



28 Day Devotional Prayer Guide



Then the Lord answered me and said:

“Write the vision
And make it plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.

Habakkuk 2:2

Daily Devotion - Day 1

*Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your **hand** to. Deuteronomy 15:10*

I once heard a missionary from Africa speak to our class on missions. One of his comments has always stuck with me. "It's hard to share the Gospel with someone when they are starving! First feed them and then share the good news." It reminds me of James 2:14-16. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

During the bombing of a city in World War II, a large statue of Jesus Christ was severely damaged. They were able to repair most of the statue, but its hands had been damaged so severely that they could not be restored. The statue remained without hands and the people of the city added a sign at the bottom of the statue with these words "You are my hands".

When I was in England, I used to sing a hymn called Make Me a Channel of Your Peace. I thought it would be quite fitting to end with this song as the final thought as we think about the words.

*Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you*

*Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy*

*Oh, master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

*Make me a channel of your peace
It isn't pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

*Oh, master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

*Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy*

P *ayer: Lord Jesus help us to be channel of Your peace, help us to give generously without a grudging heart to the poor and needy, and may you bless us in all our work and everything we put our **hands** to in Jesus Name. A-men.*

Ronnie Leyland



Daily Devotion - Day 2

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. Psalm 37:5

I think the key word in this verse is "everything". How often do we actually give everything to God? What does that mean in today's world?

Every breath we take is a gift from God. Every sunrise & sunset is painted by his hand. Each & every day we should never take for granted. The trials & tribulations of the world we live in can be overwhelming, but we have a savior who can walk with us each & every day. He cares for us & will guide us by the Holy Spirit but the key is to commit each & every circumstance to Him. 1 Peter 5:7

The other key word is "trust". What does our trust look like? It should be a reflection of our faith. Proverbs 3:5-6.

As we think about SPBC growing to serve & glorify the Lord, we commit our plans to Him. We seek not to pride ourselves in what we do but trust that as He moves amongst us we would grow stronger in the faith. We trust that He will bless our efforts to serve Him. Look what He has done since the first cornerstone was laid at 9000 W Olive Ave! Let us continue to trust Him as we commit to serve him as a church who lives & breathes the word of God.

P*rayers: Father, we come before you humbly, committing our lives to you and we are so thankful for the salvation you have so freely bestowed upon our lives. Let us acknowledge that everything we have has been provided by your hand and continually place our trust in your hands. May you be glorified by all that we do, may your church continue to prosper, and may we be good stewards of that which you have placed before us. In Jesus name we ask, A-men.*

Wayne & Teri Willett



Daily Devotion - Day 3

7 But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7

While meditating on this verse, I could not help but think of 1 Corinthians 13. God calls us to grow in our faith. As we grow, our speech should mature and our knowledge should increase, but all of this will be pointless if we do not excel in walking in the love and the grace of God. As Christians, it is important that we take up our cross daily and live our lives in obedience to Christ. Our lives should reflect God's grace, love and mercy in all that we do.

P **ayer:** *Lord, may we at South Peoria Baptist Church grow in Your grace and walk in Your love toward our brothers and sisters in Christ, and may the world see Your light in our lives. May we honor you in all that we do, give, and say. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, A-men.*

Laura Leyland



Daily Devotion - Day 4

The Graciousness of the Ultimate Giver

"¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Corinthians 9:10 ESV

Like every parent I know, when our children achieve a particular life skill or overcome a difficult obstacle, we are full of joy and pride at their accomplishment! Last year I unexpectedly witnessed an area of growth in my daughter's heart that has permanently moved me!

My daughter's birthday falls in December just days before Christmas! Often her special day is overshadowed by the hustle and bustle of cookie making for the neighbors, Christmas concerts, activities at school, church and with family. If we plan a birthday gathering, few of her friends can join in, and it often gets lumped into "we'll celebrate when we see everyone on Christmas". Last year, Christmas and her birthday came and just as quickly the season passed into the new year. After Easter, during a Sunday service I noticed that our daughter had an offering envelop and was taking it up to the offering plate. It warmed my heart to know that she was opening her heart to giving, all on her own.

A few months later I received our giving statement from the church in the mail, and to my surprise so did my daughter. With my own rising curiosity, I asked her if she wanted to open it. She tenderly unfolded it, sharing the simple page with a single line of content. To my surprise, she had put her entire thirty-three dollars of birthday and Christmas money in the offering. I asked her what had prompted her to give it to God?

Her answer was this,

"God always loves me, and I want Him to know I love Him too. You and daddy always know what I really need. So, I wanted to give it back to God."

And just like that, she skipped off to play with her little brothers.

As you can imagine, deep humility welled and overflowed in my heart for several reasons.

1. My daughter understands and believes that God loves her
2. She is beginning to understand that what she has been given comes from God
3. She trusts God, to meet her needs
4. She gave with joy what God put on her heart to give and from what she had been given.



The Graciousness of the Ultimate Giver - Continued...

In this passage of scripture (2 Corinthians 9:8-15) Paul reminds us that God is the ultimate cheerful giver! He supplies all that we would ever need to be able to graciously give of our time, talents or treasures and His grace is more than sufficient for any work He calls us to do.

Thinking back on my daughter's display of joy and obedience in giving, I am reminded that God desires the same faith and grateful trust from me not just in material or monetary things, but in every area of my life! God certainly doesn't need the material things I have, or any skill that I could share to grow His kingdom. Yet in His amazing grace, He invites me and my tiny seed of trust to not only grow my love for Him but also to give Him glory as I watch what He does with what He has already given to me!

P*ayer: Father God, as I humbly remind myself that you are the storehouse where every good and perfect gift comes from, I thank you for your sufficiency in my life. I glorify your name, because you have displayed the ultimate sacrificial giving by placing your Son Jesus Christ on the cross to pay for my sins. Everything I have and everything I am, is because of your gracious giving towards me. As I think about your goodness, I ask that you help me to be ready, willing and generous with what you put on my heart today. Help me to be obedient with what you have given me and use it to minister to those around me. In Your Holy Name, A-men.*

Melissa Fastrup



Daily Devotion - Day 5

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. Malachai 3:10

Did you know that this is the only instance in Scripture where we are encouraged to test God? In all other circumstances, we are warned against putting the Lord to the test. If we go back just a couple of verses, we read that we are actually robbing God when we withhold our tithing! If we are obedient in giving a tithe (10% of our income) to the church, we are free of the accusation of such a crime... BUT what if we go above and beyond & start testing God with our increased generosity? What would it look like if we were so generous in our giving at SPBC that heaven's floodgates were thrown wide open & God's blessings were poured out in ways we would have never imagined? I triple dog dare us!!! The Bible is clear that we can trust that our needs will be taken care of. More specifically, we know that this is done "according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We should be confident then that if we are obedient in giving a sacrificial offering to the Lord that He will remain faithful to His Word to provide for us, and He does not run out of anything. God is good all the time!

This is how we can pray as we continue to prepare for the capital campaign...

P **ayer:** *"God, our hearts are burdened by all the needs we are faced with, yet we know there is no load too heavy for You. We feel overwhelmed when we look around and see so many things we believe You'd like us to do, but we know we can lay our concerns at Your feet, our Comforter. We recognize that this is not simply an effort to improve the property or beautify the campus, but rather an invitation to focus on doing all things for your glory. Our mission is to be real people that live to lead others to find life in Christ and we want to do that better. Help us, Lord, to be bold in our obedience to You as you lead us. Increase our faith in You as we continue to worship, grow, give and serve at South Peoria. Above all, teach us to never stop praising You for the precious gift of our salvation. Thank you for forgiving us of our sins and showing us how we can share the hope of Your saving grace through the Gospel with others. Give us the strength to serve You with joy and gladness and experience your perfect peace and rest. May our offering be pleasing to You, Oh Lord. In Jesus' Holy Name, A-men."*

Tawney Hayes



Daily Devotion - Day 6

Give to the LORD the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his presence. Worship the LORD in all His holy splendor. 1 Chronicles 16:29

Oh, faithful God, You are our Provider, and you gently call us to be faithful to the blessings you have bestowed to us. Your Word displays your omnipotence so that we may trust you in everything. Create in us a posture of daily humility so that we may obey your commands as chosen parts of the body of Christ. All we have and all we are is yours; although our successes seem to be a result of our own efforts, everything good is because of you. We get to rely on Christ, and rest in your full provision.

P *ayer: Thank you, God, for inviting us to worship with our tithes and offerings. Your overflowing goodness to us is a reminder to share our gifts according to your plans. We give you the glory in all of our good deeds and acts of faithfulness to your church; your bride. Give us eyes to see your hand in the projects and joyous developments within our Church body, and to trust you as we are faithful to our mission. Strengthen your church so that we may not miss out on investing in the children's ministry, expansion of our church family, and in the care of the Church as a whole. All glory be to you, our Maker, and Giver of life, A-men.*

Savannah McGuire



Daily Devotion - Day 7

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little one who is my disciple, truly I tell you that person will certainly not lose their reward." Matthew 10:42

"Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight!" South Peoria has been blessed with wonderful teachers and volunteers who show the love of Christ to our children. Jesus is aware of every act of kindness, every word of faith spoken, every encouraging word, every act of love shown to His children.

We are wonderfully blessed by God with people who are giving that 'cup of cold water'. Yet, our facilities at this time hinder our effectiveness. Rooms need remodeling and enlarging. Refresh Renew Restore is an opportunity for us to go to a new level.

P*ray***er:** *Lord thank you for our wonderful workers and volunteers who are giving that cup of cold water in many ways to our children and families. Lord what would you have me to do and give so that we can enlarge and restore our church? Lord help me to be aware of those opportunities to give 'a cup of cold water' every day. Thank you for those people in my life who came along at just the right moments and spoke faith into my life, encouraged me, gave me a 'cold cup of water' when my heart was parched, A-men.*

Pastor James Hayes



Daily Devotion - Day 8

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Part of being strong and of good courage means trusting in the Lord as our true source of strength. As we start our new Campaign "Refresh-Restore-Renew, it goes without saying, we don't have all the answers for the challenges before us.

We all have the what if questions, when it comes to money. This is all too real and scary for most of us. We ask ourselves; can I go without this or that. How can I afford anything else when gas, food and rent have gone up so high? Can I really afford these new challenges in my life?

Thoughts: *Yes, God promises that when we turn to Him for guidance, we will succeed. He has the answers and the strength we need to face any challenge before us. These comforting words can apply to all of us as we seek to live through Him.*

Marci Sain



Daily Devotion - Day 9

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Matthew 26:6-12

This passage reminds me of the saying: Do what is best. Jesus wasn't saying they should disregard the poor. He was saying she was doing what was best at that time.

Jesus saw her heart. She honored her Lord through her spontaneous and extravagant gift. She gave what she had, in a loving act of worship.

SPBC as a church family has followed God's leading in Worship – Giving – Serving. And He has blessed us with the Growth. I'm so excited to see both the spiritual growth and the physical growth at SPBC. But, with new growth some change is required.

Pray the Lord will keep each one of us focused on His mission for our church. To be Real people that live to lead others to find life in Christ. And that He would touch the hearts of our SPBC family and supply the means for making the changes needed to better equip our workers and adequately meet the needs of our church families.

I am amazed so many times at how God comes through in miraculous ways when there is a need. I'm excited to see what stories will be told in the future, as to how God supplied the funds, when someone stepped out in faith.

What is Your Alabaster Jar?

P **ayer:** Lord, speak to my heart, and show me what you desire from me, as my loving act of worship to You, *A-men.*

Cheryl Whitermore



Daily Devotion - Day 10

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Life is filled with uncertainty, but one thing is for certain! God is faithful and constant! God is good all the time! All the time God is good! So when difficult circumstances and uncertainty come your way, trust in the Lord! Do not fear for the Lord is with you and will never leave you!

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Do not be anxious for the Lord is faithful and constant in every trial! Just like the tree that doesn't fear heat (we Arizonans are familiar with heat) we trust that God will keep us secure!

"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

This verse is a reminder that like the tree planted by water, we don't need to be anxious! Christ is the living water and we should be in prayer over every aspect of our lives!

Trust in the Lord, don't be anxious for the Lord is faithful and good all of the time!

Payer: *Dear Lord, Thank you for your faithfulness and goodness.
Teach us to trust in you in every situation and in every trial.
Remind us to pray to you instead of turning to anxious thoughts!
We love you and we praise you for you are the living water and you are
so good to us, A-men.*

Chloe Hayes



Daily Devotion - Day 11

3) And they received from Moses all the contributions that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, 4) so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, 5) and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do." 6) So, Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution of the sanctuary." So, the people were restrained from bringing, Exodus 36:3-6

What an amazing opportunity to be a part of a God's growing church! Let us follow the example of Israel giving over and above to build a church that draws the community in and will touch families and children from all around.

Let us bring glory to God who generously always gives first and provides in all circumstances. What a privilege we have to further the kingdom, reach the lost, and hurting world. To share Jesus with them!

Our little church is so blessed with wonderful volunteers and workers. We need to be a light that shines brightly in Peoria; our facilities have become outdated and need some refreshing. We need to renew our buildings and restore that bright light that draws people in so we can share the love of Jesus.

P *ayer: Precious heavenly father, help me to refresh my mind daily with your word to be renewed each day and restored with your love. Only then, when my heart is in tune with you, can I know your will in my life. I ask that you prepare my heart and life situation to be able to give joyfully over and above my tithe as Israel did in the verses above. Let me bring much more than enough for doing the work; to exceed every expectation of need. Let us as a church body come together in prayer and seek your will for the great plan you have in store for us. Won't it be wonderful for our Pastor to say, "it's paid for, we will be stopping the building campaign"? Lord in a volatile world it's such a blessing to know you're in control and I'm excited to see what you have planned for South Peoria, A-men.*

Renee Hull



Daily Devotion - Day 12

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion 2nd Corinthians 9:7*

The Law of God's first 2 commandments is:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

The second is: Love your neighbor as yourself.

God loves a cheerful giver, from our loving heart. We give because we have been given much. When we love God, we follow the commands he has given us: Loving our neighbor, loving our Church. Our own heart determines what we give, how we give and we do this cheerfully, lovingly and when this happens it is not a burden.

Thoughts: We give with a cheerful heart because we love the Lord. We Love because he first loved us.

Connie Thomas



Daily Devotion - Day 13

Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You Psalm 143:8

Early morning is my favorite time of the day. After a good night's sleep my mind, body and spirit are usually renewed, restored and refreshed in order to meet the challenges of a new day. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ often rose early in the morning to pray and seek the Father's face and will. Just as the dawn breaks a new day it is exciting to see what God has in store for the future of SPBC. With the refurbishing and expansion of our facilities we will have opportunities to better serve our congregation and community, from children to senior adults.

Thoughts: As we meditate on God's word daily and allow Him to speak to us may we be in prayer asking the Father what our part is in contributing to the future of SPBC.

Larry Kamp



Daily Devotion - Day 14

*And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19*

Worry

A small word that works hard at stealing our peace and joy. A small worry is easily brushed aside, but when "life" happens – and it will happen – the worry comes in strong and fast. It's during those times that we pray, pray often and pray hard. God expects that we'll pray more during hard times – but it's important to remember that He was and is always supplying our needs before we even knew we needed something.

When we remember God's promises – the worry begins to fade – and in its place Hope begins to grow.

When we see a fellow Christian consumed with worry, who cannot find the words to pray, we can be a comfort to them with our prayers.

P **ayer:** *Dear Lord, Help me remember that You are always working in my life and have paved the way for me. Long before a problem arose - long before I began worrying - you were already there, A-men.*

Annette Haddox



Daily Devotion - Day 15

*"Then they faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts."
2 Chronicles 31:12*

This scripture passage reminded me of the beginning of our church. Pastor Coy Wilkerson and his wife Esther, being led by GOD, were the church planters holding services in the lunch room on Sunday morning at Cotton Boll School. Pastor Coy led us from a mission status to what is now known as South Peoria Baptist Church.

Pastor Chuck Heistand and his wife Vera along with Bill and Leona Toliver mortgaged their homes to purchase the old Peoria Courthouse building in Peoria, which became our first Church Home. GOD put this on their hearts and they responded. Our Church is here today due to the many volunteers (unpaid) who devoted their time and resources to be where we are today.

I pray that the SPIRIT of GOD will lead us to respond to the growth of our Church according to HIS WILL and HIS PURPOSE. All Glory, Honor, and Praise be to GOD.

P *ayer: Dear Heavenly FATHER, you have blessed us abundantly over the years. We offer up our Praise and Thanks to You. Let us Worship and Glorify You continuously in our hearts as we move forward in our Church. Let us always be led by YOUR SPIRIT in all of our decisions. A-men.*

Louis John Mastromauro



Daily Devotion - Day 16

13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 1 Kings 17:13-15

Can you imagine what this woman thought when Elijah told her what to do? She and her son were starving and only had that little bit of food, and he told her to make something for him first. But she was obedient to the man of God, and God blessed her for her obedience. We need to learn from this to be obedient to what God is telling each of us with regards to giving to the "Refresh Renew Restore" campaign. You may say that after the bills are all paid each month, there is nothing left in the jar. I can't give. But like this lady, we need to step out in faith and trust God and do what He tells us to do.

Just think of what God can do if all of us at South Peoria followed the example of this faithful woman. Our church needs some repairs and upgrades to meet the challenges God has in store for the future. God is ready to open the door to an exciting future and we need to make the preparations in anticipation to His blessings. Each member needs to pray about what his part is in this campaign.

P **ayer:** *Lord, speak to the heart of each member of South Peoria and reveal your will regarding the gift You want us to commit to. Like this woman was obedient to You, we also want to be obedient and are trusting You to supply our needs. Thank you Lord, A-men.*

John Steeger



Daily Devotion - Day 17

But since you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love, we have kindled in you. See that you also excel in this grace of giving.

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:7-8

A time to Refresh, Restore and Renew. The Lord has blessed South Peoria with an incredible amount of growth in the church family, both established families and family's just starting out. It is exciting to see what God has in store for South Peoria. It is through and from this growth that South Peoria needs to Refresh, Restore and Renew the property. Each of us, having excelled in faith, speech and knowledge of our Lord and Savior have now an opportunity to excel in the grace of giving, to help raise up the next generation of believers and to help provide space to help us grow further in our faith.

How do you hear the word "test"? Whether we're talking about earning a passing grade on a test at school, or testing the internal structural integrity of steel, isn't there something about the word "test" that makes our stomachs churn? Why is that?

Maybe it is about accountability. Accountability means that others "have the ability to count on me." Accountability means keeping promises. Delivering the goods. Aligning our words and our actions. Paul challenges the Corinthians to do what they have said they were going to do. To follow through in following Jesus.

Paul tells the Corinthians that his invitation for them to give cheerfully, sacrificially, and proportionately to the cause of the church in Jerusalem is a test. He isn't testing their generosity, he is "testing the genuineness of your love."

Our generosity is a visible action that results in gratitude on behalf of both the receiver and the giver. One is grateful for the support; the other is grateful to be in the position of offering their support. Giving and receiving lies at the heart of love.

We love, because God first loved us. We give, because God first gave to us. This is the way it is supposed to work.

P **ayer:** *Loving God, we want to be accountable to the promises of our identity as your children. To show up with what we have, doing our part as we are able, to further your work in the world. In all things, keep us mindful that we follow Jesus. That his way of being in the world is the model for how we are to be in the world. Let all things in our lives flow from love. In Jesus' name, A-men.*

Dave Sain



Daily Devotion - Day 18

14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 2 Corinthians 8:14

Paul wrote this to the church in Corinth who had been very blessed financially. He instructs them give out of their abundance in the hope that others would learn from this example and in turn help others when they come into abundance. This generosity would also benefit the Corinthian church should the time come for their needs to be met, or for other churches in need. It's amazing to witness the many ways in which the Lord provides (Jehovah Jireh). I can remember a time in my life when my family desperately leaned into the Lord to meet our needs. I had been laid off the Monday before Thanksgiving in 2017. While we trusted that God would take care of us, and that there was purpose in our struggle, my family still wrestled with the idea of how our needs would be met. Thankfully God had led us into the arms of a loving church family that gave from the abundance of which the Lord had blessed them. In many ways they had no idea who or how their giving would impact others. While some of the support we received came from the generosity of those who knew our situation, other support came from those who made the decision to give in faith however the Lord saw fit. Having experienced such generosity, my wife and I looked forward to the day we could provide the same kindness that was given to us and have since been able to do so by the grace and mercy of God.

When we give one on one to a family or individual in need, we can see the results of that giving in real time. When faithfully giving to the church, and investing in the work they do for current, and future families, we get to experience the amazing and mysterious work of the Lord. While we may not see the breadth of his grace and mercy, we can rest knowing that Jehovah Jireh is at work expanding the Kingdom of God. What a wonderful day it will be in the presence of the Lord seeing the mighty work he accomplished through the generosity of the saints.

P*rayer: Heavenly Father I thank you for providing in ways I may never know about this side of glory. I pray Lord that I can look upon the abundance You have given me and rejoice. Lord I pray that I can give generously from that abundance, so that others may praise Your name and rejoice likewise. I pray that You would take all that is given to You, and that Your will be done. That families can experience Your mercy, grace, and love. I pray for the church, Your bride, that she would be blessed in her endeavors, that she would bless others, and that Your Kingdom would grow beyond measure, and that many would be called to salvation. In Jesus name we pray these things. A-men.*

John Popovich



Daily Devotion - Day 19

You will keep him in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Isaiah 26:3

Keeping Gods peace in our hearts is a struggle when it seems as the world is pulling against us in every direction. For our time with our studies, time for our worship, our families ad even for our prayer time.

It's during these times, we are to lean into God's presence through His words in Isaiah 26:3 and Philippians 4:6-7.

Thoughts: As we enter into this renewal season of our church facilities, we should seek guidance on how we can participate.

Jerry Cunningham



Daily Devotion - Day 20

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will Uphold you with my righteous right hand.. Isaiah 41:10

God tells us not to fear because he is with us. He is our God and he gives us assurance of his strength and help. When we stay close to God, his spirit will enable us to do his will, despite any obstacles.

As we look to God for his provisions for the financial needs to remodel Buildings 1, we need to trust God instead of believing our present situation is bigger than God is. God Wants us to trust him.

P*ray***er:** *Father, we know trials and challenges will come. But we know you are good and you will give us strength to depend on you in any situation even when we're not sure what will happen. We come to you, Lord, in faith and without fear, that you will provide. We love You and praise you. In Jesus' name, A-men.*

Marilyn Cunningham



Daily Devotion - Day 21

*"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you."
Deuteronomy 16:17*

In the Old Testament, God had set up several festivals to be celebrated each year. These were times to celebrate things God had done in the lives of the Israelites. As a person came to each of these festivals, he was not to come without a gift to be presented to God. This gift was to be in proportion to the way God had blessed that person in the past year. The greater the blessing, the larger the gift.

Regardless of what is being celebrated, the one thing that God wants is that each person bring a gift according to how He has blessed that person. Not everyone can give the same amount but every person can give. They were to offer to Him what was possible without it being a burden. All blessings come from God and He bestows them on us according to His will. It is up to us to decide in our heart what our level of generosity will be.

The New Testament repeats this same principle in I Corinthians 16:2. Every man is to give "as God hath prospered him." Likewise, in Acts 11:29, the disciples sent relief to their brethren and every man did so "according to his ability." Each believer then and now should give to the Lord corresponding to how the Lord has prospered him.

When you bring gifts that are in proportion to how God has blessed you, God is pleased. It shows that you recognize His blessings in your life and that you trust Him to meet all of your needs. It also shows that you realize that the blessings God has given you are not for you alone, but to be shared with His church family as a blessing to them as well.

Celebrate what God has done in your life with those attending South Peoria Baptist Church and allow God to Refresh, Renew, and Restore His faithful church.

P*ayer: Father, I thank you for South Peoria Baptist Church and the desire it has to reach our community and those that so deeply need your care. I pray today that You will open our eyes to the blessings You have given each of us and that we will be willing to share those blessings forward. Father, we ask that You please continue to meet all of our needs and help us, as individuals, nurture that desire to bless Your church in proportion to how You have blessed us, A-men.*

Ken Eversole



Daily Devotion - Day 22

35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Acts 20:35

In verses prior to this, the Apostle Paul was speaking to the Elders in Ephesus warning them that after he leaves, there will arise wolves who will distort the truth of God's word and to be on guard against such attacks. Paul also lived a humble and hard working life in which he took care of himself along with taking care of other's needs.

Without the body of Christ coming together in a place suitable for his service, who will help the weak? Who will defend our brothers and sisters that still need to grow in their faith so that they can learn to see the lies of the enemy from the truth of scripture?

This takes perseverance and hard work on our part. It takes the giving of ourselves without the desire to be recognized for it. This church project is a smaller part of the eternal project that the master has called into being from eternity past. So it is an honor to be a part of it and in the end....we will be blessed.

P *ray***er:** *Father thank you for this place of worship that you had always planned to come into being. Thank you for those who have gone before us in their hard work to ensure that we had a place to grow, give and serve. Now help us to see how we also can give of ourselves to help in this endeavor to refresh, renew and restore your facilities. Facilities that exist for your glory and to honor you, A-men.*

Rich McGuire



Daily Devotion - Day 23

"Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. Exodus 25:2

In this scripture God is telling Moses to go and talk to the Israelites about what offering they are going to give, to help build the tabernacle. It's important to realize that everyone here at South Peoria Baptist Church has a part in the Refresh, Renew, Restore Campaign. We all need to be in prayer about what our gift is going to be, to help our church be a beacon to our community to lead them to Christ! God has a mighty plan and we need to seek His direction and work together.

P*ayer: Father we thank you so much for giving us hope that is found only in you. Thank you for the family you have given us here at South Peoria. May we step out in faith knowing that you will provide the people and finances needed to complete this task! Please let us be obedient to your calling and let us not be a Jonah and run away when the task ahead seems impossible. We know that through you all things are possible. Thank you for loving us and never leaving us to work alone! May we praise and lift you up and give you all the glory, A-men.*

Regina McGuire



Daily Devotion - Day 24

"Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Here Paul quotes a proverb -- saying that is generally true. A farmer who sows a lot of seed will usually be rewarded with a good crop.

1. Give generously

We are to give our time, talents and resources; and that includes our finances to further the cause of Christ's gospel in our local community. Jesus Christ must have priority in and over our lives. Does He? As a result of our obedience and trust in God's word the church (the local expression of His body) will prosper through trials and tribulations and will grow. This will happen not because of the sacrificial giving of our resources but because this is a true manifestation of our love of the Lord Jesus Christ and of our trust in and dependence on Him. It will be a sign of our overwhelming compulsion to further the gospel and show forth His love, grace and Mercy to others.

2. Do not give grudgingly but give willingly. If we feel obligated to give, if we resent the offering, if we dread the request, then we are not really generous. Search your heart in honesty and humility. Do you really love your Lord and Savior? Consider what Jesus did for you in and through His life, death and resurrection. Consider what He continues to do for you as your Intercessor with the father and will do for you as the Author and Finisher of your faith. Can you and I ever do enough or give enough of ourselves to Jesus!

3. Give cheerfully -- as a witness to your love of God.

Do you desire to see the church prosper in our land, do you desire to see a turning to the Lord in these perilous days; an awakening, do you want to know and increasingly experience the love of God?

Thoughts: Put your trust in Jesus Christ and serve Him wholeheartedly. Give what you can of yourself, your time, talents, resources and do so cheerfully for god loves a cheerful giver. Contributing to the needs of the saints is a distinguishing mark of Christians. The needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ should be met by the members of the family of God.

Tom Lindley



Daily Devotion - Day 25

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 2
1 Corinthians 8:3-4

In this passage, Paul talks about the Macedonians and their attitude of giving as a privilege. To say they gave of themselves is an understatement. They were giving beyond their means because they had a desire to partake in the spreading of the gospel. They literally begged Paul for the opportunity to give to the saints. They had received God's salvation and felt impassioned to be part of others' coming to that saving Grace.

When I stop and think about how many others have given so that I could receive salvation and have a place to worship, I am humbled and blessed. I grew up in Peoria hearing stories of people putting God's work ahead of their own desires; families sharing one car, men taking extra jobs, women selling jewelry and other personal items. I have heard about the men of faith who co-signed for South Peoria Baptist Church in the beginning, willing to risk their livelihood so that it would be here for all of us, today. Only God knows how many lives have been changed because those people who put Him first.

I am reminded of a Russian letter I received as a young man. Not being fluent in Russian, I was mystified at its meaning. A few months later, a local Russian farmer was able to tell me that it was a "thank you" note for a cherished Bible one family had received through a giving project; a project I had supported through my church. I would love to tell you a great story of giving for that Bible, but I honestly don't remember any specifics, other than what was true of most young men at the time; I lived paycheck to paycheck. I am just glad God let me be a part of His miracle.

P *rayer: Dear Gracious Heavenly Father, I praise You for your Living Word and the ability it has to penetrate the hearts of people. Thank You for the pastors, leaders, and Sunday School teachers who accepted your call to teach at South Peoria Baptist Church giving us the opportunity to be a part of a growing community of Believers. Father, thank You for those whose lives have been changed through the preaching and teaching of your Word and contributed to the work of South Peoria through faithful giving. Today, I exalt You because of those You used in the past to benefit my spiritual life; people who offered what they had - and sometimes what they didn't - to further Your ministry. As a result of their giving, South Peoria has been a steadfast part of the West Valley welcoming all to attend. Thank You for allowing me the privilege to be involved in ministry at South Peoria. Help me to give knowing that I am investing in a place where people will continue to worship and learn about You. Lord, I pray for every person that walks through the doors, that they will get to know You as Lord and Savior. You are worthy of all the glory and praise, in Jesus' gracious name, I pray, A-men.*

Kevin Kosier



Daily Devotion - Day 26

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7

Have you ever received exactly what you asked for on Christmas or a birthday?

I remember one Christmas where my brother and I asked for a Nintendo 64 game system right around the time when it just came out. Our family had not owned any kind of game system up to this point. Christmas rolled around and much to my brother and I's surprise; we opened a brand-new Nintendo 64 with the latest Mario Kart game. We were so excited and played it non-stop all through Christmas break. We received exactly what we asked for on Christmas that year and it was one that we will always remember.

In Matthew 7:7 we see Jesus encouraging and motivating us to pray with the command three times to ask him for what they need. Then in the next verse Jesus states "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened". What do these promises mean? Do they mean that everything we ask for we will get?

The answer is no, we do not get everything we ask for, nor should we, or should want to. The reason we should not get everything we want is because we would then in effect become God if God did everything we asked him to do. The reason we would not want to get everything we asked for is because we would then have to bear the burden of infinite wisdom which we do not have.

But the reason that we know we do not get all that we ask is because the rest of scripture, and specifically this passage, implies this. In verses 9-10, Jesus says that a good father will not give his child a stone if he asks for bread and will not give him a serpent if he asks for a fish. This illustration then prompts the question "what if the child asks for a serpent?". As we read on in verse 11, Jesus draws out the truth to that question with the statement "how much more will your Father give good things to those who ask him". God is a good father and only gives good things and does not give serpents to children.

So, when we look at the whole passage, it says when we ask and seek and knock, he will hear, and he will give us good things and only what we need. Sometimes it will be just what we asked, sometimes just when we ask, and sometimes just the way we want it. And then other times God doesn't give us what we ask for but gives us something better, or at a better time, or in a way he knows is better.

Thoughts: *Matthew Henry says, that "we often ask that of God which would do us harm if we had it; he knows this, and therefore does not give it to us". When the Lord does not give us what we want, let us remember that it is probably because what we want would be harmful to us. Even. God's "no" to us is evidence of His great love for us, A-men.*

Pastor Preston Ford



Daily Devotion - Day 27

"13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

When we Read Romans, chapter 15 verses 1-13, we are reminded that Christ is our hope! In anything we face, the more we strive to learn and understand God's promises in God's Word the more we find our faith grows. Then we can experience peace and joy in believing God is who He says He is! Jesus is our example of what trusting God looks like.

In Romans 15:3 it says "For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, 'The reproach of those who reproached you, fell on me.' For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of Scriptures we might have hope." As you continue to trust God more, He will give you the grace to have peace and joy during any circumstances in your life.

Thoughts: "Everything God has ever said in the Bible is written to give Christians' hope!" John Piper

Jillian Ford



Daily Devotion - Day 28

"for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on" Mark 12:43-44

From the words of our Lord spoken in praise of the poor widow, we learn that in our good works everything depends upon the intention. The widow had given more than all the rich; for she parted with her whole fortune. She intended to give all she had to God. This was an act of perfect love and sacrifice.

When I think about this bible verse I believe it's the size of the heart that matters; not the size of the gift. As we pray about our Capital Campaign and the huge amount that is needed, let us be that bright light in our community to share the good news with those that are lost and have no hope.

P *ayer: Our precious heavenly father, thank you for my salvation and my church family. The thought of giving in addition to my tithe is overwhelming but I know you will provide. Lead me and guide me as to what you would want me to give to this campaign. Give me the courage to step out in faith and be obedient. All for your glory and perfect will, A-men.*

Sylvia Justus

