



## Devotional Guide for November 6-12, 2023

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

### Monday, November 6<sup>TH</sup> "The righteous give generously"

**Scripture: Psalm 37:21-24**<sup>NIV</sup>

This psalm is an extended reflection on how the righteous should respond, when they see the wicked prospering. King David explains that "the righteous give generously" (v.21). God had promised, many centuries earlier, that His blessings on the faithful would include such bounty that they would be able to lend to many and never have to borrow. In contrast, the wicked would be forced to borrow, and they could not (or would not) repay. There is a sense of obligation to our God to live holy, Christ-like lives.

*Question: What is God calling you to do? What do you enjoy doing? Is there a connection? Ask your pastor and your friends for advice.*

*Discover and use your spiritual gifts; you will find joy in serving God.!*

### Tuesday, November 7<sup>TH</sup> "Everything comes from You!"

**Scripture: I Chronicles 29:14-20**<sup>NIV</sup>

In this final prayer of King David's life, he is recalling his days as king, obtaining and storing materials to build the Temple at Jerusalem. One of his recollections is the generosity of those in his kingdom; he had asked God in prayer, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand" (v.14). David's prayer flowed from the atmosphere of wholehearted giving and celebration on the part of himself, leaders, and community. It radiates the recognition that all glory, honor, and praise belong to God and God alone. David's words repeatedly declare that every good and perfect gift comes from God.

*Question: Do you usually see yourself as self-sufficient or as someone whose needs are met directly by God? Note, all you have is from God.*

### Wednesday, November 8<sup>TH</sup> "Receive mercy and find grace"

**Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-16**<sup>NIV</sup>

The authority of God is absolute, and His Word is vividly described in verse 12 here. Yet, Jesus is compassionate toward us, and it is based on hard-earned human experience. Jesus had "been tempted in every way, just as we are" (v.15). We are to come before God in

worship, communion, and prayer. Because our approach is based on God's grace, we can draw near to the Lord "with confidence" to "receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (v.16).

*Question: How has Christ's action on your behalf impacted your life?*

### Thursday, November 9<sup>TH</sup> "Pig snouts and rings"

**Scripture: Proverbs 11:22-25**<sup>NIV</sup>

I have to confess: when I was selecting this passage from the book of Proverbs, originally our reading would have been verses 23-25. Yet, with a smile in my face, I included verse 22. For years, that has been one of the favorite verses for a close clergy colleague of mine. We would have great fun having youth and campers, over the years, look it up to read out loud to the others around them! However, this metaphor speaks volumes; for it compares inner grace with outward beauty. A precious ornament and an attractive woman may be pleasing, but these outward trappings are repulsive, when accompanied by indiscretion and a distorted character. The promise given in verse 25 shows God's desire for us: "Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed" (v.25).

*Question: Where have you seen the "what's right for me may not be right for you" philosophy at work?*

### Friday, November 10<sup>TH</sup> "Sow generously, reap generously"

**Scripture: II Corinthians 9:6-7**<sup>NIV</sup>

Having spoken of the need for generosity in chapter 8, Paul then explained the twofold result of generosity: first, he mentioned the "cheerful giver" (v.7) who sows generously will also generously reap both the spiritual grace and material prosperity that God provides that permits believers to be able to constantly give spiritual and material benefits to others ("you will abound in every good work" v.8). Second, because generous giving is an evidence of God's grace, it prompts us to express gratitude and thanksgiving to the Lord. Giving should result from an inward resolve, not an impulsive or casual decision. We should give cheerfully, "not reluctantly" (as though our giving involved a painful loss to us) or not to give "under compulsion" (because there seems to be no alternative... or because of exerted pressure). As regularly as generous giving depletes the resources of the cheerful giver, God's grace replenishes our needs. This gives such a person a complete sufficiency ("all that you need") that comes from depending on an all-sufficient God.

*Question: How has your generosity been lately for the Lord's people?*

**Next Sunday, November 12, 2023**

**8:30 and 10:45 am** (Livestream @10:45 am)

**Proverbs 11:22-25**<sup>NIV</sup>, **II Corinthians 9:6-7**<sup>NIV</sup>

Pastor's message: **"Generous on So Many Levels"**

November theme: *"Disciples—living as grace-filled stewards"*

