



# 7 Day Devotional: Giving Joyfully with Gratitude

BEGINS APRIL 8, 2018

## BEFORE WE BEGIN

***“Since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in love we have kindled in you — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”***

2 Corinthians 8:7

As a church family we have a vision to reach out to the many families in our community who do not know Jesus. A year ago we embarked on a campaign to expand the building that God has provided for us to worship and connect. Heavy on our hearts are the children of the Coastside who do not know Jesus. God has a plan for the expansion of our church family that will affect generations to come.

Many of you have made commitments and are supporting that plan and vision with your contributions to New Wave. Your sacrifice shows faith that your needs will be met as you to respond and experience God through your giving. As you go through this devotional, remember to pray for the church leaders and congregation to provide the wisdom and faith to implement Gods plan.

This 7-day devotional focuses on us, the church family, and making room for those yet to come. The expansion of the building itself is simply a necessary tool to grow. It is not the building that God loves, but the people who worship and fellowship in it. This devotional is designed to bring each of us into a place with God where we can ask ourselves, “What can I joyfully give of the resources You have blessed me with to grow our church?” God can accomplish amazing things through us as we earnestly seek Him and His will. As we seek God to bless our individual lives and our church, we must respond joyfully in obedience to His call.

In order for us to be a part of this growth we must ask, what can I joyfully give in faith? Before beginning this devotional focused on the expansion of the building, please take a moment, close your eyes and envision what you think God will do through us in faith and service.

***“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



# Sunday, April 8

**TITLE:** God, A Loving Father



**SCRIPTURE:** *“The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”*

Zephaniah 3:17

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY** 

If you were to unexpectedly receive an email from God, how would you react? Would you quickly open it, excited to read about how much he loves and cherishes you? Or, would you cautiously open it, concerned that he is judging or condemning you?

Take a moment and read Zephaniah 3:17 again. Let the truth of how God feels about you, his son or daughter, sink in to your heart, mind and soul. Rest in the knowledge that you reside in the hands of a loving God who rejoices over you. Let his love bubble up inside of you as you praise him for loving and cherishing you, quieting your anxieties and giving you peace.

**PRAYER FOR TODAY** 

Father, please let me live in the love you have for me so that I may be used by you to show others who don't know you, who you are. Please use me to be a light in our community calling unbelievers to you and our church family.

***God loves and cherishes you. Live in that knowledge today and share his love.***



# Monday, April 9

**TITLE:** Living in Thanksgiving



**SCRIPTURE:** *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”* Colossians 3:15

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY** 

Take a moment and try to worry while you are praising and thanking God for something. Is it possible? The way to peace is focusing on what you are grateful for and being thankful. This will not change your circumstances; however, it will change your mind and your day.

**PRAYER FOR TODAY** 

Father, please help me to share your peace with others. Please keep me focused on thanking and praising you so I am an example of your peace. Use me to draw others to you so that they may experience the peace that transcends understanding.

***God’s peace is available and free for you today. Be overflowing with gratitude.***



# Tuesday, April 10

**TITLE:** Confession and Sanctification



**SCRIPTURE:** *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**   
God desires to sanctify you. This is a process of staying in communication with him, confessing your sins, receiving his forgiveness and sanctification. Spend some time today asking the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal anything you may need to confess. Ask God to allow you to feel the freedom of his unending forgiveness.

**PRAYER FOR TODAY**   
Father, please search my heart and reveal to me anything that separates me from experiencing your presence in my life. Thank you for your forgiveness and continue to do a good work in me. I ask that you use me to offer your love and forgiveness to someone who needs it today.

***God loves you and longs to be in relationship with you. Spend as much of today as you can in constant communication with him.***



# Wednesday, April 11

**TITLE:** Submission



**SCRIPTURE:** *“Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.”* Job 22:21

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**   
God has a plan for you and our church family. Looking back, can you recall a time he has worked in your life? In order to hear that still small voice within we must submit to him moment by moment. Take some time today to seek the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit within. Ask him to reveal to you loved ones, neighbors, coworkers, etc., who do not know him yet.

**PRAYER FOR TODAY**   
Father, please help me lay down my life for you. Please quiet my mind and still my heart so I may hear your still small voice within. As you grow our church family, please bring people to my heart so that I can pray for them to come to know you and fill the space you are creating for us to worship.

***Today spend some time thinking about who God might want to bring to our church family through you.***



# Thursday, April 12

**TITLE:** Evangelism by Example



**SCRIPTURE:** *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and the one who is wise saves lives.”*  
Proverbs 11:30

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**   
Have you ever admired someone from afar? Wishing you could be more like them? What qualities drew you to them? How can you become someone that others may want to emulate?

**PRAYER FOR TODAY**   
Father, please give me your strength to become more like Jesus everyday. Please use me to draw others to our church family. Let me be your light in my community.

***God does not ask us to be perfect but he does call us to be righteous. Today spend some time considering some ways you can improve your walk with him.***



# Friday, April 13

**TITLE:** Call to Prayer



**SCRIPTURE:** *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”* Colossians 4:2

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**   
Why pray? First, God commands us to pray. Prayer is also intended by God to be the means of obtaining his will and solutions. Think back and remember a time when God answered your prayer(s).

**PRAYER FOR TODAY**   
Father, thank you that you are a God that desires to hear our prayers. I lift up my voice to you today humbly asking for your will in growing our church family. I know your desire is that none shall perish. Please bring those in our community to join us in worshipping you.

Join someone in prayer today for the expansion of our church family. Ask God to continue to grow and prosper our church. Praise him for the continued growth through the years.

***God loves you and wants to hear your prayers. Pray today with joy and gratitude for how He is working our church.***



# Saturday, April 14

**TITLE:** Call to Action - Growing God's Church



**SCRIPTURE:** *“But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

James 1:22

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY** 

Has God placed a desire or a vision on your heart for the growth and expansion of our church? Are there people that you are praying to accept Christ? Can you envision them joining our growing and flourishing church? Are you prepared to respond to the call that God is placing on your heart?

**PRAYER FOR TODAY** 

Father, I want to make a difference in your kingdom. I pray for those in our community who don't know you. I would like to be a part of making room for the future addition of our beautiful church family. I humbly come before you submitting my will to yours as I ask you, what can I give? I praise you and thank you for growing our church family and ask that your will be done.

Take some time alone or as a family to pray about your next steps in the growth of our church family.

***God is with you in this decision to help move his kingdom forward.***



# Sunday, April 15 through Saturday, April 21

**TITLE:** Questions to Discuss with Your LifeGroup



1. Do you feel as though you have a deep understanding of the unconditional love God has for you?
2. Does it make sense to you that gratitude and thanksgiving supersedes worry and anxiety? Have you tried worrying while giving thanks to God?
3. Have you asked God to search your heart and bring to mind anything that needs to be confessed? Did it help you to hear the still small voice within?
4. Do you feel comfortable submitting your will to God's? Do you believe that God has plans for you?
5. What is the Great Commission? Do you believe we are called to spread the Gospel and God's love?
6. How important is prayer in your daily walk? Do you have people on your heart who need Jesus?
7. Are you in agreement that God wants to grow his church? Are you prepared to answer the call he has put on your heart? Do you have reservations? Would you like to pray with a leader or pastor?