

# 5-Day Devotional: From Surplus to Sacrifice

## Day 1: The Mission Beyond The Walls

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

### Devotional:

The church exists not for our comfort but for God's mission. Jesus commanded us to go beyond our walls and make disciples. Too often, we measure church health by activities and programs rather than souls saved and lives transformed. The power isn't in our buildings or events—it's in the gospel of Jesus Christ going forth.

**Today, examine your commitment:** Are you tied to your congregation because of convenience and programs, or because you're partnered in God's mission to reach the lost? The community around you desperately needs the gospel. Don't let your congregation die because the mission has been forgotten. **Ask yourself: What am I doing beyond these walls to advance God's kingdom?**

### Reflection:

*What does my spiritual resume actually contain beyond Sunday attendance?*



~ Minister Kelvin L. Briggs

Devotional based upon sermon "Giving Out of Your Surplus" by Shun Evans

# 5-Day Devotional: From Surplus to Sacrifice

## Day 2: Teaching the Next Generation

**Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

### **Devotional:**

We're raising a generation that excels academically but flunks in Christ. Scripture commands us to teach our children about God when we sit, walk, rise, and lie down—not just on Sunday mornings. **Are you more concerned about your children getting master's degrees than mastering Scripture?**

Young people have incredible networking power through social media, yet we fail to equip them to share the gospel with their thousands of connections. Strong churches are built on strong homes. Your children won't accidentally become faithful Christians; you must intentionally disciple them. Stop outsourcing their spiritual formation to youth ministers and church programs. Make Christ central in your home, and watch how God uses your family to transform your community.

### **Reflection:**

**Am I teaching my children to love Christ or just to succeed in the world?**



**~ Minister Kelvin L. Briggs**

**Devotional based upon sermon "Giving Out of Your Surplus" by Shun Evans**

# 5-Day Devotional: From Surplus to Sacrifice

## Day 3: The Widow's True Giving

**Reading:** Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

### **Devotional:**

Jesus contrasted those who gave from surplus with a widow who gave everything. The rich gave large sums that didn't affect their lifestyle; she gave sacrificially, trusting God completely. Many of us give God our leftovers—excess time, spare money, minimal effort. We keep ourselves comfortable while claiming faithfulness. But the Macedonian church, though desperately poor, begged for the privilege of giving. Why? Because they first gave themselves to the Lord.

**True giving isn't measured by amount but by sacrifice.**

God doesn't need your surplus; He desires your surrender.

**What would change if you stopped giving out of convenience and started giving sacrificially? When you stand before God, will your spiritual resume show genuine sacrifice or just comfortable contributions?**

### **Reflection:**

*What would sacrificial giving look like in my life right now?*



**~ Minister Kelvin L. Briggs**

Devotional based upon sermon "Giving Out of Your Surplus" by Shun Evans

# 5-Day Devotional: From Surplus to Sacrifice

## Day 4: Using Your Talents for Kingdom Work

Reading: Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

### Devotional:

The one-talent servant buried his gift and called God a hard man. Many Christians mirror this—receiving talents from God but using them exclusively for worldly pursuits. You'll spend hours perfecting your profession but won't invest time visiting the sick, teaching Bible class, or mentoring young believers.

God gave you abilities not just for financial success but for kingdom advancement.

When will you stop charging the church for your talents and start serving freely? What are you contributing beyond Sunday attendance?

**Don't stand before Him with buried gifts. Maximize what He's given you for His glory, not just your comfort.**

### Reflection:

Which God-given talents am I burying instead of investing for His kingdom?



**LONG CREEK**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Caring for the people with the care of God*

~ Minister Kelvin L. Briggs

Devotional based upon sermon "Giving Out of Your Surplus" by Shun Evans

# 5-Day Devotional: From Surplus to Sacrifice

## Day 5: The Cross: Heaven's Best for Our Worst

**Reading:** Isaiah 53:3-7; 1 Peter 2:21-25

### **Devotional:**

God didn't give from His surplus—He gave heaven's best. Jesus endured unimaginable suffering: spit upon by soldiers, flesh torn by scourging, crowned with thorns, nailed to rough wood. He prayed for those killing Him, asking God to give them another chance at salvation. This wasn't comfortable giving; this was complete sacrifice. Yet we want to give God minimal effort and expect Him to be satisfied. We throw Him a bone and ask Him to leave us alone until we need something. Jesus blood was spilled at Calvary on His way to Golgotha for you.

Can you not give Him your whole heart? Stop living for yourself while Jesus died for you. Your Savior gave everything; will you finally give Him more than your surplus?

### **Reflection:**

Does my life reflect gratitude for Christ's sacrifice, or am I giving Him leftovers?

~ **Minister Kelvin L. Briggs**



Devotional based upon sermon "Giving Out of Your Surplus" by Shun Evans