

WAYS

DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.

GIVE CHEERFULLY

Sunday

Rejoice, you get to give! Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that's been entrusted to you—time, abilities and money – ask, “How is God calling me to share what I've been given?”

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Give Cheerfully* this week.

for they have GIVEN A TINY PART
OF THEIR SURPLUS,
but she, poor as she is,
HAS GIVEN EVERYTHING
she has. LUKE 21:4

Monday

READ: Luke 21:1-4

THINK: The widow has nothing, but she gives what little she has to the Lord. Most of us would describe this as a financially irresponsible decision, but sometimes *Giving Cheerfully* is a statement of hope. She chooses to entrust her hope for the future to God instead of wealth. Wealth has a way of demanding our hope, *Giving Cheerfully* denies that demand.

PRAY: through what you trust God with and what you trust money for.

Give Cheerfully today.



GIVE,
AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU.
A GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN,
SHAKEN TOGETHER
AND RUNNING OVER,
WILL BE POURED INTO YOUR LAP.

LUKE 6:38

Tuesday

READ: Luke 6:27-38

THINK: Often we emphasize how we can give of our time, treasure, or talents, but one of the most important gifts we can give is mercy. This passage does not mean, “If you give money, you will get more money.” It means, “When you are merciful, you receive God’s mercy deeply.” You have received mercy in abundance, *Give it away Cheerfully.* When you build the habit of giving mercy, giving time, treasures, or talents becomes simple.

PRAY: that God would show you how much mercy you have received.

Give Cheerfully today.



T H E R E / S

A Boy Here

W H O H A S F I V E B A R L E Y
L O A V E S A N D T W O F I S H .
B U T W H A T A R E T H E Y A M O N G S O
M A N Y P E O P L E ? J O H N 6 : 9


Wednesday

READ: John 6:1-15

THINK: If you know the story, you know God does big things with those loaves and fishes. It's easy to figure out how many people some fish and bread would feed. Similarly, we know how many meals a gift of \$20 can buy or how much work can be done by volunteering for one morning. But God must not think how we do, because when we *Give Cheerfully*, He multiplies the effects. Don't let a small gift feel like a small gift.

PRAY: that God would multiply the gifts offered by Christians in our area.

Give Cheerfully today.



THEN THE LEADERS
OF THE HOUSEHOLDS,
THE LEADERS OF THE
tribes of Israel,
THE COMMANDERS OF THOUSANDS
AND OF HUNDREDS,
and the officials in charge of
THE KING'S WORK
gave willingly.
1 CHRONICLES 29:6-9

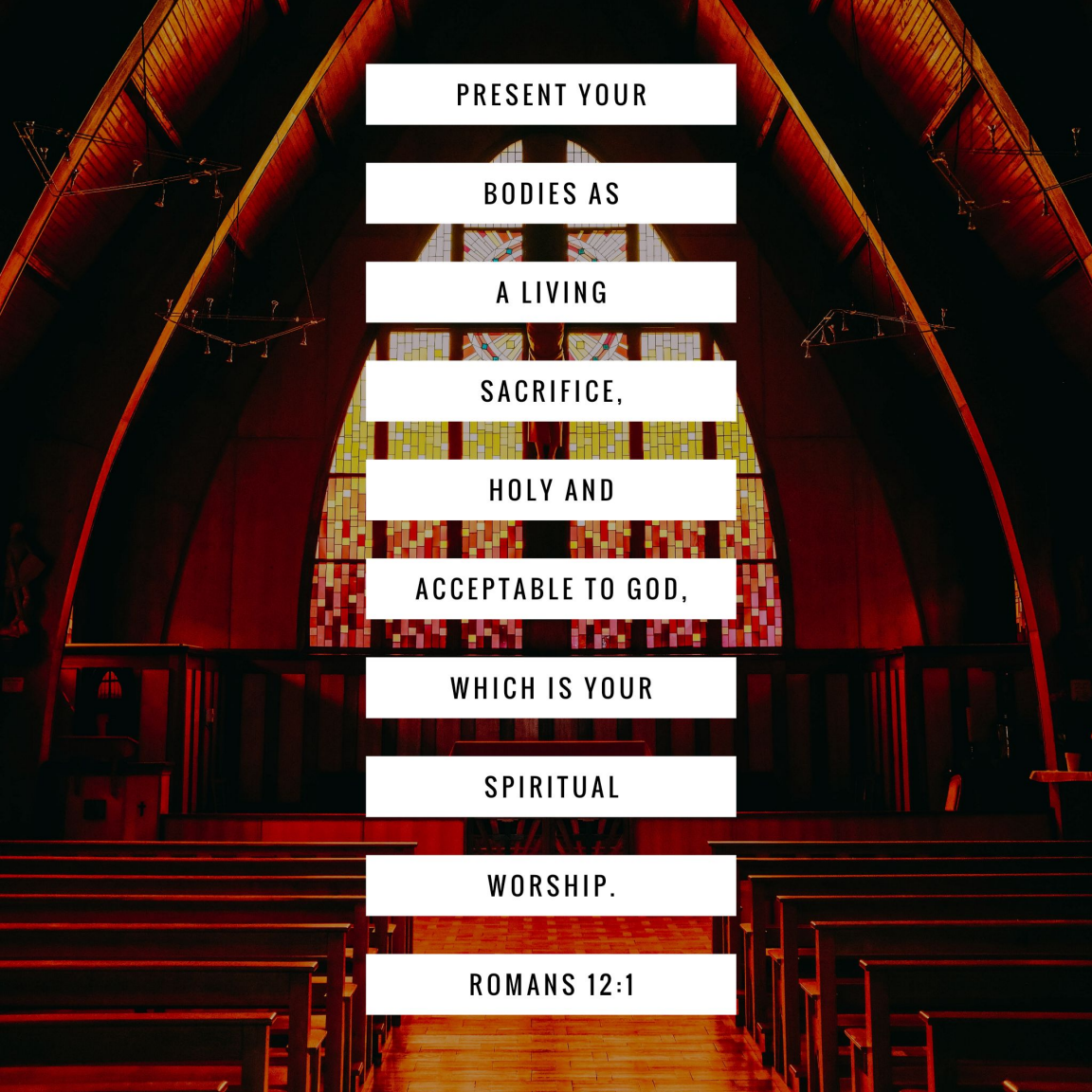
Thursday

READ: 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

THINK: The Temple was a place where for generations Israelites worshipped and found God. Each of the gifts in 1 Chronicles did not merely buy a brick or a door, but provided a space for God's people to find Him. We are blessed with a wonderful church building and property that have provided a space for people to meet God. When you *Give Cheerfully* you play a part in each of those people's stories.

PRAY: that God would show you how your gifts have impacted the faith of others.

Give Cheerfully today.



PRESENT YOUR

BODIES AS

A LIVING

SACRIFICE,

HOLY AND

ACCEPTABLE TO GOD,

WHICH IS YOUR

SPIRITUAL

WORSHIP.

ROMANS 12:1

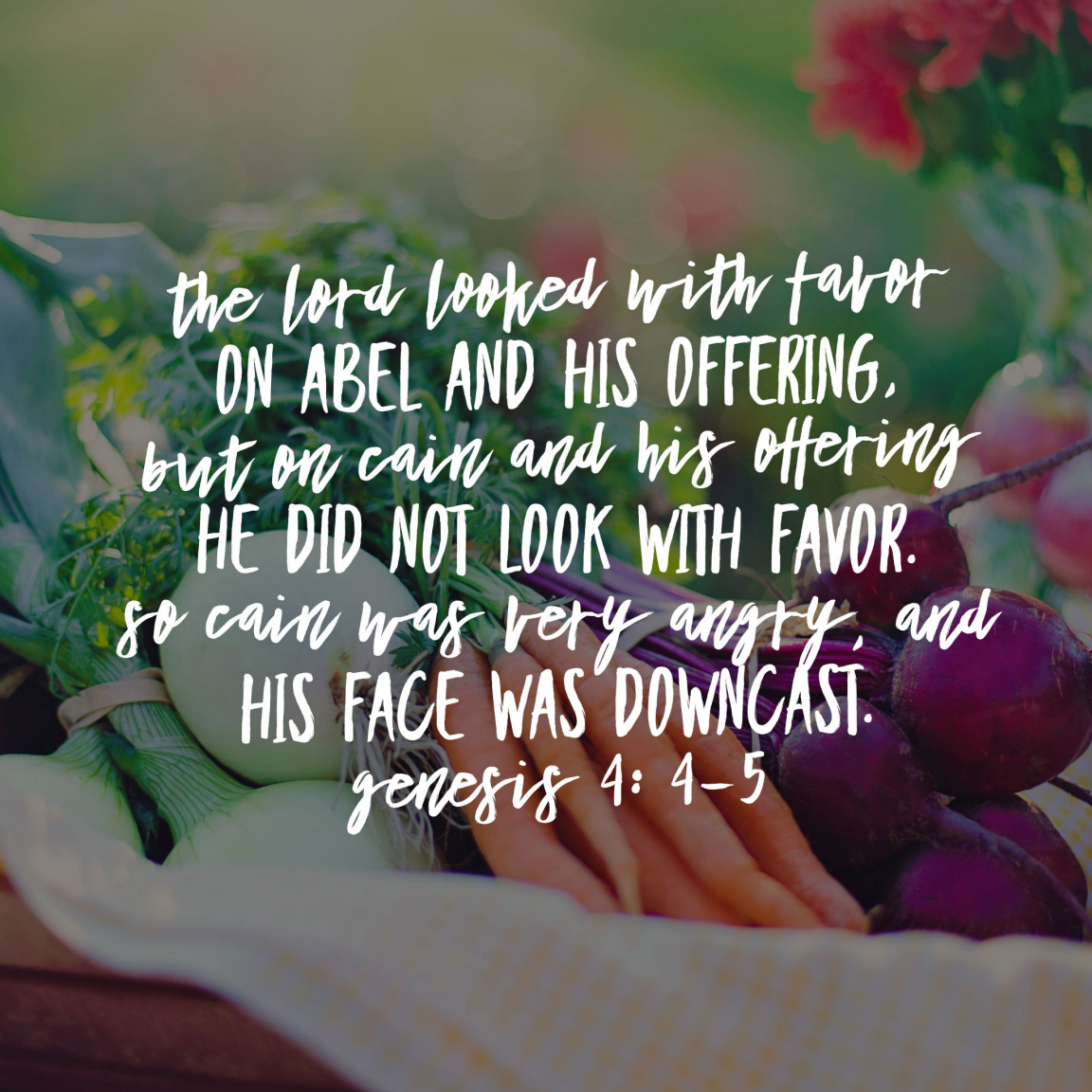
Friday

READ: Romans 12:1-2

THINK: Often money is the focus of giving and of stewardship, but it pales in comparison to what is actually asked of us: “a living sacrifice.” All that we have and all that we are is a living gift to God. If He could feed five thousand people with some buns and sardines, imagine what He can do with a life lived for Him which is *Given Cheerfully*.

PRAY: the Spirit would empower you to give more areas of your life to God.

Give Cheerfully today.



the lord looked with favor
ON ABEL AND HIS OFFERING,
but on cain and his offering
HE DID NOT LOOK WITH FAVOR.
so cain was very angry, and
HIS FACE WAS DOWNCAST.
genesis 4: 4-5

Saturday

READ: Genesis 4: 1-16

THINK: Cain gave “some” fruits and God was displeased. Abel gave the “firstborn,” his best, to God and it was accepted. How often do you give “some” of what you have instead of giving what is “first?” When you *Give Cheerfully*, you don’t give God your leftovers or your excess. You give Him your first and you give Him your best, not as a duty but as a joy because He is worth it and He is Lord.

PRAY: that God would show you how good and mighty He is.

Give Cheerfully today.