**ENOUGH — WEEK 5**

**FREE TO GIVE | SURRENDER**

Midweek — November 25, 2026

## INTRODUCTION & SCRIPTURE

Over the last several weeks, we have been confronting one of the most powerful beliefs that keeps us from becoming the generous people God has called us to be: the belief that we don't have enough. Enough money. Enough time. Enough energy. Enough security. Enough margin.

In week one, we established that God owns everything. In week two, we confronted the lie that more is the answer. In week three, we learned to trust that our heavenly Father will provide. And last week, we discovered that Christ is enough in every circumstance.

Tonight, what happens when those truths move from things we believe to the way we actually live? Not just as individuals, but as a whole community?

They become free. Free to share. Free to serve. Free to give. Free to open their homes. Free to meet needs. Free to rearrange their lives around the purposes of God.

***READ ACTS 2:42–47 (NIV)***

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to
the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the
many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers
were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and
possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to
meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and
ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the
favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who
were being saved.

***READ ACTS 4:32–35 (NIV)***

[32] All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. [33] With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all [34] that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales [35] and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Remember what has already happened in Acts. Jesus has died, risen and ascended. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit is poured out, Peter proclaims the Gospel, and thousands respond in repentance and faith. In Acts 4, Peter and John are threatened, the church prays, and the Spirit fills them afresh.

The same Spirit who empowers Peter to preach empowers the believers to share. Their generosity was not the cause of Pentecost. It was one of the expressions of Pentecost.

**The fullness of the Holy Spirit is expressed not only in the boldness of our proclamation but also in the selflessness of our community.**

Ever since Genesis 3, humanity has struggled to trust God's goodness and has tried to secure life independently of Him. We can confess that Jesus is enough while organizing our lives around the pursuit of more. The problem is not simply that our hands are closed; it is that our hearts have not been fully surrendered.

**BIG IDEA: When Jesus becomes enough, we become free to live with open hands.**

## POINT ONE — SURRENDER BEGINS WITH BELONGING TO GOD

Acts 4:32 (NIV) — "No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had."

Notice the distinction Luke makes. He doesn't say nobody had possessions. He says nobody claimed their possessions exclusively for themselves. Their

understanding of ownership changed because their understanding of who they belonged to changed.

Before we can understand Christian generosity, we have to understand Christian belonging. In 1 Corinthians 6:19–20, Paul reminds believers that they are temples of the Holy Spirit and have been bought at a price. If I belong to Jesus, my body, ambitions, relationships, resources and future belong to Jesus.

Romans 12:1 calls us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice in view of God's mercy. Notice the order. After eleven chapters unfolding God's mercy, Paul calls us to surrender. Christian surrender is not an attempt to convince God to be merciful. It is our response to the mercy He has already extended.

This is the beauty of grace. God's prevenient grace awakens us to our need for Him. Through faith in Christ we are justified and made new. His sanctifying grace continues transforming our desires and affections.

In our Wesleyan understanding, entire sanctification is God's gracious work of cleansing our hearts and filling us with holy love as we yield ourselves wholly to Him. It is not flawless performance or the end of our growth. It is wholehearted devotion to God, which continues to mature. When love for God and neighbor governs our hearts, it changes our relationship with what we possess.

Acts 5:4 makes clear that the early church's generosity was voluntary. Ananias's sin was deception, not the failure to give every dollar. As Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 9:7, giving must not be coerced. Grace does not manipulate us into generosity; grace transforms us into generous people.

What would change if tomorrow morning you approached your calendar, your home, your profession and your finances asking, “Lord, what would You have me do with what You have entrusted to me?”

Some of us have surrendered our Sunday mornings but not our schedules, a portion of our income but not our ambitions. Jesus isn't inviting us into compartmentalized Christianity. He's inviting us into a surrendered life.

**Before generosity is about what leaves our hands, surrender is about who possesses our hearts.**

## POINT TWO — SURRENDER TRANSFORMS HOW WE BELONG TO ONE ANOTHER

In Acts 2:42, the believers devote themselves to fellowship. The Greek word koinōnia (κοινωνία) means sharing, participation or partnership. Fellowship is more than coffee and conversation after church. It is the shared life of people who participate together in the life of Christ.

First John 1:3 connects our fellowship with the Father and Son to our fellowship with one another. First Corinthians 12:26 teaches that when one member suffers, the others suffer with them. There is a difference between attending the same church and recognizing that we belong to one another in Christ.

There is a beautiful Old Testament connection here. In Deuteronomy 15:4, God gives Israel a vision of a community without poverty. Yet verses 7–11 acknowledge the continuing reality of need and command God's people to respond.

Deuteronomy 15:7–8 (NIV) — "Do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded…"

Now Acts 4:34 tells us there were no needy persons among them. Luke echoes that ancient covenant vision. God had commanded open hands in Deuteronomy; in Acts we see the Spirit forming a community that willingly lives that way. Ezekiel 36:26–27 promised a new heart and God's Spirit enabling obedience.

John Wesley understood holiness as something lived in relationship, and works of mercy as means of grace. Serving the poor, visiting the sick and caring for others do not earn salvation. As we respond to God in obedience, He uses those practices to form holy love in us. Don't wait until you feel perfectly generous before practicing generosity.

First John 3:16–18 connects the sacrificial love of Jesus to tangible care for our brothers and sisters. Their spiritual unity had material consequences.

What needs might we notice if we were less preoccupied with ourselves? There are people who need friendship, children who need spiritual mothers and fathers, young adults who need someone to invest in their calling, families who need encouragement, and people experiencing financial hardship who need practical assistance and dignity.

Sometimes the most generous thing you can give is your time, your attention, your presence. We are not responsible for meeting every need, and wisdom and healthy boundaries matter. In Acts 6, the church even develops structures to ensure overlooked widows receive fair care. But wisdom must never become an excuse for indifference.

**When we discover that we belong to God, we begin to understand that we also belong to one another.**

**POINT THREE — SURRENDER MAKES THE KINGDOM OF GOD VISIBLE**

Acts 4:33 (NIV) — "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus."

Right in the middle of this description of generosity, Luke tells us that the apostles are proclaiming the resurrection. The message they proclaimed and the life they lived belonged together.

Luke describes great power, dynamis (δύναμις), and great grace, charis (χάρις). We pray for revival, salvation, healing and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And we should. But what if revival also looks like deliverance from greed? What if revival looks like people opening their homes, reconciling relationships and meeting needs that have long been ignored?

We need the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit to embody the Gospel.

If Jesus has risen and our ultimate future is secure in Him, we don't have to demand that possessions provide what only God can give. Paul concludes

his great chapter on resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:58 by calling believers to give themselves fully to the Lord's work. Our eternal hope produces present obedience.

The Kingdom is already present in Christ, but we still await its fullness. The church cannot eliminate every form of brokenness, but when the lonely find family, the hungry are fed and enemies are reconciled, people catch a glimpse of the world Jesus is making new.

Imagine Light & Life as a church where generosity isn't a five-week emphasis but our culture. The People Loving Place is more than how we greet people on Sundays. We cannot REACH if we are unwilling to go, TEACH if we are unwilling to invest, MEND if we are unwilling to enter brokenness, or SEND if we are unwilling to release what God has entrusted to us.

Acts 2:47 reminds us that the Lord added those being saved. We cannot manufacture revival through generosity. But we can become available to the God who brings awakening.

**The resurrection we proclaim should become visible in the life we live.**

## CHALLENGE — WHAT ARE YOU STILL HOLDING?

*Hold up a river stone. Invite everyone to close their hand around their stone.*

A closed fist is very good at holding on to something, but not very good at doing much else. It cannot easily receive, embrace, serve or give. Some of us have been holding tightly to our resources, our plans, our comfort, our expectations and our need to control what happens next.

**Sometimes the exhaustion we experience isn't simply from what we're carrying. It's from how tightly we're trying to hold it.**

In Mark 10:17–22, a wealthy man asks Jesus about eternal life. Verse 21 tells us Jesus looked at him and loved him. Before Jesus confronts him, Jesus loves him. Jesus invites him to release his possessions, give to the poor and follow Him. But the man walks away sad. He kept his possessions, yet walked away from the invitation to follow Jesus.

**The greatest tragedy isn't losing something we possess. It's allowing something we possess to keep us from fully following Jesus.**

Not every disciple is commanded to sell every possession, but every disciple is called to surrender every competing allegiance. For that man it was wealth. What is it for you?

In Joshua 4:6–7, 20–24, Israel establishes twelve stones as a memorial of God's faithfulness in bringing them across the Jordan. When their children ask what the stones mean, they are to tell the story. In 1 Samuel 7:12, Samuel raises a stone called Ebenezer, meaning stone of help, declaring that the Lord has helped them thus far.

Those stones were not promises that Israel would never face another battle. They were reminders that God had been faithful. Sometimes we are afraid to let go of what is in our hands because we have forgotten the faithfulness of the One into whose hands we are placing it.

**We don't surrender because we know what God is going to do next. We surrender because we know who God is.**

## GOSPEL CONNECTION — THE HANDS THAT WERE OPENED FOR US

Before I ask you to open your hands tonight, remember what Jesus has already done with His. His hands touched those considered unclean, blessed children, broke bread for the hungry and washed the feet of His disciples. Ultimately, His hands were stretched out upon a cross.

The Father gave the Son (John 3:16). The eternal Son willingly took on our humanity, humbling Himself as a servant without ceasing to be God (Philippians 2:5–8). He bore our sin on the cross and rose victorious over sin and death. Through the Holy Spirit, God's love is poured into our hearts (Romans 5:5).

Second Corinthians 8:9 points us to Christ who became poor for our sake. This isn't a promise of financial wealth. It is the immeasurable riches of grace: forgiveness, reconciliation, adoption, new life and resurrection hope.

We don't surrender to purchase God's favor or manipulate His provision. We surrender because He has already moved toward us in love. The Gospel gives us both the reason and the grace to live with open hands.

For five weeks we've asked, “What will I give?” As we enter Advent, the Gospel announces, “LOOK WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN.”

**Before Jesus ever asked you to open your hands for Him, He stretched out His hands on the cross for you.**

**ALTAR RESPONSE — NOTHING WITHHELD**

**LEAVE A STONE. TAKE A CROSS.**

*Invite worship team forward. Make markers available. Two large crosses, one on each side of the altar, with trays for stones and baskets of small wooden crosses.*

Tonight, our stones will represent something different from Joshua's memorial stones. These represent what we're surrendering. The cross we take home will remind us of God's faithfulness and our ongoing discipleship.

Ask the Holy Spirit: What am I holding too tightly? What am I afraid to surrender? What have I been unwilling to make available to Jesus?

Write one word or private symbol on your stone: fear, control, comfort, pride, security, expectations, or whatever the Lord is revealing. This is between you and God.

*Pause briefly for writing. Invite them to slowly open their hands.*

Notice that the stone may still be in your hand, but your posture has changed. Surrender doesn't always mean God takes something away. Sometimes it means God changes how you hold what remains.

Hebrews 12:1–2 calls us to lay aside everything that hinders and fix our eyes on Jesus. Tonight, bring your stone to the foot of either cross. As you lay it down, take a small wooden cross.

Luke 9:23 (NIV) — “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Jesus doesn't simply invite us to let go of something. He invites us to follow Someone. Taking up our cross means dying to self-rule and following Jesus even when obedience costs us.

**We are not simply laying something down. We are giving ourselves to Someone.**

There is no saving power in the stone or the wooden cross. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus. This is a voluntary outward expression of inward surrender. You can respond in your seat as well. If you've never trusted Jesus, turn toward Him tonight in repentance and faith. If you've followed Him for years, renew your consecration and ask the Spirit to fill you with holy love.

As you respond, pray:

**FATHER, I TRUST YOU.**

**JESUS, YOU ARE ENOUGH.**

**HOLY SPIRIT, I AM AVAILABLE.**

**NOTHING WITHHELD.**

*Allow worship and personal altar response. Invite prayer ministers to be available.*

## CLOSING PRAYER, COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

*When the congregation has responded, gesture toward the stones and invite them to hold their crosses in open hands.*

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness. Forgive us for the times we have lived as though everything depended on us. Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Yourself completely for us. In response to Your grace, we offer ourselves completely to You. Holy Spirit, sanctify us wholly. Purify our hearts, fill us

with holy love and empower us to live surrendered lives. Make us a community whose generosity bears witness to the transforming power of the Gospel. Everything we have and everything we are belongs to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Church, imagine what God could do if what we expressed at these crosses became the way we lived every day. Hundreds of surrendered lives. Hundreds of open homes. Hundreds of open hearts. Hundreds of open hands.

Tomorrow, bring your cross to your Thanksgiving table and share one testimony of God's faithfulness. Keep it somewhere visible. This week, identify one person, one need and one resource God has entrusted to you. Make that resource available for their good.

When fear tells you to close your hands, remember the cross. When greed tells you that you need more, remember the cross. When obedience becomes costly, remember the cross.

**We can loosen our grip on everything else because God has not loosened His grip on us.**

**REMEMBER HIS FAITHFULNESS. RELEASE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN HOLDING. FOLLOW JESUS WITH OPEN HANDS.**

**Tonight, we leave the stones at the cross. Tomorrow, we live the surrender.**

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NIV)

May the God of peace sanctify you through and through. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

May the love of the Father, the grace of Jesus and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit empower you to go with open hearts, open homes and open hands.

**NOTHING WITHHELD.**

**JESUS IS ENOUGH. LIVE LIKE IT.**

Amen.