

**Intentional Living**  
**Thanksgiving: Putting God First in Turbulent Times**

*Colossians 3:16-17*

*(16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with **thankfulness in your hearts to God.***

*(17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him.*

**I. Intentional Living involves giving OURSELVES first to God as a reflection of God giving Himself first for us.**

*2 Corinthians 8:1-5*

*(1) We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, (2) for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.*

*(3) For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, (4) begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints-- (5) and this, not as we expected, **but they gave themselves first to the Lord** and then by the will of God to us.*

*Philippians 4:19*

*(19) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

**II. Intentional Living is represented by giving the FIRST of our resources back to God.**

*Malachi 3:10-11*

*(10) Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

*(11) I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.*

**God desires us to be Rich in Faith! He wants us to discover by faith how graciously good He is. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Without faith it is impossible to truly relate to God. Our giving is the tangible expression of our hearts of faith.**

*Matthew 6:19-21*

*(19) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, (20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**III. Intentional Living recognizes our total DEPENDENCE on God.**

***TRUST is the Treasure Gift that God most desires from us for it demonstrates that we love Him with all our being.***

**IV. Intentional Living brings God glory and supplies our NEED.**

*1 Kings 17:8-16*

*(8) Then the word of the LORD came to him, (9) "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." (10) So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."*

*(11) And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." (12) And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."*

*(13) And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. (14) For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'"*

*(15) And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. (16) The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.*

## **Prayer Time**

*James 5:16-18*

*(16) Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

*(17) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. (18) Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*