

Scripture references:

Romans 1:16-20, 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, Romans 5:1-8, Romans 8:1-17, Matthew 9:9-13, 2 Thessalonians 9:6-11, Hebrews 2, 1 Peter 4:17 and Jeremiah 31.

Intentionally living starts with God, not community preferences, avoiding a consumer-church mindset,

1) Intentional Living defined

3 postures toward life

- a) Lazy/assumptive- lets life happen, lives off grace without response.
- b) Aggressive/presumptive- forces outcomes, manipulates, brings pain.
- c) Attentive/intentional- pursues God, trusts his pure intentions, and cultivates gratitude.

\*\*\*\* God alone is pure intention omniscient (just, holy, complete/unlimited knowledge/awareness/understanding,past/present and future). Pursuing him transforms our own intentions.

2) Generative Influence:

- a) True influence is creative, life-giving, and quiet - never manipulative
- b) Flows from inner Christ- formed character, not position, volume or demands.

Biblical Metaphors:

Light (illuminates), salt (preserves), leaven (permeates), water (refreshes), sheppard staff (guides), seeds (multiply).

- How is our influence on others?
- Are we a light?
- Do we refresh others?
- Do we preserve, expand and guide others towards God?
- What seeds are we planting? We get what we sow, you don't plant corn and get tomatoes

## 7 traits of generative influence

- a) Presence not power
- b) Quiet wait of a truth aligned life
- c) Grows by proximity to God, not a spectacle
- d) Springs from steady faithfulness, not business
- e) Evident in a hunger for Holiness
- f) Carried by gentle words and Godly character
- g) Experienced only in a relationship with God "Spiritual Gravity"

## 3) Three Visions (Values of Renewal Chapel)

- a) Following Jesus
- b) Loving his Truth
- c) Being Joyously generous

### \*\*\*\* Following Jesus (Matthew 9:9-13 NLT)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. **10** Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. **11** But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" **12** When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." **13** Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

## Four Self Examining Questions

- a) Transformative- what testimony of Christ's incarnation do people receive from me?
- b) Allurative- does my life invite others to a secret depth for a God's transcendence inhabits every day humanity?
- c) Restorative- do I rise and shine, letting his glory build new covenant love with others?
- d) Representative- am I merciful, faithful priest, pointing people to reconciliation

\*\*\*\* Loving His Truth (2 Thessalonians Chapter 2) **The Man of Lawlessness**

**2** Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup> not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. <sup>3</sup> Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup> He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.<sup>5</sup> Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, <sup>10</sup> and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup> and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

### **Stand Firm**

<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. <sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

### **Four Diagnostic Questions**

- a) Integrity- Do restraint and obedience overcome my rebellious streak?
- b) Reception- How do I respond when scripture exposes me?
- c) Mortification- Will I allow Gods' "breath" (his word) to slay my lawlessness?
- d) Liberation- Is love for truth delivering me into deeper Christ likeness daily?

\*\*\*\* Joyous Generosity (2 Corinthians 8&9 NLT)

## **A Call to Generous Giving**

**8** Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.<sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. <sup>4</sup> They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.<sup>6</sup> So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. <sup>7</sup> Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.<sup>9</sup> You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.<sup>10</sup> Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. <sup>11</sup> Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have.<sup>12</sup> Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. <sup>13</sup> Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. <sup>14</sup> Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. <sup>15</sup> As the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough."

## **Titus and His Companions**

<sup>16</sup> But thank God! He has given Titus the same enthusiasm for you that I have. <sup>17</sup> Titus welcomed our request that he visit you again. In fact, he himself was very eager to go and see you. <sup>18</sup> We are also sending another brother with Titus. All the churches praise him as a preacher of the Good News. <sup>19</sup> He was appointed by the churches to accompany us as we take the offering to Jerusalem—a service that glorifies the Lord and shows our eagerness to help.

<sup>20</sup> We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift. <sup>21</sup> We are careful to be honorable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable. <sup>22</sup> We are also sending with them another of our brothers who has proven himself many times and has shown on many occasions how eager he is. He is now even more enthusiastic because of his great confidence in you. <sup>23</sup> If anyone asks about Titus, say that he is my partner who works with me to help you. And the brothers with him have been sent by the churches, and they bring honor to Christ. <sup>24</sup> So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified.

## **The Collection for Christians in Jerusalem**

**9** I really don't need to write to you about this ministry of giving for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving. <sup>3</sup> But I am sending these brothers to be sure you really are ready, as I have been telling them, and that your money is all collected. I don't want to be wrong in my boasting about you. <sup>4</sup> We would be embarrassed—not to mention your own embarrassment—if some Macedonian believers came with me and found that you weren't ready after all I had told them! <sup>5</sup> So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly. <sup>6</sup> Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. <sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." <sup>8</sup> And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. <sup>9</sup> As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." <sup>10</sup> For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. <sup>11</sup> Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. <sup>12</sup> So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. <sup>15</sup> Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

## Four generosity Questions

- a) Evidence- What is the clearest mark of God's grace in my life? (Not of this earth)
- b) Reflective- Can others see that grace through my gratitude?
- c) Responsive- Am I scanning the horizon for ways to bless God and people or am I hunting for what God can do for me?
- d) Fellowship- Do I experience giving as a loss, or as a partnership with God and his family?

## Call to Corporate Self Examination

- Scripture mandates judgement to begin with the household of God. 1 Peter 4:17 NLT **17** For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News?

## Test yourselves: Is Christ really shaping your life?

- 2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith

## Major Lessons & Revelations

- A) Intentionality must prioritize God first; community health flows from Christ centeredness, not consumer satisfaction
- B) Generative Influence is Spirit born, subtle, and relational, echoing Jesus' incarnation.
- C) Self Evaluation under scripture is essential: Transformation, Truth-Love, and generosity reveal genuine faith.
- D) The Church's witness depends on visibly changed lives: without it the Gospel appears powerless to outsiders.

