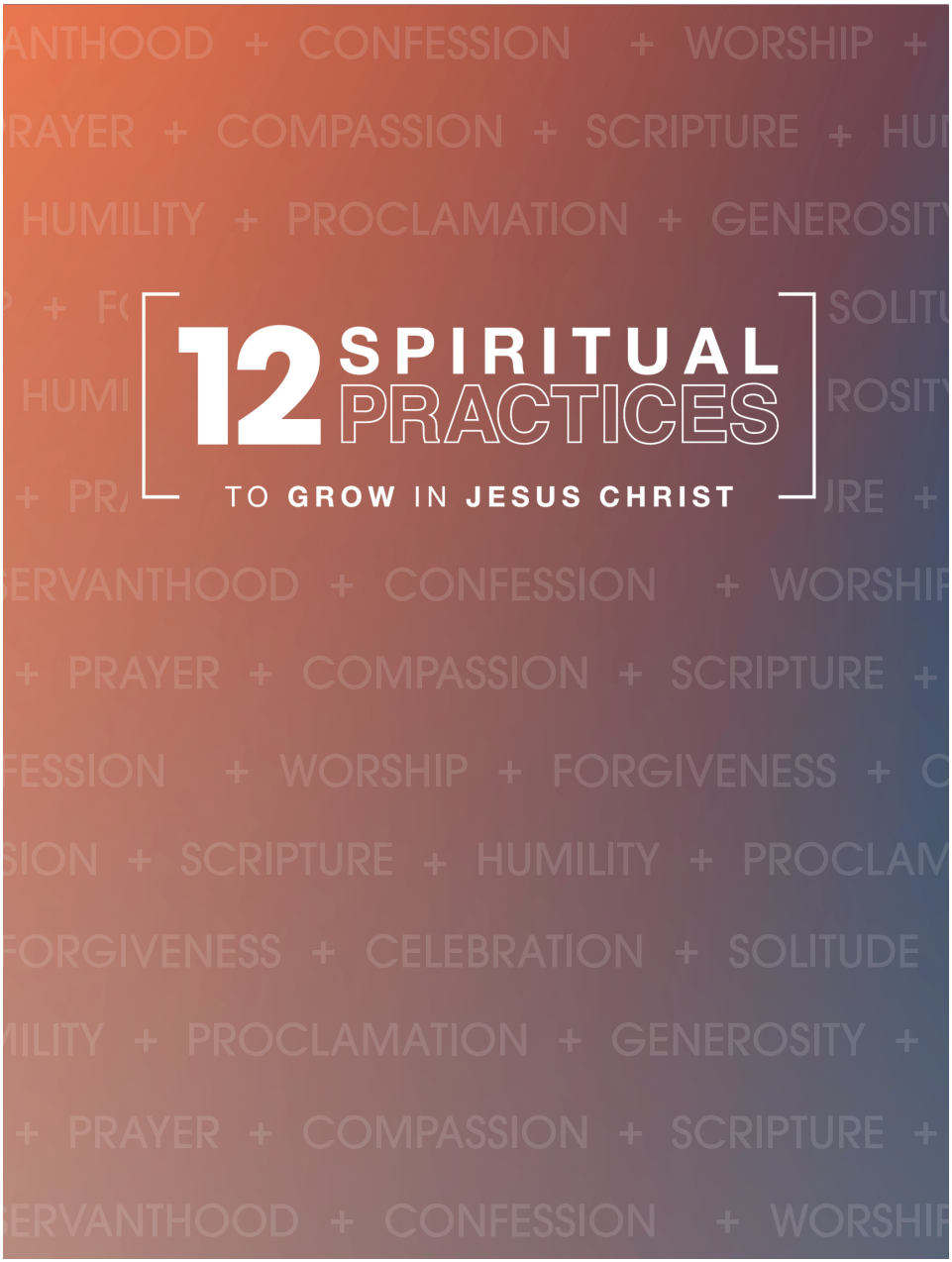


DEVOTIONAL 2026

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER

WELCOME!

We're glad you have chosen to use this devotional!

As you may know, Burke Community Church has decided to make 2026 a year to focus on discipleship - that is, the process of growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ - and we are going to use the model of 12 Spiritual Practices in order to do that. This is our church's own take on the many books, lessons, sermons and curricula that have been produced through the years to help Christians observe and learn from how Jesus lived. These are often called "Spiritual Disciplines," and this devotional (authored by various staff, elders and lay leaders from BCC) is designed to walk you through the process of practicing these weekly.

One thing that is especially helpful about doing this as a church family is that you will have the opportunity to share your experiences of growth with others. To that end, we encourage you to join a life group if you haven't yet (https://www.burkecommunity.com/lifegroups/), as many of our groups will be discussing these practices together. Diving in on your own is great, too! Maybe you are interested in spending additional time during the week engaging in these practices, and for that we have journals available in *The Nook* for documenting your deep thoughts. **New and improved in this Devotional are daily scripture readings and prayer prompts to help you stay connected!**

No matter how you journey through these practices, one thing is very important to remember: The 12 Spiritual Practices are the means and not the end. The end goal is growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:8 (ESV) articulates this well: "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

As a Burke Community Church family, let us grow in Jesus Christ in 2026, and find joy in engaging these Spiritual Practices together!

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WORSHIP

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 1
October 4-10

Focus: *Mercy*

Worship begins and ends with an appreciation of God's mercy

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see." Few songs capture the wonder of God's mercy quite like Amazing Grace. These familiar words remind us of a truth we can easily forget: everything we have in Christ is a gift we did not earn. Mercy is God's unmerited kindness and goodness toward us. We were lost, separated from God by our sin, and unable to save ourselves. Yet, because of His great love and mercy, Jesus came. He lived the life we could not live, died the death we deserved, and rose again in victory. And His death and resurrection didn't just free us from something. They freed us for something. We have been redeemed to glorify God. Worship, then, begins with remembering. We remember who we were and what Christ has done. We remember that we were lost, and He found us. We were blind, and He opened our eyes. We were guilty, and He showed us mercy. And our response is worship. Not just through the songs we sing on Sunday, but through lives surrendered to the One who died and rose again for us. Every act of obedience, every moment of gratitude, every sacrifice, and every song can become an offering of worship. Worship begins and ends with an appreciation of God's mercy. The more we remember the depth of His mercy toward us, the more naturally our hearts respond with gratitude, surrender, and praise. Amazing grace. Amazing mercy. And a response worthy of all of our worship - our whole lives.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 1
October 4-10

Reflection Questions

What is your own "I once was... but now..." story?

How does remembering God's mercy change your perspective?

If worship is our response to God's mercy, what might it look like for you to worship Him beyond Sunday?

DAY 2	Lam. 3:22-23	Lord, help me begin today by remembering Your unfailing mercy and faithfulness.
DAY 3	Psalm 100:4-5	Father, fill my heart with gratitude as I enter Your presence today.
DAY 4	Psalm 138:2	God, help me worship You for Your steadfast love, faithfulness, and holy name.
DAY 5	Jeremiah 20:13	Lord, teach me to praise You for rescuing me and caring for my soul.
DAY 6	Psalm 86:15	Compassionate God, help me rest in Your grace, patience, and faithful love.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 2
October 11-17

Focus: *Sacrifice*

Worship requires giving of ourselves to God

As a little girl, I spent countless summer days and weekends sitting beside my grandfather in his shop, watching him make fiddles. He had taught himself how to build them by studying his father's own instrument—the one thing he had left from his dad, who had died when my grandfather was only sixteen. With patience and practiced hands, he would carve the ribs of the fiddle with a hoof knife. He would shape the wooden plates and carefully cut the f-holes. He painstakingly created the channel for the purfling, and then my small fingers would help press it into place. Once the plates and ribs had been assembled with the neck, my grandfather would mix his own stains, searching for just the right burgundy or blonde finish. Then we would string the fiddle up on a line tied up outside to dry in the sunlight. From beginning to end, the birth of a fiddle takes approximately 180 hours. But when it was finished, all those hours of carving, shaping, sanding, staining, waiting, and working were transformed into something that could make beautiful music. In Romans 12:1, Paul doesn't simply tell us to do something for God. He tells us to offer ourselves to God. Worship is more than a song we sing on Sunday morning. Worship is what happens when we place our entire lives in God's hands. Our time is worship. Our work is worship. Our gifts are worship. Our relationships, our homes, our suffering, our ordinary routines, and even the things no one else sees can become offerings to God. We don't offer ourselves because we are trying to earn God's love. We offer ourselves because we have already received His mercy. Just as my grandfather patiently took pieces of wood and shaped them into an instrument, God patiently works in us. He carves away what doesn't belong. He shapes our hearts. He refines us through seasons of waiting and difficulty. He is making something of our lives that can bring glory to Him. And perhaps that is why "Warfaring Stranger" remains my favorite song from childhood. There is something solemn and hauntingly beautiful about its melody—a reminder that this world is not our final home and that our hope rests in Christ. The fiddle had to be surrendered to the hands of the craftsman before it could make music. And so do we.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 2
October 11-17

Reflection Questions

What part of your life are you finding difficult to place in God's hands right now? What would it look like to surrender that part of your life to Him?

God patiently shapes us through seasons of work, waiting, and difficulty. Where do you see God shaping or refining you in this season of your life?

Romans 12:1 reminds us to offer our entire lives to God as an act of worship. What is one ordinary part of your life—your work, relationships, time, gifts, or routines—that you can intentionally offer to Him today?

DAY 2	Hebrews 13:15-16	Jesus, help me offer You both the praise of my lips and the service of my life.
DAY 3	Psalm 50:23	Lord, may my gratitude and obedience become an offering that honors You.
DAY 4	1 Peter 2:9	God, help me use my words and my life to proclaim the goodness of the One who rescued me.
DAY 5	1 Thess. 5:16-18	Father, teach me to worship You through joy, prayer, and thanksgiving in every circumstance.
DAY 6	Psalm 51:16-19	Lord, give me a humble and repentant heart that is pleasing to You.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 3
October 18-24

Focus: *Holy*

Worship is heart-action which is "set apart" for God's Glory

"Many Spirit-filled authors have exhausted the thesaurus in order to describe God with the glory He deserves. His perfect holiness, by definition, assures us that our words can't contain Him. Isn't it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?"—Francis Chan Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1) Worship is heart-action which is "set apart" for God's Glory. Holy tongs?! Years ago, I was reading through the furnishing of the Tabernacle in the desert and God's Temple in Jerusalem and saw among the items listed, "tongs." They were implements used both for the Altar of Incense inside the Holy Place and the Altar just outside the Tabernacle and Temple where the priests would offer sacrifices. It stumbled me because the priests were ordered to make every square inch of the Tabernacle and Temple "holy" along with every implement or tool used therein, even tongs! I knew that God had told us to be holy, even as He is holy, but what does that mean for me or my worship of God if even tongs can be holy. This started me down a road of trying to translate "holy" out of Christianese into something I could understand practically, so I looked up the meaning. The first one said to be holy is to be sanctified. "Ok," I thought, "but what does that mean?!" Next the dictionary said that to be sanctified was to be sacred. "Great," I thought, "but what does that mean?!" Then it finally clicked. The dictionary I was using finally said that to be sacred is to be "set apart for only one purpose," and I finally got it. Our lives and worship are holy when they are "set apart for only one purpose." Indeed, a essential element in true intimacy between any two beings is that they "set apart" or make holy their time together. God, an infinite and omnipresent and omniscient being has the ability to be completely focused on us individually and intimately. Our task then is to reciprocate and make our hearts holy, or "set them apart for a single purpose" being intimate with God through worship. And it is a completely different experience when we do.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 3
October 18-24

Reflection Questions

Who benefits more and how when we "set apart" time to glorify God in worship, God or us?

How can you intentionally "set apart" your time for intimacy with God through worship?

Using tongs from the Temple for any purpose outside the temple would "desecrate them" because they'd be used for something they were not "set apart for." In the same vein, how can we unintentionally "desecrate" our worship of God? How do we allow other thoughts or motives interfere with "setting apart" our hearts for worship?

DAY 2	1 Peter 2:9	Holy God, remind me that You have called me out of darkness and set me apart to declare Your praise.
DAY 3	Psalm 50:23	Lord, let my thanksgiving honor You and shape the way I live today.
DAY 4	Revelation 4:8	God, awaken my heart to the wonder of Your perfect holiness.
DAY 5	Revelation 15:4	Lord, help me live with reverence and worship You alone as holy.
DAY 6	John 4:23	Father, teach me to worship You sincerely, with a heart directed by Your Spirit and grounded in truth.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 4
October 25-31

Focus: *Spirit*

Worship is a whole-life response to God that flows from a heart transformed by His Spirit.

Have you ever had a doctor tap your knee with that little rubber hammer? When the right spot is struck, your leg moves almost before you realize it. You don't have to stop and decide how to respond. The response comes naturally--a reflex.In Romans 12:1, Paul describes worship almost like a spiritual reflex: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Paul begins with God's mercy. Before he tells us what to do, he reminds us of what God has already done. For eleven chapters, Paul has described the mercy of God: while we were sinners, Christ died for us. When we could not save ourselves, God rescued us. He forgave our sin, adopted us into His family, gave us His Spirit, and promised that nothing could separate us from His love. Then comes the response: "Therefore…offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." Worship is the fitting response to the mercy of God. Some translations call this our "spiritual worship." Others call it our "reasonable service" or "true and proper worship." Each phrase helps us understand Paul's meaning. In light of everything God has done for us, surrendering ourselves to Him is the response that makes sense. Worship is not an attempt to earn God's mercy. It is our response to having already received it. That means worship is much larger than singing. Singing is worship, but worship does not end when the music stops. Paul tells us to offer our bodies—our whole selves—to God. Our time, work, relationships, ambitions, sexuality, money, decisions, suffering, and ordinary routines can all be placed on the altar. Worship, then, is a daily response of "God, because You have been merciful to me, my life belongs to You." In view of His mercy, surrender is not unreasonable. It is not excessive. It is the right spiritual response. The more clearly we see God's mercy, the more naturally our hearts respond with worship. Mercy strikes the heart, and surrender becomes the reflex. See His mercy. Surrender your life. Let God reshape you. This is our spiritual worship—not merely a song offered on Sunday, but a life offered to God every day.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 4
October 25-31

Reflection Questions

Why is surrendering our lives to God the reasonable and fitting response to His mercy?

What part of your life is easiest to separate from worship? What would it look like to place that part of your life on the altar before God?

If worship is meant to become a spiritual reflex, what could help you remember God's mercy and respond with surrender throughout your week?

DAY 2	Romans 12:1-2	Lord, in view of Your mercy, I offer my whole life to You as an act of worship.
DAY 3	Luke 7:36-50	Jesus, help me see the greatness of Your forgiveness so that my love and worship flow freely in response.
DAY 4	Hebrews 12:28-29	Father, fill me with gratitude and teach me to worship You with reverence and awe
DAY 5	1 Corinthians 10:31	God, may everything I do today—even the most ordinary things—bring glory to You.
DAY 6	Colossians 3:17	Lord Jesus, let every word I speak and every action I take become an offering of thanksgiving to You.

GENEROSITY

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 1
November 1-7

Focus: *Earth*

Generosity starts with having a healthy perspective on posessions

"In the remote bush in Africa, hunters have developed a clever way to catch monkeys: they find a gourd, hollow out its insides, fill it with monkey food, and tie it to a tree. The opening is big enough for a monkey's fist to fit, but when the monkey's hand clenches around the food inside, it's too big to remove. Eventually, the hunter returns, and the monkey is still stuck with his hand in the gourd, clutching the food, and he himself becomes food for the hunter. The monkey lacks the perspective that if he does not release the food, his very life will be forfeit. How often do we lack that same perspective? Do we cling so tightly to our money, to building big houses and filling them with nice things, to fancy vacations and fine dining that we forget that everything we have belongs to God first, and He has given it to us to steward well? "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth," Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19-20, "where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." The eternal perspective tells us that in Christ, we have all we need—far more than we deserve, and more than we could ask for or ever imagine. When we live with eternity in view, generosity becomes more than giving away what we have: it becomes an act of worship—a declaration that God is our treasure, our provider, and our true security. Don't be like the monkey. Keep a loose grip on the things of this world. As Christians, God asks us to give up the gifts that were never ours. It is the least we could do in worship for our Lord who has given us eternal life."

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 1
November 1-7

Reflection Questions

When it comes to your time, possessions, and finances, do you tend to see yourself as an owner or a steward? What might change if you truly viewed everything you have as belonging to God?

What makes it difficult for you to give generously—fear of not having enough, desire for security, attachment to possessions, or something else? What might God be inviting you to trust Him with?

Jesus calls us to renounce all that we have and follow Him. What is one area of your life where God may be asking you to loosen your grip and become more generous?

DAY 2	Luke 6:38	Lord, loosen my grip on what I possess and help me become open-handed toward others.
DAY 3	2 Corinthians 9:7	Father, make my generosity willing, joyful, and free from pressure or resentment.
DAY 4	2 Corinthians 8:7	God, help me grow in the grace of giving just as You are growing me in faith, knowledge, and love.
DAY 5	Leviticus 27:30	Lord, remind me that everything I have belongs to You and has been entrusted to my care.
DAY 6	Matthew 6:19-21	Jesus, turn my heart away from temporary treasures and toward the things that matter eternally.

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 2
November 8-14

Focus: *Heaven*

Generosity requires an eternal perspective

"Give to everyone who asks of you; and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back." Luke 6:30 (NASB20)

"So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33 (RSV)

"And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, 'One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.' But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich." Luke 18:22-23 (RSV)

Ever sympathize with the rich young ruler, or even identify with him? I certainly have, when the Holy Spirit confronts me with passages like these. God has so richly blessed me- certainly spiritually, but also physically and financially. He has enabled many of us to live pretty comfortably and to give- even generously sometimes. And then comes another letter from the elders (and I am one, so I should have been expecting it!), challenging me to give above and beyond- again?!? Granted, I no longer have to work for pay, but I still need money and, after all, haven't I given enough of my money? I gave God His part- why does He keep coming after mine? After all, doesn't He own the cattle on a thousand hills? Why can't He just sell some of those?

Let's consider some of the errors in that last paragraph, shall we? Am I really giving generously, in the face of what Christ has given for me? "I've given enough of my money"- how much of the money I have belongs to me? Who decides where it should go? "He owns the cattle on a thousand hills"- Ps 50:10- true, and what does God say through Nathan in His rebuke to David after Uriah's murder? After God lists what He has already given to David, He says "...and if this were too little, I would add to you as much more." (2 Samuel 12:8). He says the same to me. Whatever I need, He promises to provide and His warehouses are endless. Maybe I have more to learn about what generosity really is...

Reflection Questions

What are some of the areas of your life where you are holding on to worldly material things too tightly and maybe should let them go?

What is one area of your life where you could give up that material luxury and use that money towards serving the Lord and His work.

What commitment can I make this week to show that I value eternity over the material things of this world.

DAY 2	2 Samuel 24:24	Lord, teach me to give in ways that require genuine trust and sacrifice.
DAY 3	1 Timothy 6:18-19	Father, help me become rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.
DAY 4	Proverbs 3:9-10	God, help me honor You with the first and best of everything You have entrusted to me.
DAY 5	Proverbs 19:17	Lord, open my eyes to the needs around me and help me serve You by caring for others.
DAY 6	1 Corinthians 15:58	Jesus, remind me that everything done for You has eternal value and is never wasted.

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 3
November 15-21

Focus: *Treasure*

Generosity is knowing where to place your treasure

"In Mark 8:36, Jesus asks us a poignant question, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" Jesus was asking the people what treasure can you acquire that is more valuable than your soul? Jesus then provides the answer by saying, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (V.35). One might ask, "How do I lose my life to save my soul?" Jesus again answers this question by saying, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (V.34).

When we think of what Jesus did for us on the cross for us, there is no greater form of love and generosity than laying down one's life for another. Jesus affirmed this statement when He said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

When one accepts Christ as his Lord and Savior, we become His disciple and are tasked with "The Great Commission" (Matt.28:19-20). We also receive the Holy Spirit who helps us with our sanctification (i.e. conforms us to become more and more like Christ). So when you confront challenges in life, ask yourself this question, "What would Jesus do in this situation?""

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 3
November 15-21

Reflection Questions

How do I view the money and possessions God has entrusted to me?

When I am challenged to give beyond what feels comfortable or "enough," what fears, attitudes, or assumptions surface in my heart?

What would genuine, Christ-centered generosity look like in my life right now?

DAY 2	Matthew 6:19-21	Jesus, reveal where my treasure truly is and draw my heart toward Your Kingdom.
DAY 3	Luke 12:15	Lord, guard me from greed and remind me that the value of my life is not measured by what I possess.
DAY 4	Matthew 13:44	Father, help me see Your Kingdom as a treasure worth joyfully surrendering everything to receive.
DAY 5	Philippians 3:7-8	Jesus, teach me to value knowing You above every achievement, possession, and source of security.
DAY 6	Mark 8:34-37	Lord, give me the courage to deny myself, follow You, and value my soul above anything the world can offer

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 4
November 22-28

Focus: *Heart*

Generosity forms your heart into Christ-likeness

In Matthew 19 Jesus said, "...Go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." What is the world is Jesus talking about? That sounds illogical! As we conclude our focus on generosity, we come to the heart of the matter. Jesus is always more interested in our heart over our actions. He is wants our state of "being" more than our "doing." The things we do are to flow from our hearts, and the things we do in turn shape and reinforce the affections of our hearts. One may consider treasure in a much deeper context than just our money and possessions. Our treasure may be anything close to our hearts. A treasure is something that is highly prized, cherished, and emotionally valuable. It may be anything we cherish and includes so much more than money, such as our time, our attention, and our energy. When we store up our treasure in heaven, our hearts are drawn towards our relationship with the Lord (Matthew 6:19-21) and our state of being is formed more towards His likeness. Jesus challenges the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 to give away his possessions because it is a test of what his heart really treasures. The challenge is not so much about giving away his wealth as it is demonstrating his love, his state of being, for Christ. When we are generous, we not only demonstrate God's love to others, we are storing our treasure in heaven and forming our hearts into His likeness. How might you bless another and perhaps draw your heart just a little closer this His by completing an act of kindness today?

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 4
November 22–28

Reflection Questions

Where are you storing up the treasures of your heart? To what do you invest the most attention?

How do you demonstrate generosity in your life?

How might you offer an act of unexpected generosity to someone this week?

DAY 2	1 John 3:17	Lord, do not let me close my heart to people in need. Teach me to love through practical action.
DAY 3	1 Corinthians 13:3	Father, keep my generosity rooted in genuine love rather than recognition, obligation, or pride.
DAY 4	2 Corinthians 8:9	Jesus, shape my heart through the example of Your grace and sacrificial generosity.
DAY 5	Luke 6:35–36	Lord, help me give freely and love generously, even when I expect nothing in return.
DAY 6	Proverbs 11:25	Generous God, use my life to refresh others and shape me more fully into the likeness of Christ.

CELEBRATION

Mark 5:19-20

And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 1
December 6-12

Focus: *Jesus*

Celebration starts with understanding what Jesus has done for you

"After Jesus drove the legion of demons out of the man who lived among the tombs in the country of the Gerasenes (Mark 5), He told the man to tell his people what great things the Lord had done for him, and that's what he did. He "began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him." This man was celebrating his deliverance by Jesus from a horde of demons. Our celebration also begins with a realization of what Jesus has done and continues to do for us. By His obedience to God the Father, Jesus delivered us from sin and earned eternal life for us by taking our punishment on Himself at the cross. Now, He intercedes for us as our High Priest and Advocate in heaven (Hebrews 7:24-25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1) The formerly demon-possessed man had no doubt what Jesus had done for him, and neither do we. This is the foundation of our celebration in Christ.

It makes sense to equate celebration with joy, one of the fruits of the Spirit. Joy transcends mere happiness, which is based on favorable circumstances. Jesus, "for the joy set before Him," was able to endure the cross for our sake, and now sits at the right hand of the Father's throne (Heb 12:2). When He talked to His followers about abiding in Him, Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11). That joy, as Nehemiah said, is our strength (Neh 8:10). So let's celebrate what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us and countless others!"

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 1
December 6-12

Reflection Questions

How would celebrating daily what Christ has done for me affect my desire to proclaim His gospel to
others?

We celebrate our salvation to eternal life in Jesus Christ. What are some other things Jesus has done or is doing now for us that are causes for celebration?

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, both of the faithful servants who used their master's funds wisely are told, "enter into the joy of your master" (25:21, 23). Can our anticipation of future joy in Christ's presence motivate us to serve Him here, as Jesus did the Father's will "for the joy set before Him"? (Heb 12:2)

DAY 2	Hebrews 7:24-25	Jesus, thank You for interceding for me and completely saving all who come to God through You.
DAY 3	Romans 8:34	Lord Jesus, help me live with confidence and joy because You died, rose again, and now intercede for me.
DAY 4	1 John 2:1-2	Jesus, thank You for being my Advocate and for paying the price for my sin.
DAY 5	John 15:11	Lord, help me abide in You so that Your joy may fill my life and overflow to others.
DAY 6	Hebrews 12:1-2	Jesus, fix my eyes on You and help me endure faithfully because of the joy set before me.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 2
December 13-19

Focus: *Story*

Celebration requires putting words to your spiritual transformation

Why celebrate story? Are stories important? Imagine our world today if Paul had never written anything down or dictated the story he told of the life and way of Jesus Christ? No Romans, no 1 and 2 Corinthians, no Galatians, no Philippians, no Thessalonians, and no Philemon, nor would we likely have Ephesians, Colossians, nor 1 and 2 Timothy, nor even Titus. What if John Mark never thought to record stories he learned from companions such as Peter, Paul or Barnabas, would we even have the second Gospel? The Good News these stories reveal make up about half of the New Testament! Would we have completeness for the greatest story ever told? Would we have the same understanding of the Love Christ has for each of us, His sacrifice for our sins, or even a full comprehension of His Resurrection?

In Mark 5:19-20 we see the significance of story in Christ's direction to the once demon-possessed man who wanted to follow Him, yet 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed." Jesus knew all too well the significance of a story such this man's miraculous recovery. His personal testimony of Jesus amazed the ten cities of the Decapolis. A story of a transformed life unburdened by the yoke of possession and shame, transforming others. One witness, conveying the Good News to thousands. Story celebrates evangelism. Now imagine putting your story of Jesus' transformation in your life by writing it down and conveying it to others - it will change lives!

[CELEBRATION]

Reflection Questions

The world is waiting....so what's your story?

Would you have told the same story 10 or 20 years ago? Would you describe the impact of Christ using the same words you might have used long ago?

How would you write your story down? An epic? A poem? A ballad? How will record your story?

DAY 2	Psalm 107:1-2	Lord, help me remember Your goodness and give me the courage to tell the story of how You have redeemed me.
DAY 3	Psalm 66:16	God, teach me to speak clearly and gratefully about what You have done for my soul.
DAY 4	1 Peter 3:15-16	Jesus, prepare me to explain the hope I have in You with gentleness and respect.
DAY 5	Acts 26:12-18	Lord, help me recognize how my personal story can point others toward the truth of the gospel.
DAY 6	Revelation 12:11	Father, remind me that the story of Christ's victory and His work in my life can become a powerful testimony.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 3
December 20-26

Focus: *Tell*

Celebration happens when you tell others what Jesus has done for you

"“But we will tell the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His power and His wondrous works that He has done.” Psalm 78:4 Where would we be if those who came before us had not proclaimed the good news or told of God’s wondrous works? Telling what Jesus has done for us is a powerful way to bring glory to the Father for generations. Yet many believers go years without sharing what Jesus has done for them. I know I did.

I stayed quiet for 10 years. I was worried no one would understand, that sharing God’s work in my life might sound self-centered, or that what felt special to me wouldn’t matter to others. My dilemma was more about me than God. If you relate - if you’ve felt tempted to hold back - that intimidation and fear is not from God. One of the enemy’s tired tactics is to keep us quiet so we won’t bring glory to God, proclaim the good news of Jesus, and make His name known. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly tells His people to remember what He has done and tell others: “Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.” 1 Chronicles 16:8. Hosting the Faith Conversations Podcast has shown me firsthand that our stories put God’s character on display. When we tell of His goodness, faithfulness, power and presence, others see evidence of the same God they read about in Scripture actively working today.

Your testimony doesn’t have to be dramatic, and you don’t have to share every detail. But don’t let fear, busyness or discomfort keep God’s good works hidden in the shadows. Remember what He has done. Tell someone. Bring His goodness into the light—and invite others to celebrate Him with you."

[CELEBRATION]

Reflection Questions

What is one thing Jesus has done in your life that deserves to be remembered and celebrated?

What keeps you from telling others about what God has done?

Who might be encouraged by hearing one part of your story?

DAY 2	Luke 2:8–14	Lord, fill me with the joy of the good news that a Savior has been born for us.
DAY 3	Isaiah 9:6–7	Father, thank You for giving us Your Son. Help me joyfully proclaim the hope, peace, and salvation found in Jesus.
DAY 4	Luke 2:15–20	Jesus, give me the eagerness of the shepherds to tell others what I have seen and heard about You.
DAY 5	Matthew 1:20–23	God, thank You for coming near to us in Jesus. Help me live and speak as someone who knows that You are with us.
DAY 6	John 1:14–18	Jesus, thank You for entering our world and revealing the Father's grace and truth. Help me make You known.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 4
Dec 27-Jan 2

Focus: *Amazement*

Celebration results in the Lord being lifted up in amazement for who He is

When was the last time you stopped long enough to be genuinely amazed by what the Lord has done in your life? Mark 5:19-20 (ESV): "And he did not permit him but said to him, 'Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.' And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled." That final phrase captures the heart of celebration: "everyone marveled." Another way of saying it would be that everyone was AMAZED! One man, previously demon possessed now free from the grip of the enemy, simply told the story of God's mercy, and the result was amazement at what Jesus had done.

Biblical celebration lifts our eyes from the gift to the Giver. Psalm 40:5 (ESV) says, "You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!" When I intentionally remember God's wondrous and amazing deeds, gratitude becomes worship and celebration becomes my testimony. We can look back across my own life and see God's fingerprints everywhere—through years of service and leadership, through my family, through ministry, through victories, disappointments, transitions, and unexpected blessings. Our story should reflect His glory. It should never be about what we accomplished, but about how much the Lord has done for us.

This week identify three specific things God has done your life, thank Him for each one, and intentionally share one with someone else—not to draw attention to myself, but to lift up Christ.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 4
Dec 27–Jan 2

Reflection Questions

What has God done in my life that still causes me to be amazed?

Do my celebrations draw attention primarily to my accomplishments or to God's faithfulness?

Who needs to hear my story of "how much the Lord has done" for me?

DAY 2	Luke 2:25–32	Lord, give me eyes like Simeon's to recognize Jesus as Your promised salvation and the hope of the world.
DAY 3	Matthew 2:9–11	Jesus, fill me with the joy and wonder of the wise men, and help me offer You my wholehearted worship.
DAY 4	John 1:1–5, 14	Jesus, amaze me again with the wonder that the eternal Word became flesh and came to dwell among us.
DAY 5	Galatians 4:4–7	Father, thank You for sending Your Son at just the right time so that I could be redeemed and welcomed into Your family.
DAY 6	Psalm 40:5	Lord, as this year ends, open my eyes to the countless wonders You have done and help me praise You for Your faithfulness.



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