understanding gets in the way. Help me to let go of fear and control, submitting every part of my life to you. Teach me to trust your provision and guidance so that I can give joyfully, knowing you will make my paths straight. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. Take a moment to consider: where is God asking you to trust more deeply?
2. Is there an area of your life where fear or control is holding you back from giving generously?
3. How might trusting God with your resources change the way you view generosity—not as a loss, but as an opportunity to participate in building God’s kingdom?

DAY 20- October 30

Building with Strength, Trusting in God's Plans (Jeremiah 29:11–12)

Written by Norma Quinn

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Jeremiah 29:11–12 NRSVUE

I still remember the day Claire, a true force of God's Spirit and love, taught a lesson on Jeremiah 29. Her words resonated deeply, providing wisdom that became an anchor in my life. Her teaching focused on a timeless truth: *build with strength, build on God, and live fully in the present.*

Jeremiah's words weren't spoken in a time of ease. They were written to God's people in exile—displaced and uncertain about the future. They couldn't see what was ahead, but they could cling to hope. Jeremiah wasn't offering a shallow, “feel-good” promise to make everything better. Instead, he gave clear directions:

- Build your life on the foundation of God.
- Stay rooted in the present, trusting that God is working even in difficulty.
- When crises come, calm down and seek God in prayer.

- Invest in close relationships and trust in God's promise: God has this, and God has *you*.

These words aren't just a comforting decoration for a wall or a pillow; they're an invitation to live with intentionality and trust. When we build on God's promises, we find the strength to navigate uncertainty with generosity of heart and spirit.

When we believe that God's plans are good and that God holds our future, we can live with open hands. We can give without fear, share with joy, and invest in others even when life feels uncertain. Generosity isn't just about resources; it's about how we live, love, and share hope with others because of the hope God gives us.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the plans you have for my life—plans to give me hope and a future. Help me to trust you fully, even when I can't see what lies ahead. Teach me to live generously, to build my life on your promises, and to seek you with all my heart. Thank you for always listening and for guiding me every step of the way. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where is God inviting you to trust more deeply?
2. What does it look like for you to build with strength on the foundation of God's promises?
3. How can you reflect generosity in your relationships, even amid uncertainty?

DAY 21- October 31

Commit and Trust: Embracing God's Faithful Action (Psalm 37:5)

Written by Joe Park

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

Psalm 37:5 NRSVUE

Congratulations! For the past twenty days, you've invested in discovering the person God is calling you to become by intentionally and prayerfully learning, listening, and giving the Holy Spirit fertile ground in your life.

Today, I invite you to pause and reflect on your spiritual journey. There are moments when we find the courage to relinquish what no longer serves us to make space for something new. Might this be one of those moments for you?

As you pray through Psalm 37:5 today, let the words settle over you: "*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.*" Say it slowly, letting each word invite you to release what holds you back from trusting that God will act faithfully on your behalf.

Consider the places in your life that you have already relinquished to God. What was your experience? What emotions arise as you recall God's goodness in your life? Take a deep breath and exhale slowly. Whisper words of gratitude.

Ask God to show you the areas where you are still holding on tightly. Can you feel anxiety and worry rising in your body and mind? Linger here for a moment more and imagine what it would feel like to let go and experience God filling this space with peace and joy.

Do you hunger to experience God's peace, purpose, and provision in a new area of your life? Are you feeling a nudge to take another step toward committing all aspects of your life to God?

Prayer: God, shape my heart to trust more completely in your deep love for me. Make my desires your desires and my ways your ways. I surrender the places you have shown that I still cling to control in my relationships, priorities, energy, and resources. I embrace the purpose, provision, joy, and peace you desire for me. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. Over these twenty days, in what new ways have you been drawn to commit more fully to God's purposes?
2. How has your trust in God been strengthened? In what ways has God proven faithful to you, making trust feel like a joy rather than a burden?
3. What vision has God placed on your heart? What have you felt called to do, give, or become a part of throughout these past twenty days? What step is God inviting you to take today to start living more generously?