PATHWAY TO ABUNDANT GENEROSITY

AN INVITATION TO A 14-DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TOWARD GOD’S ABUNDANT GENEROSITY
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Divine guidance has told us we are poised to fulfill God’s ultimate vision for the church. We are challenged as faithful disciples to respond to a growing awareness of God’s abundant generosity.

Through this devotional guide you are invited on a 14-day spiritual journey of meditation and reflection. *The Pathway to Abundant Generosity* is a journey with and to Jesus Christ.

Generosity is an act of faith and prophetic hope...and is a disciple’s investment in the future of Christ’s mission on Earth.

*Generosity in response to Jesus Christ is a witness of faith and hope...it proclaims that I have confidence that God’s purposes are being fulfilled, and I want to be part of that fulfillment.*

—President Steve Veazey
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Faithful disciples not only initiate acts of generosity, they anticipate their transformative impact. Actions of uncommon generosity are prophetic. They look beyond the horizon of what is...to see what could be. We envision
the end result of generosity and simultaneously decide to be generous. It is the vision of transformation that inspires generosity’s beginning.

Together, the abundance of our collective capacity as a community of Christ can provide all the resources needed to bring changed people, changed communities, and a changed world.

God’s vision of the future—the peaceful reign of God on Earth—is the driving vision for our generosity. We give for a future that God tells us we are poised to fulfill. Generosity that fills our whole life is what brings that future into being and makes us the people we are called to be.

May you be filled with joy as you take the time to separate yourself from the noise of life and consider the nature, meaning, and personal application of the call to give as God gives. Welcome to the Pathway to Abundant Generosity!
STEPS FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

1. Set aside time daily to give undivided attention to the daily devotion.

2. Pray together. Ask to become more aware of God’s generosity and to deepen your understanding of Christ’s mission.

3. Each day, review the meaning of the foundational scriptures and the five Mission Initiatives.

4. Prayerfully consider the scripture for each day, reading it aloud and silently several times. Read the brief reflection and then ponder the questions. Share your responses with one another, remembering there are no right or wrong answers.

THE FIVE MISSION INITIATIVES

INVITE PEOPLE TO CHRIST
Christ’s mission of evangelism; “bring good news to the poor”

ABOLISH POVERTY, END SUFFERING
Christ’s mission of compassion; “proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind”

PURSUE PEACE ON EARTH
Christ’s mission of justice and peace; “to let the oppressed go free”

DEVELOP DISCIPLES TO SERVE
Equip individuals for Christ’s mission

EXPERIENCE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION
Equip congregations for Christ’s mission
FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

—Luke 4:18–19 NRSV

Beloved children of the Restoration, your continuing faith adventure with God has been divinely led, eventful, challenging, and sometimes surprising to you. By the grace of God, you are poised to fulfill God’s ultimate vision for the church.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:9a

Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraints. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation?

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

The challenges and opportunities are momentous. Will you remain hesitant in the shadows of your fears, insecurities, and competing loyalties? Or will you move forward in the light of your divinely instilled call and vision? The mission of Jesus Christ is what matters most for the journey ahead.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:9e–f
DAY 1
SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

...in the beginning I created...
—Genesis 1:3 IV

REFLECTIONS

The entire creation is made by God as an ongoing and living expression of God’s immeasurable generosity without limits. We constantly are amazed with discoveries of the created world that reveal a scale of generosity beyond our comprehension.

Every act of your generosity is also an act of creation. Generosity brings into being conditions and effects that did not exist previously. Generosity is always an agent of creation, change, and transformation. When we share in acts of generosity, we not only share in the nature of God, but we become co-creators in making visible the work of love.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How does God’s creation express God’s abundant generosity?
What are some stunning examples of God’s generosity in the physical world that inspire you most?
DAY 2

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

—Psalm 40:5 NRSV

REFLECTIONS

Receiving and appreciating God’s generosity may begin with attempting to count, tabulate, and collect data. But it never ends there. Not only is God’s generosity beyond measure, it has less to do with how much it is and everything to do with what it reveals and what it does. The abundance of God’s generosity is all about receiving what is endless and eternal. It brings life, not numbers. True generosity is not a matter of measurement but of its effect and what it transmits. God’s generosity conveys eternal life, which makes us rich beyond measure.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How have you experienced the wonder of God’s abundant generosity?

What has God’s abundant generosity revealed to you about God’s purpose and love?
DAY 3

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

—Luke 1:78–79 NRSV

REFLECTIONS

Seeing and receiving the grace of God’s incredible generosity is like letting the sun rise in our lives; it brings a new beginning for a new day and sends life-giving light into our lives. The marvel of God’s generosity is not just its abundance. It always is given freely without considering the merit of those who receive it. Generosity freely given and abundantly expressed always is endless in its beauty and power. Through God’s grace and mercy, our acts of abundant generosity provide a banquet of love for the delight and lives of those who receive it.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How would you describe the power and beauty of God’s generosity?

How do acts of great generosity help bring people out of darkness?
DAY 4

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

—John 3:16 NRSV

REFLECTIONS

Generosity always releases what is most precious to us. Generosity never holds what it loves; it gives what it loves. What is precious to the giver now becomes precious to others. God’s astonishing generosity in the releasing and sending of God’s Son is the pinnacle of what generosity always does and how it acts. Things are never the same.

A new relationship is created in response to unexpected generosity. A different relationship is formed between the receiver and the giver. It attaches the receiver to the giver in a bond of love and mercy that is life-giving and life-fulfilling. Acts of abundant and freely given generosity create and enrich relationships with enduring love and life.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What is the most precious thing you ever have given?

Why is generosity always a win-win, never a loss?
DAY 5

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

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

―Romans 15:13 NRSV

REFLECTIONS

God’s generosity is always about maximums, never minimums. God’s abundant generosity comes from fullness, not incompleteness. Generosity is all about an overflowing gift. Generosity always enriches, multiplies, and expands our lives. It makes us more than we were and gives more than we ever thought we could. It adds to our lives; it never subtracts.

Because abundant generosity is the very spirit of Jesus, it always gives birth to joy, hope, love, and peace. Generosity is the power and life of God made manifest by us. The power of generosity transforms all those willing to receive and give it.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How have you experienced God’s generosity as one that overflows and fills you?

How has the practice of generosity enriched, expanded, and added to your life?
DAY 6

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

—Philippians 2:5–8 NRSV

REFLECTIONS

No expression of generosity is as complete or astounding as the life of Christ. Abundant generosity is defined solely by Christ. He embodies, teaches, and is the spirit of generosity. To seek an understanding of abundant generosity is to see Jesus. To love and follow Christ is to love and follow a life of increasing generosity. To give as he gives is the most natural act of all when God abides in us.

A life directed by the mind and heart of Christ is freed to share. A life of a disciple of generosity is always the life of a servant. A life of generosity is not just about giving more; it is about being more.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

In what aspects of Jesus’ life do you find inspiring illustrations of God’s amazing generosity?

How do the most generous people you see express God’s abundant generosity?
DAY 7

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

—James 1:17 NRSV

REFLECTIONS

When we regularly see and receive God’s abundant generosity, our lives become increasingly generous. Learning to live lives of abundant generosity comes as we open our lives to God often, completely, and intentionally. Our giving becomes complete not by the amount or the type of gift, but only as the Spirit of God works in us to inspire and shape the blessing of giving.

The gift of the “widow’s mite” is always our example. It is the spirit of the gift that makes the gift generous and abundant. God’s abundant generosity is not inherited, learned, or just observed. It simply is received. Every act of abundant generosity is clothed in the Spirit of Christ, which makes it the abundantly generous gift.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What is the most inspiring act of generosity you have witnessed?

What does the story of the “widow’s mite” say to you about abundant generosity?
DAY 8

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.... We love because he first loved us.

—1 John 4:10, 19 NRSV

REFLECTIONS

The most inspiring acts of generosity are initiated by givers. Such giving multiplies and grows. God opens our eyes, ears, and hearts so we may act without waiting to be told to do so. Abundant generosity always starts with an eagerness to give, taking the first step, being bold for the sake of others.

The unexpected gift is an expression of generosity that finds its origin in God. Generosity never waits; it acts. It looks for need and opportunity. Generosity that comes forth on its own is of God. The unexpected, generous gifts from faithful disciples committed to God’s peaceable kingdom are always found on the pathway to abundant generosity.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How do we overcome the tendency to give only when we are asked or expected to do so?

How do you determine the right time and way to initiate a gift of generosity that is not asked for or expected?
DAY 9

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“For there is a God, and he has created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that are in them; both things to act, and things to be acted upon.”

—II Nephi 1:95–96 RAV

REFLECTIONS

Acts of true generosity not only arise from our heart’s desires but from our choices to act. Giving that waits on commandment, constraint, or expectation of others, while appreciated, is never the freely given gift that divine generosity is to embody. God’s love always acts first, because that is the nature of divine love. It is the nature of generosity to lead and to witness of the generosity first shared with us by God.

There is no leadership like the leadership of generosity freely received and freely given. We are to lead in fulfilling Christ’s mission through continued acts of abundant generosity that always begin with our desire to act.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Recall a time when you gave without being asked or received an unsolicited act of generosity. How did it make you feel, and how did it impact your life?

How do you see generosity as an act of leadership?
DAY 10

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“For, behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same being, even God, for all the substance which we have...?”

—Mosiah 2:32 RAV

REFLECTIONS

Love drives generosity that arises from compassionate hearts to meet the great needs of others. Generosity is an agent of change and transformation as it fulfills, lifts, and provides what many desperately need—temporally and spiritually.

Our generosity is not inspired by what others deserve, but what they need. We begin to see, with God’s grace, how many lives are waiting for the redeeming power of our generosity. Our abundant generosity to achieve Christ’s mission makes possible what otherwise seems impossible. The urgency for generous disciples fully devoted to the cause of Zion has never been greater.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How is generosity an agent of change and transformation? Where have you seen this occur?

Where do you see the urgency for generosity in funding the mission of Christ?
DAY 11

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

...and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of humankind.

—Doctrine and Covenants 22:23b, adapted

REFLECTIONS

Generosity begets generosity just as love begets love. The boundaries of our lives increase as our generosity increases. The joy of generosity is what it does to us in transforming our lives, creating a deep desire to bring to pass the peaceable kingdom.

The natural companion to whole-life stewardship is whole-life generosity. It defines who we are and leads us into courageous, compassionate living through deliberate choices of courageous, compassionate generosity. We overcome our fear of what we might lose by giving it away. We open our lives to Christ’s riches by giving as generously as God gives.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How could becoming more generous be reflected in all aspects of your life?

How can generosity be courageous as well as compassionate?
DAY 12

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

REFLECTIONS

True generosity is not a matter of moving money from one bank account to another. As disciples committed to Christ’s mission, our generosity is always in response to the growing revelation of God’s amazing grace. The true measurement of generosity is a measurement of the desire of our hearts.

Such Godly desire shapes our choices to express generosity and fills our lives with joy only the faithful can know. “Make me generous as you, God, are generous” becomes the prayer of our hearts. Such generosity increases our giving beyond what the world defines as charitable. God’s abundant generosity reflects more than an intelligent decision; it reveals who God is. The same is true of us. Faithfulness and generosity are lifelong companions for every disciple who travels the pathway to abundant generosity.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How is giving “according to the desires of your heart” different from other motivations for giving?

How do you see faithfulness and generosity connected?
DAY 13

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

...Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation?

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

REFLECTIONS

Awareness of our true capacity for generosity grows with each act of generosity. Our capacity is temporal and spiritual. Whole-life generosity not only broadens the scope of how and when we can give, it increases our capacity and desire to give. Giving according to our true capacity without consideration of return is always an act of grace.

As we desire to give, God’s grace continues to show us how to receive and give. It matters not how our giving compares to that of others. The generosity of God is our only standard. The grace of generosity is the glory of generosity.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What does true capacity mean to you? How has your capacity to be generous grown over time?

How have you experienced eternal joy and peace through your own generosity?
DAY 14

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

God is calling for a prophetic community to emerge...characterized by uncommon devotion to the compassion and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Through divine grace and wisdom, this faith community has been given abundant gifts, resources, and opportunities to equip it to become such a people.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a

REFLECTIONS

Faithful disciples do not just initiate acts of generosity, they anticipate their transformative impact. Actions of uncommon generosity are prophetic, looking beyond the horizon of what is...to see what could be. Such acts bring changed people, changed communities, a changed world.

The vision of transforming generosity inspires its beginning. It is the abundance of our collective capacity as Community of Christ that provides the resources needed for extraordinary acts. God’s vision of the future—the cause of Zion—is our driving vision. Our whole-life generosity brings that future into being and makes us the people we are called to be.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What examples come to mind of what has happened because of the uncommon devotion of a few?

Where do you see examples of the abundant resources and gifts given to the church?