

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

From Greed To Generosity- First Things First

Read Jeremiah 29:11 NIV, 1 John 2:2 NKJV, John 10:10 NLT

Context: God is a good God. He wants what's best for us. Those things that He tells us to do and the things He requires of us are for our ultimate good and well-being. We have to come to terms with that truth. He doesn't give us the guidelines that He does to keep us from good things, or to prevent us from enjoyment or fun. He sees the outcome of our decisions and wants us to be eternally blessed, not just blessed in the moment.

Reflection Question: What do you think about God and His plans for your life? How do your actions reflect how much you trust His goodness towards you? Why do you think you are struggling to believe that His way of doing things will be the best way for you to live your life?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9, Genesis 4:3-5, 2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT

Context: God doesn't call all of us to give the same things. We are all different and God requires different things from each of us. He wants us to give faithfully, knowing that He will be faithful to bless our giving out of a joyful heart. When we seek to do what pleases God, we won't be worried about the trials of this world because our perspective will be an eternal one. God will keep all of His good promises to us.

Reflection Question: What generous giving is God calling you to do this week? Knowing God will never run out of good things to give His children, how can you faithfully steward what He has given you? How has God blessed you in the past when you have been faithful to give as He has asked you to?

Read John 16:33 NLT, Matthew 6:33 NKJV, Hebrews 11:6 NIV

Context: We have the opportunity to please God most by giving our whole selves to Him. Each area of our life that we trust Him enough to give over to Him is another area that can be blessed by Him. When we earnestly seek Him, God rewards us. This may be hard to believe sometimes because we experience trials and hardships and persecution. But with each new challenge, we have another chance to show Him that we trust Him.

Reflection Question: How can you give generously to God when you are going through trials? What is He asking of you, even in this difficult time? How can you seek God first and trust Him to give you all that you need after?

Read 1 Chronicles 29:14, Matthew 23:23 NLT

Context: We have two paths we can take. We can give like David, recognizing what a privilege and honor it is to give back to God a small portion of what He has so generously given to us. Or we can give like the Pharisees, giving the bare minimum required by the law as a way to look righteous, all the while giving grudgingly and with hard hearts. God doesn't ask us to give because He needs anything from us. He asks us to sacrificially give so that He can give to us.

Reflection Question: God is already showing you an area where you can sacrificially give this week. Whose example will you choose to follow this week, that of David, or that of the Pharisees? Which one has a higher probability of eternal blessings?

Read Malachi 3:8-10 NKJV, Luke 16:10 NIV

Context: Here in Malachi, God tells us to try it His way and see what happens. We *get to* give back to God and see if He won't "open for [us] the windows of heaven and pour out for [us] such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." We are His kids and He loves us, but He is only going to give us that which we have shown we will be faithful with. If we're faithful with a little, He will give us a little more and a little more. But if we are not faithful with what we have already, even that can be taken away.

Reflection Question: Do you have what it takes to try things God's way in giving back to God what is God's this week? How can you show Him you will be faithful in what He's already given you and see how He blesses you?

End in prayer. Give God more opportunities to bless you this week by giving Him more and more of yourself.