



## 5 Daily Devotionals

### Day 1: The Promise Behind the Purchase

**Key Verse:**

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have.” — Hebrews 13:5

**Reflection:**

We live in a world that constantly tells us we’re missing something. Every advertisement whispers the same lie: *If you just had this, then you would finally be happy.* And for a moment, we believe it. The new thing excites us—until it doesn’t. Then the cycle begins again.

Scripture names this for what it is: a spiritual problem. Our endless pursuit of “more” is not about stuff; it’s about trust. When we grip our possessions tightly, we quietly declare them to be our security, our joy, and our hope. But those promises never last.

God offers something better. He invites us into contentment—not because we have everything we want, but because we belong to Him. Real peace doesn’t come from acquiring more, but from resting in the One who already knows our needs and promises to provide.

**Prayer/Application:**

Lord, reveal where I’ve believed false promises about happiness. Teach me to find my contentment in You alone. Amen.

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## Day 2: Nothing Is Truly Ours

### Key Verse:

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” — Psalm 24:1

### Reflection:

It’s easy to say, “I earned this. I worked for it. It’s mine.” But Scripture gently pulls back the curtain. Everything we have—our money, our possessions, even our opportunities—ultimately comes from God.

The Bible describes us not as owners, but as stewards. A steward manages what belongs to someone else. This changes everything. When we see ourselves as managers of God’s gifts rather than possessors of them, our tight grip begins to loosen.

Stewardship isn’t about guilt or pressure; it’s about trust. God places resources into our hands and asks us to use them wisely, generously, and faithfully. This perspective frees us from fear because our security is no longer tied to what we hold, but to the One who holds us.

### Prayer/Application:

Father, help me see my life and resources as gifts from You. Teach me to manage them in ways that honor You. Amen.

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## Day 3: Putting God First

### Key Verse:

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” — Proverbs 3:9

### Reflection:

Throughout Scripture, God consistently calls His people to give their *first* and *best*—not leftovers. This wasn’t about God needing anything. It was about what giving revealed in the hearts of His people.

When God is placed first, everything else finds its proper place. Giving first is a confession: *You are my King. You are my provider. You are more important than my comfort.*

When giving becomes an afterthought—whatever happens to be left—it often shows that God has been pushed down the list. Yet God’s invitation remains the same: trust Me.

Putting God first with our resources isn’t about perfection. It’s about direction. Each act of faithful giving trains our hearts to rely less on ourselves and more on Him.

### Prayer/Application:

Lord, help me put You first—not just in words, but in practice. Shape my heart to trust You above all else. Amen.

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## Day 4: Faithful Before Cheerful

### Key Verse:

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart...for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7

### Reflection:

This verse is often misunderstood. It's not a permission slip to avoid obedience—it's an invitation into joyful generosity. In its context, Paul is speaking about gifts that go *above and beyond*, not about basic faithfulness.

God does delight in cheerful giving, but even more, He desires faithful hearts. Faith is not merely a feeling; it is lived out through action. Often, obedience comes first—and joy follows later.

The same is true in other areas of life. We don't wait to *feel* close to God before praying or opening Scripture. We do these things, and God meets us there. Giving works the same way. Through faithfulness, God reshapes our hearts and grows our trust in Him.

### Prayer/Application:

God, give me a willing and obedient heart. Teach me to trust You even when obedience feels hard. Amen.

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## Day 5: The God Who Provides and Forgives

### Key Verse:

“Seek first the kingdom of God...and all these things will be added to you.” — Matthew 6:33

### Reflection:

Money often reveals what we trust most. When resources feel tight, fear can take over. Yet God speaks tenderly into our anxiety: *Look at the birds. I care for them—and I care even more for you.*

God invites us to trust Him, even daring us to test His faithfulness in this area. Not because He is fragile, but because He is faithful. He is not only the Creator of all things, but the Provider of all we need.

And when we fail—when greed wins, when trust falters—God does not turn away. He gives second chances. In Christ, our lack of faith is forgiven. Jesus carried our sin, our fear, and our misplaced trust to the cross.

From forgiveness flows new life. We are freed to trust again, give again, and rest again in the God who provides.

### Prayer/Application:

Gracious Father, forgive my fear and strengthen my faith. Help me rely fully on Your promises and provision. Amen.

# Small Group Discussion

## Opening

Think about advertising for a moment.

**What's the last thing you bought that you hoped would make life better or happier—but didn't last as long as you expected?**

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## Big Idea

Our never-ending desire for more is not just a financial issue—it's a **spiritual** one. God calls His people to generosity, not because He needs our money, but because **giving teaches us to trust Him** and frees us from greed. Ultimately, our hope is not in our faithfulness, but in **Christ's faithfulness for us**.

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## Key Scriptures

- **Psalms 24:1** – “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.”
- **Deuteronomy 14:22–23** – God’s people give in order to learn to fear and trust Him.
- **Malachi 3:8–10** – God confronts withheld giving and promises blessing.
- **Matthew 6:24–26** – You cannot serve both God and money.
- **2 Corinthians 9:6–7** – God loves a cheerful giver.
- **Matthew 5:17** – Christ fulfills the Law, not abolishes it.

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## Teaching Summary

- Advertising thrives on the lie: *“If I only had more, then I’d be happy.”*
- Scripture exposes greed as **idolatry**—trusting created things instead of the Creator.
- Everything belongs to God; we are **stewards**, not owners.
- In the Old Testament, giving a tenth expressed trust and reverence toward God.
- Christ fulfilled the sacrificial laws, but generosity and stewardship remain part of faithful living.
- “God loves a cheerful giver” refers to **free, above-and-beyond generosity**, not an excuse to avoid faithful giving.
- God desires not only cheerfulness, but **faithfulness rooted in trust**.
- Even when we fail, God meets us with forgiveness and new beginnings through Jesus.

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think money and possessions so easily become spiritual rivals to God?
2. How does seeing yourself as a **steward** (rather than an owner) change how you think about your finances?
3. What does it mean that giving is meant to teach us to **trust** God—not to earn His favor?
4. How can Bible verses about generosity be misused when taken out of context?
5. Why is it comforting to know that Christ fulfills the Law for us when we fall short in faithfulness?
6. What might trusting God with finances look like in your current season of life?

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## Gospel Connection

Our security does not rest in how well we give, but in **what Christ has already given**. Jesus gave Himself fully for us—freely, faithfully, and joyfully—so that even when our trust wavers, God’s grace does not.

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## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are the giver of every good gift. Forgive us for the times we cling tightly to what You have entrusted to us and place our trust in possessions rather than in You. Thank You for sending Your Son, who gave everything for us and fulfilled the Law on our behalf. Grow our trust in You, free our hearts from fear and greed, and lead us to lives of faithful gratitude. We rest in Your promise to provide for us as Your beloved children.

Amen.