



Pathfinder

RETREAT DEVOTIONAL

FIELD
NOTES

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Welcome

Dear Pathfinder,

Thank you for joining us for our Pathfinder Retreat!

Our team prepared this devotional guide to help you prayerfully consider your **INFLUENCE, LIFESTYLE, GENEROSITY**, and **LEGACY** as you follow Jesus. We encourage you to take some time to deeply reflect on the Scriptures and journal your response so you can refer back to them in the coming months.

You will find that some of the questions asked in this guide may be easy for you to answer. Others may take some time and careful thought. Our hope and prayer for you is that as you reflect on God's Word and think about the impact you can make through generosity, this guide will become a catalyst to help you deepen your relationship with God during this special season at Christ Fellowship.

Begin by reflecting on the Scripture below. You see, we serve a God who is able. He is able to give us the power to immeasurably more than we can even imagine. When God is at work within us, our faith increases, our passion for the Kingdom escalates, and generosity flows from our desire to please Christ.

Wherever you find yourself in your journey of following Jesus, we believe that God has so much more in store for you and that the most life-changing, personally engaging, and influential days of your life could still be yet ahead. It's our privilege to help you follow Jesus.

Pastor *Omar Girithi*

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOR EVER AND EVER! AMEN.

- EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Your influence

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-7

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 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. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 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.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What do you think Paul means by the statement, "They gave themselves first of all to the Lord..."?

2. This story of the Macedonian churches is quite compelling and is a model Paul is wanting to share for others to be influenced by their faith. Who has had the most influence in your life in the area of generosity? (This could be a spouse, a teacher, a church leader, someone in your Small Group, a family member, a friend, or a public figure.)

3. As you reflect about the stewardship of your life, do you feel you're in a place of influence? In terms of your vocation, your family, your resources, or other arenas of your life are you in a position where others can be impacted by your actions and demonstrations of your faith?

4. How might you be more strategic and intentional about how your life influences others to look more like Christ?

Your lifestyle

READ: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your might? Do you feel you do this currently? Where/how do you struggle in this?

2. As it relates to your lifestyle (time, talent, treasure), do you feel you honor God with 100% of what He has given you? Do you honor Him with your home? Your car? Your retirement account? (Sometimes it's easier to think about honoring God with what He WILL give us, such as our income, but it becomes more difficult to think about honoring God with what He has already given us.) Do you honor Him and love Him with what you already have?

3. If there was an area in which God might be asking you to stop spending, it would be...

4. Is there a choice you have made in the past with regard to your lifestyle and your resources that is impacting your ability for loving and honoring God in the present? What might God be asking you to do about it?

Your generosity

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-15

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What giving experience has caused you to become closer to God?

2. Are you giving in a way that still changes you, or has it become comfortable and routine?

3. If you were to list the reasons why you give financially, what would those currently be? Has your view of why you give changed over the years?

4. Have you shared your giving story with others? Could your story be an inspiration to help others on their journey? How might God use your strengths and your struggles in this area for His glory?

Your legacy

READ: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1.** When you think of someone you know who has left a legacy of generosity, who is that person?

- 2.** What are you intentionally doing right now to ensure that your children, or others whom you influence, are learning values of generosity?

- 3.** Up to this point in your life, on what have you spent the most financial resources?

- 4.** Do you make larger financial decisions such as a home purchase or a car purchase based on your desire to ensure you can still have a legacy of generosity? Or is it based on other things?



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