5 Day Devotional

Day 1: It All Belongs to Him

Devotional

Have you ever caught yourself thinking, "This is mine. I earned it"? It is one of the most natural thoughts in the world. From the time we were kids, we learned to hold tightly to what was ours. But here is a truth that changes everything: it was never really ours to begin with.

God owns it all. The talents you have, the health that lets you work, the opportunities that came your way, even the mind that figured out how to make a living. Every single one of those came from Him. You did not create any of it from scratch. You were simply a steward of what He placed in your hands.

This is not meant to make you feel guilty. It is actually incredibly freeing. When you stop seeing yourself as the owner and start seeing yourself as a manager of God's resources, the pressure shifts. You are no longer protecting what is yours. You are simply being faithful with what is His.

That small shift in perspective is the foundation for everything else we will explore this week. Generosity, tithing, trust, and blessing all flow from this one simple truth: God owns it all, and He is a good and generous God who takes care of His people.

Bible Verse

'The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.' - Psalm 24:1-2 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

If you truly believed everything you have belongs to God, how would that change the way you make financial decisions this week?

Quote

"Everything we have belongs to God."

Prayer

Lord, help me to release my grip on what I have and remember that it all comes from You. Teach me to be a faithful steward of everything You have placed in my hands. Amen.

Day 2: Give Like You Mean It

Devotional

Think about the last time someone gave you a gift, but you could tell they really did not want to. Maybe it was a forced smile or a comment like, "I guess I had to get you something." It did not feel great, did it? The gift was there, but the heart was not.

God feels the same way about our giving. He is not interested in reluctant, obligatory offerings dropped into a plate out of guilt or habit. He wants something far better. He wants your heart to be in it.

Look at Jesus on the cross. Beaten, nailed through His hands and feet, dying. And what was He thinking about? Not Himself. He was thinking about you. That is the picture of cheerful, generous giving at its most profound. Giving that costs something and still comes from a place of love.

When we give cheerfully, we are not just transferring money. We are reflecting the character of God. We are saying, "I trust You, and I want to be like You." That kind of giving is an act of worship, not a transaction.

You do not have to be wealthy to give cheerfully. You just have to be willing. Start by asking God to change your heart toward giving, and watch how He meets you there.

Bible Verse

'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

When you give, does it feel more like a burden or an act of joy? What do you think is behind that feeling?

Quote

"God does not want us to give begrudgingly. God does not want us to go, oh, all right. If I have to, I'll drop something in the offering plate when it goes past."

Prayer

God, transform my heart so that giving feels less like an obligation and more like a privilege. Help me to give the way You give, freely and with joy. Amen.

Day 3: A Tithe Is Not a Tip

Devotional

When you have a great meal at a restaurant, you leave a bigger tip. When the service is slow and the food is cold, maybe you leave a little less. Tips are based on performance. They go up and down depending on how satisfied you are.

A lot of people treat giving to God the same way. Things are going well, so they give a little more. Life gets hard, and the giving dries up. But that approach misses the whole point of the tithe.

The tithe, 10 percent of your income given first, is not a reward for good service. It is a statement. It says, "God, I trust You more than I trust my bank account. I believe You can provide for my needs even when I give before I know how everything will work out."

That is faith in action. It is not about the math. It is about who you believe is really in control of your life and your future.

Building on what we have already seen, if everything belongs to God and we are called to give cheerfully, then the tithe is simply the practical expression of both of those truths. It is not a financial strategy. It is a declaration of trust.

Bible Verse

'Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.' - Proverbs 3:9 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

In what ways might you be treating your giving more like a tip than a tithe, and what would it look like to change that?

Quote

"A tip is when you extend expected something from God and he either did good and you bless him or He didn’t do good and you take away from Him. A tithe has nothing to do with that."

Prayer

Father, I want my giving to be an act of faith, not a reaction to my circumstances. Help me to trust You enough to give first and watch You provide. Amen.

Day 4: Test God and See

Devotional

There is a passage in the Bible where God actually invites you to test Him. That is remarkable. He does not say, "Just trust Me blindly." He says, "Try this. Give faithfully, and watch what I do."

Malachi 3 describes withholding the tithe as robbing God. That is a strong word. But then God immediately follows it with an extraordinary promise. Bring the full tithe, and He will throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessing that you will not have room enough to hold.

That blessing does not always look like a bigger paycheck. Sometimes it looks like unexpected provision arriving at exactly the right moment. A discount you did not know existed. A check that shows up and covers a bill you were worried about. Peace in a season that should have felt overwhelming. God is creative in how He provides.

Building on the foundation of ownership, cheerfulness, and faith, this is where it gets personal. Tithing is not just a principle to agree with. It is an invitation to experience God's faithfulness firsthand. You will not know what He can do until you step out and trust Him with it.

Bible Verse

'"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."' - Malachi 3:6-10 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Has there been a moment in your life when you stepped out in financial faith and saw God provide in an unexpected way? What would it take to trust Him like that again?

Quote

"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 you will not have room enough for it."

Prayer

Lord, I want to take You at Your word. Give me the courage to step out in faith with my giving and the eyes to see Your provision when it comes. Amen.

Day 5: One Master, One Choice

Devotional

Jesus was direct about money in a way that can make us uncomfortable. He said you cannot serve two masters. You will love one and hate the other. You cannot give your full loyalty to both God and money at the same time. At some point, you have to choose who is really in charge.

Your bank and credit card statements tell a story. They reveal what you actually value, not just what you say you value. That is not meant to shame you. It is meant to help you see clearly so you can make a real choice.

This week, we have walked through a progression. Everything belongs to God. He wants cheerful, generous givers. The tithe is an act of faith, not a financial formula. And God promises to meet those who trust Him with faithful provision.

Now comes the decision. Will you step into that? Will you let go of the grip on what you have been calling "mine" and trust the God who owns it all?

You do not have to have it all figured out. You just have to start. Give faithfully, give cheerfully, give generously. And then watch what God does. He has never let His faithful people down, and He is not about to start with you.

Bible Verse

'Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices, mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law, justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.' - Matthew 23:23 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Looking honestly at how you spend and give your money, what does it reveal about who or what you are truly serving?

Quote

"Your bank and credit card statements are theological documents. They tell who and what you worship."

Prayer

God, I choose You as my master. Help me to align my money with my faith and to trust that You will always be enough. Amen.