

FIRST things FIRST

Daily Devotionals

September 22-28, 2025

Devotions are prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

Monday, Sept. 22 Contentment in Every Season

Read Scripture: Philippians 4:11-13

Paul's declaration of contentment wasn't made from a mountaintop. The man was in prison, and his peace was spiritual. He had learned, through hardship and abundance, that Christ alone was all he needed. In a world that constantly whispers "more," Paul reminds us that the deepest satisfaction comes from knowing we are held, provided for, and strengthened by God. Being content is something that is grown inside of us, it doesn't just happen. It grows through gratitude, through remembering God's faithfulness, and through choosing to see abundance even when others can't see it.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to be content not just when life feels full, but when it feels uncertain.

Tuesday, Sept. 23 Correct Values

Read Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus doesn't condemn wealth. Wealth isn't a bad thing, but Jesus is trying to redirect our focus on that wealth. Earthly treasures are temporary. They rust, fade, and slip through our fingers. But heavenly treasures—they are forever. The challenge is this: our hearts follow our treasure. If we're constantly chasing status, comfort, or control, our hearts will be restless. But if we invest in God's kingdom—serving others, giving freely, living with purpose—our hearts find peace. The question isn't just "What do I value?" but "Where am I placing my hope?"

Prayer: Father, help me store up treasure that lasts.

Wednesday, Sept. 24 Generosity That Reflects Grace

Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Generosity isn't just about giving. It is more about being the image of God on this earth. When we give cheerfully, we echo the grace we've received. God doesn't give sparingly or reluctantly. He gives abundantly, joyfully, and without strings attached. Paul reminds us that generosity is a spiritual rhythm. It shapes our hearts, loosens our grip on material things, and opens us to deeper trust. And it's not limited to finances. We can be generous with time, encouragement, hospitality, and forgiveness.

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When we sow generously, we participate in God's work. We become conduits of blessing, not just recipients.

Prayer: God, make me a cheerful giver.

Thursday Sept. 25 Guarding the Heart from Greed

Read Scripture: Luke 12:15

Greed is sneaky. It doesn't always look like hoarding or excess—it can show up as anxiety, envy, or the constant feeling that we're falling behind. Jesus warns us to be vigilant, because greed distorts our view of life. It convinces us that worth is measured in accumulation, not in relationship. But life, Jesus says, is more than possessions. It's found in connection—with God, with others, with purpose. When we guard our hearts against greed, we make space for gratitude. We begin to see what we already have, and we stop chasing what we don't need.

Prayer: Jesus, guard my heart.

Friday, Sept. 26 Pursuing Righteousness Not Riches

Read Scripture: Proverbs 11:4

There are moments when wealth seems powerful—when it solves problems, opens doors, or provides comfort. But Proverbs reminds us that in the ultimate reckoning, wealth is powerless. It can't buy peace, forgiveness, or eternal life. Righteousness—right relationship with God and others—is what truly matters. This isn't a call to poverty—it's a call to priority. When we pursue righteousness, we align our lives with God's justice, mercy, and truth. We become people of integrity, compassion, and courage. And that kind of life has lasting impact. Let's be people who value character over currency.

Prayer: Lord, help me pursue righteousness above all else.

Saturday, Sept. 27 Living with Eternal Perspective

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-2

Paul's invitation is clear: lift your gaze. Don't get stuck in the temporary. When we set our hearts on things above, we begin to see life differently. We make decisions not just for today, but for eternity. We love more deeply, give more freely, and live more purposefully. This doesn't mean ignoring the world—it means engaging it with hope. It means seeing every moment as sacred, every relationship as an opportunity, every resource as a tool for kingdom work. Living with eternal perspective doesn't detach us—it roots us. It reminds us that our story is part of something bigger. And it gives us courage to live generously, even when it costs.

Prayer: God, lift my eyes. Help me live today with eternity in mind and let my choices reflect You.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Worship at 10:00am

Practice Generosity

1 Timothy 6:6-19

by Pastor Clint Phillips