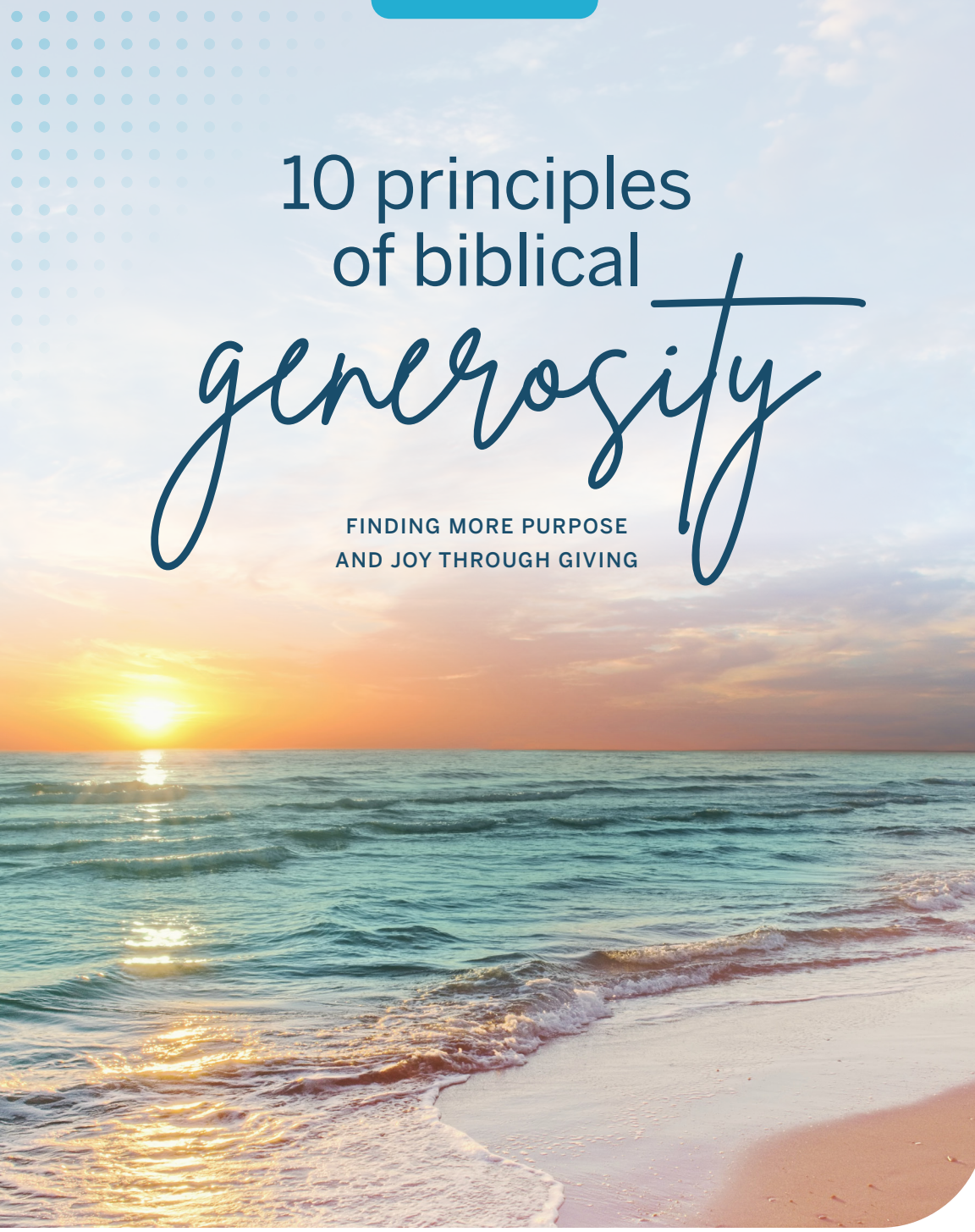
10 principles of biblical *generosity*

FINDING MORE PURPOSE
AND JOY THROUGH GIVING



NCF

Every morning, we wake up loved by a good God who wants what's best for us.

Though he owns everything, and needs nothing from us, he's created us for a purpose: to bear his image.

And the great power of giving, for givers, is that it plays an important part in transforming us into the image of Christ, bringing us more to life in our God-given purpose.

The 10 principles on the following pages are truths about how he uses our giving to transform us and shape us into who he is calling us to be.

Our hope is that this devotional will lead you on a reflective journey through these principles to help draw you closer to that purpose and illuminate the ways in which God can use generosity in your life.



"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share ..."

– 1 TIMOTHY 6:18

Let's begin →



DEVOTION DAY 1

Genesis 1 & 2 | John 3:16 | 2 Peter 1:3

God is absolutely good

The care that God took in creation – to give us exactly what we needed and the ability to enjoy it – communicates unimaginable love and generosity. And after we mishandled that first gift, he gave his Son, the greatest gift history has ever witnessed. Beyond love and generosity, that gift also demonstrated God's justice, mercy, and enduring trustworthiness to provide everything we need for life and godliness. When we trust this to be true, it is counted to us as righteousness.

Reflection

How do you know God is good? How do you see that reflected in your life and in the world around you?

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for your goodness. Thank you for sending your Son, so we can know what you are like and how much you love us. Help us to live confident of this truth.



DEVOTION DAY 2

Psalm 24:1-2 | Romans 12:1 | 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

God owns everything

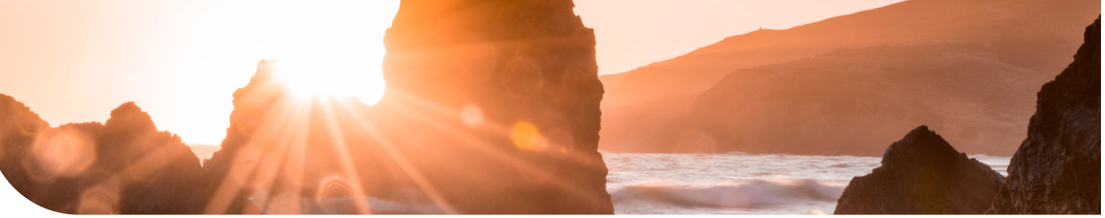
As Founder and Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, God holds the rights to all of it. That includes even us – our bodies, our minds, and our lives. Even when we had become slaves to sin, he redeemed us, paying with his Son's life. We are doubly owned.

Reflection

Whose money do you use to pay your bills, buy gifts at Christmas, and give to charity? How would it impact your life if you believed nothing you have is yours and it's all really God's?

PRAYER

Father, we recognize you as Creator and Ruler of the heavens and the earth and everything in them. Help us to view everything we have as yours and to trust you to take care of us.



DEVOTION DAY 3

Genesis 1:26-27 | Romans 8:29 | 2 Corinthians 3:18

God created us to bear his image

We are God's children, made in his image and called to increasingly bear his likeness, to reflect his nature for the world to see. When we give to what matters most to God, we bring him glory and become more fully alive to the purposes he has for us.

Reflection

What does it mean to bear God's image? How can you better reflect God's image in you?

PRAYER

Lord, you made us in your image and call us to grow into it. Please let our giving reflect your glory to others around us.



DEVOTION DAY 4

Romans 12:2 | 2 Corinthians 10:5 | 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Giving brings transformation

We are called to be transformed, to allow God to shape our minds to the mind of Christ, to accept his view of the world, and to make our own thoughts obedient to his purposes. Giving is a supernatural, transformative, step-by-step process of learning and agreeing to trust God's ways over our own and to take hold of the life that is truly life.

Reflection

In what ways do you want to become more like Jesus? Has the way you give changed who you are?

PRAYER

Transform us, Lord, into the image of Christ. Make our lives beautiful reflections of Jesus.



DEVOTION DAY 5

Psalm 23:1 | Matthew 19:16-30 | 1 Timothy 6:6-10 | Philippians 4:19

Jesus is enough

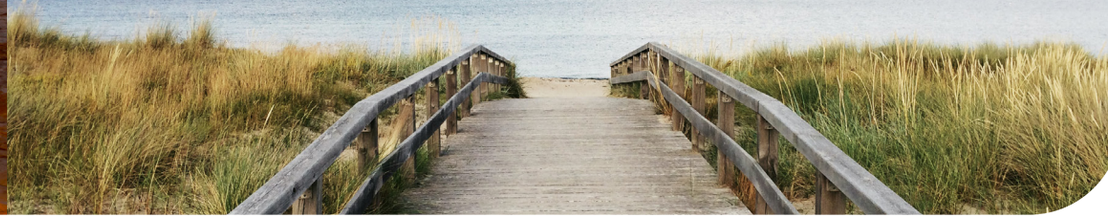
In Christ, we have salvation and all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the fullness of God, and a family – the Church. Material possessions can never bring us the security and contentment that can only be found in Jesus, and having too many other things can distract us from finding our contentment in him.

Reflection

Is there anything you want more than Jesus? Are you content with him?

PRAYER

Lord, you are our everything. Help us to remember that you know us better than anyone and are more capable of providing what we need than we are. We trust our lives to you.



DEVOTION DAY 6

Deuteronomy 8:11-20 | Malachi 3:10 | 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

God is our never-ending supply

Deuteronomy 8 reminds us that we must not forget why we have life, why we experience success and the ability to produce wealth. God has a never-ending supply of resources, and he is our provider. When we give generously, we're reminded that the One who enabled us to give is perfectly capable of doing it again.

Reflection

If you had an unlimited supply of everything you needed, what would you do? Are you living your life with a mentality of abundance or scarcity?

PRAYER

Lord, show us your abundance, and help us to trust in you alone.





DEVOTION DAY 7

1 Chronicles 29:1-20 | Matthew 26:6-13 | Acts 17:25

Giving is a form of worship

When we give generously and sacrificially, it's not because God needs anything, but because we want to show our love for him. Giving is an expression of obedience, yes, but also of gratitude, trust, and increasing joy. God seeks and recognizes those who worship him.

Reflection

Think about the biblical idea of giving from the first of the harvest. Why did God ask for "first fruits"?

PRAYER

Lord, help us to trust you, give more, and grow in joy.

DEVOTION DAY 8

1 Samuel 16:7 | Micah 6:6-8 | Mark 12:41-44 | Acts 20:35

Motives matter more than money

Our giving is a measure of our hearts, which God sees clearly. Jesus said there is more blessing in giving than getting, but we will only know this as truth when we experience the joy of it for ourselves.

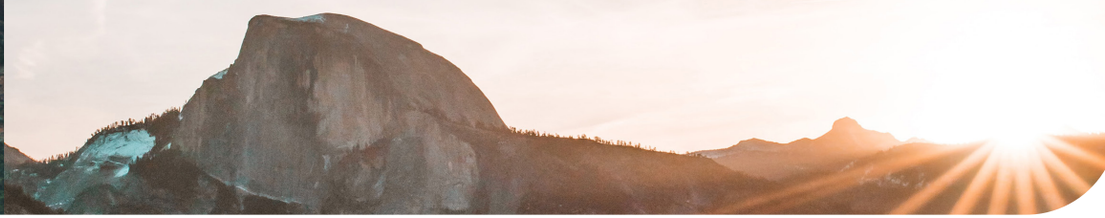
Reflection

Of all the people in Jerusalem on the day talked about in Mark 12:41-44, Jesus talked about a woman who only gave two coins. Why? How do you apply Jesus' lesson in your own life?

PRAYER

Lord, we seek to honor you with our giving. Work in our hearts to make us as pleasing to you as this woman was to Jesus.





DEVOTION DAY 9

Matthew 6:19-21 | Matthew 25:14-30 | Philippians 3:20

What we do now is of eternal importance

Giving is preparation for our role in eternity, shaping us into who he wants us to be. For now, we are stewards of his possessions, and how we manage them either stores treasure in heaven or will be lost or destroyed. When we invest what we have in God's kingdom and God's people, we send something ahead that will last forever.

Reflection

Is there something you're working too hard for that you won't need for eternity?

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for heaven. Please let us do everything we do in the light of eternity.

DEVOTION DAY 10

Psalm 90:12 | 1 Timothy 6:17 | James 4:13-15

Time is of the essence

Though we're promised eternity, we're not promised a single day more on this earth – or even that what we have today we will still have tomorrow. There is a time for everything, and it's never too late to start. But the Bible communicates a clear sense of urgency, and we're called to wisely number our days.

Reflection

What would you do if you knew today was your last day on earth?

PRAYER

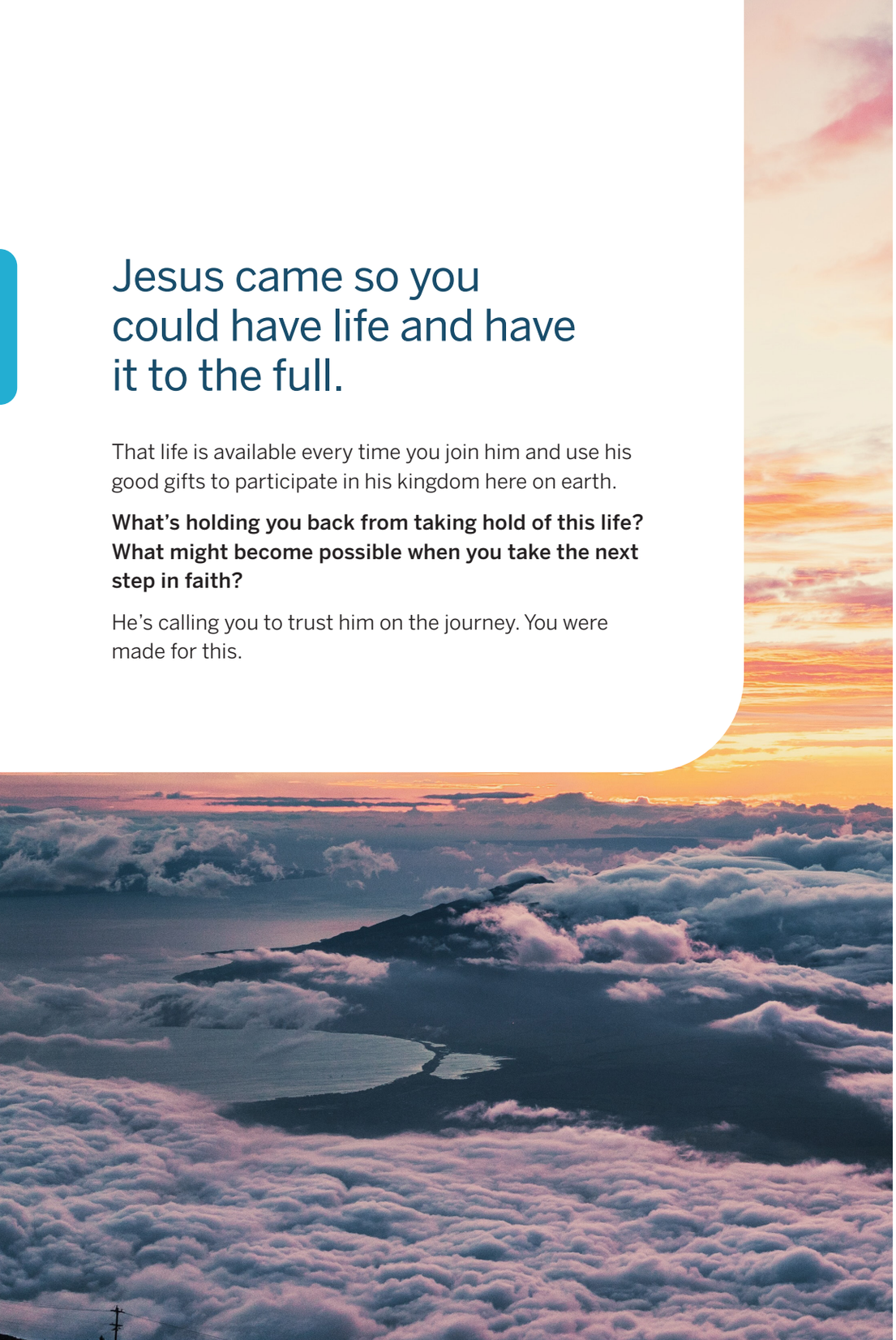
Lord, help us to number each of our days until we are face to face with you.

Jesus came so you could have life and have it to the full.

That life is available every time you join him and use his good gifts to participate in his kingdom here on earth.

What's holding you back from taking hold of this life? What might become possible when you take the next step in faith?

He's calling you to trust him on the journey. You were made for this.



NOTES



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