



# ROCK SOLID

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
ONE FUND GENEROSITY INITIATIVE



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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Generosity Journal

## **NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

is a Christ-Centered Ministry making disciples of all people, addressing the needs of the total person thru:

- Spiritually edifying worship,
- Life transforming Christian education,
- Relevant and timely ministry programs,
- Justice advocacy and community development

## A Letter From Our **ROCK SOLID** Ambassadors:

We are people of action. We like to cast vision, set goals, come up with action plans, create deadlines, check things off our to-do list then bask in our sense of accomplishment. Many of us have achieved great success following this pattern, and we are tempted to apply this formula to the work of the church.

Matthew 7:24-27 contrasts two types of people and their approach to life's foundation: those who hear Jesus's teachings and obey them and those who hear but do not obey. This passage is a powerful call to action, emphasizing that Christianity is not just about listening to religious teachings but about living them. A life of faith requires active, obedient application of Jesus's words to stand **ROCK SOLID** in the face of life's inevitable "storms."

The **ROCK SOLID** initiative is all about embracing a vision that is bigger than ourselves and beyond our own abilities. It's about being driven by that big vision to an even bigger Christ. It's about rejoicing over how Christ can not only save us, but also how He can also take our small feeble contributions and weave them into the tapestry of His grand work of redemption. We can't, but He can do more than we could ever ask or imagine.

During this time, we're asking you to spend a week looking at several passages of scripture which we believe to be foundational to our calling as a church. We want to look at scripture because it points us to Christ's work (not our own), and we want to spend time praying because that focuses our hope on what the Holy Spirit can do and not what we do.

Will you spend a week meditating on these passages and praying through them with us? We hope that this time will renew your joy in the impossible mission that God has given to us and soften your heart to the way in which the work of Christ is drawing you closer to Him.

As always, we will be praying alongside of you, that you may grow in the hope and knowledge of Christ!

Your Ambassadors,  
Deacon Clarence Williams & Cynthia Maccotan

# The Impossible Mission

## DAY ONE

*<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

Matthew 7:24-27

## Think (2-3 minutes)

What is the “foundation of rock?” How does Jesus’s teaching about building on a rock relate to the importance of hearing and obeying His words?

What are the worldly “sandy foundations” like career, finances, or relationships that might seem solid but lack true integrity?

## Apply (2-3 minutes)

Examine your own “foundation.” Where do you currently find your stability and security? Are you building your life on Christ or something else?

Beyond intellectual assent, how are you actively putting Jesus’s teachings into practice in your daily life?

## Meditate & Pray (10 minutes)

How can you be sure that your belief and actions are truly based on Christ and not on a superficial or shaky foundation?  
What is your next step?

What practical application steps can you take this week to strengthen your foundation in Christ?

# The Grace to Share Unsearchable Riches

## DAY TWO

*<sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 3:8-10

## Think

Grace is unmerited favor. When Paul talks about being given the “grace” to preach the gospel, why do you think he considers that a grace?

How are the riches of Christ unsearchable? What does Paul mean by that? If Christ’s riches are unsearchable, does that mean we shouldn’t bother looking into them?

# Apply

Christ continues to give the church grace to preach the gospel. In light of that, is our work as a church ultimately something we are doing, or something God is doing?

The work of the kingdom often involves sacrifice, discipline, and intentionality. What grace has God given you to minister to those around you? How is it an offer so good you can't refuse it?

# Meditate & Pray

Spend some time searching the unsearchable riches of Christ and journaling about your findings.

Take a moment to praise God in song or in prayer for the riches you have in Him.

## The Mission at Work

### DAY THREE

*<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:42-47

## Think

What were the early Christians “devoted” to (see vs 42) that made their hearts “glad and generous” when they received food (vs 46)?

What are the implications of verses 44-46 with regard to “personal” finances?

# Apply

What about the gospel makes it so we can't help ourselves from being generous?

How have you freely shared the resources (time, talent, treasure) God has given you with others?

# Meditate & Pray

In your journal make two headings: glad and generous. Under glad, list all the ways the gospel has made you glad. Under generous list all the ways the gospel encourages you to be generous.

Spend some time praying and asking God to grow your gladness and generosity.

## A Priceless & Eternal Investment

### DAY FOUR

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Matthew 13:44-46

## Think

Christ is clear that the treasure in the field in Matthew 13 represents the kingdom of heaven. What about the kingdom makes it an offer that we can't refuse?

Consider Matthew 6:21. What is one practical step that Christ is suggesting that will lead to heart change?

# Apply

How much value do you place on the kingdom of heaven versus the kingdom of this world?

What would it look like for you to invest more intentionally in the kingdom of heaven?

# Meditate & Pray

Consider how you've spent money over the last month. What does this reveal about your heart?

What would you like your heart to care more about? What would it look like to invest long-term in those things? What sacrifices will you have to make? Spend some time praying that Christ would help you make those sacrifices.

## Investing Isn't Optional

### DAY FIVE

<sup>12</sup> He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. <sup>13</sup> Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' <sup>14</sup> But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' <sup>15</sup> When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. <sup>16</sup> The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' <sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' <sup>20</sup> Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup> for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' <sup>22</sup> He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup> Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' <sup>24</sup> And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.'"

Luke 19:12-24

## Think

What are the minas and the various characters in this parable meant to represent?

Why did the servants have an obligation to invest the nobleman's money?

## Apply

Consider the implications of verses 22-24, namely that we will be held accountable for how we invested our resources. How are you investing what God has given to you?

What are some good investment opportunities in the kingdom that are before you now?

## Meditate & Pray

Spend a few minutes thanking God in praise for the ways in which he has grown your past investments in His kingdom.

Make a list of the resources that God has given you to invest and, next to that list, make a list of the investment opportunities that you see before you. Write up an action plan for how you will invest your resources over the next few years.

## The Might of the Widow's Gift

### DAY SIX

*<sup>41</sup> And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. <sup>43</sup> And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. <sup>44</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."*

Mark 12:41-44

## Think

Given the fact that this was all she had to live on, how is the widow a picture of faith and trust?

It's easy to imagine that the widow could've wrestled with whether or not God could really use her gift. It was such a small amount, by comparison, to the greater gifts. What implications does this passage have with regard to what God can do with small gifts?

# Apply

Where is God calling you to give, trusting in his provision? In other words, what is God asking you to sacrifice that will force you to rely on his provision and care?

How does knowing that God can use even the smallest of gifts free you up to live more generously?

# Meditate & Pray

Spend some time asking God to forgive you for your lack of faith in either

- a. His ability to provide for you ...
  
- b. His ability to use you ...

Journal briefly about the small gifts and resources that you have to offer to God and plan to revisit and reflect on how he has used them a month / a year later.

# The Joy of Generosity

## DAY SEVEN

<sup>14</sup> "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. <sup>15</sup> For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. <sup>16</sup> O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. <sup>17</sup> I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you."

1 Chronicles 29:14-17

## Think

In this passage David is rejoicing over the gifts the people have given for the building of the temple. In the New Testament we are told that the redeemed followers of Christ are being built into a temple (e.g. Eph. 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:5). How is investing in the kingdom similar to the people of Israel giving to the temple?

Consider verses 14-16. How is giving to the Lord or to the kingdom actually a gift to us?

# Apply

David and the people rejoiced over their ability to give. How have you rejoiced over investments you've been able to make?

In light of the rich blessing you've received in being able to contribute to the kingdom, how will you celebrate God's goodness to you?

# Meditate & Pray

Take a few moments to Journal reflecting on this statement: "Who am I that I should be able thus to offer willingly?" (vs 14)

Spend some time in worship praising God for the blessing of resources and opportunity that he's given you.

# Notes

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