

# SIMPLICITY & GENEROSITY



SPIRITUAL FORMATION SERIES

# **SIMPLICITY OF HEART**

Luke 12:22-34

## Luke 12:22-34 (CSB)

<sup>22</sup> Then He said to His disciples: “Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: They don’t sow or reap; they don’t have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than the birds? <sup>25</sup> Can any of you add a cubit to his height by worrying? <sup>26</sup> If then you’re not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest?”

## Luke 12:22-34 (CSB)

<sup>27</sup> “Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these! <sup>28</sup> If that’s how God clothes the grass, which is in the field today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will He do for you—you of little faith? <sup>29</sup> Don’t keep striving for what you should eat and what you should drink, and don’t be anxious. <sup>30</sup> For the Gentile world eagerly seeks all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

## Luke 12:22-34 (CSB)

<sup>31</sup> “But seek His kingdom, and these things will be provided for you. <sup>32</sup> Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won’t grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

# I. WHAT SIMPLICITY IS

“We have hints that there is a way of life vastly richer and deeper than all this hurried existence, a life of unhurried serenity & peace & power... We’ve seen such lives, integrated, unworried by the tangles of close decisions, unhurried, cheery, fresh, positive. These are not people of dallying idleness nor of obviously mooning meditation; they are busy carrying their full load as well as we, but without any chafing of the shoulders with the burden, with quiet joy and springing step. Surrounding the trifles of their daily life is an aura of infinite peace and power and joy.”

- Thomas Kelly, *A Testament of Devotion*

“I hope you understand what I mean when I speak of living out of the Center. I am of course referring to God, but I do not mean God in an abstract theoretical sense, nor even God in the sense of One to be feared and revered. Nor do I mean God only in the sense of One to be love and obeyed. For years I loved God and sought to obey him, but he remained on the periphery of my life...”



“But slowly I came to see that God desired to be not on the outskirts, but at the heart of my experience. Gardening was no longer an experience outside of my relationship with God—I discovered God in the gardening. Swimming was no longer just good exercise—it became an opportunity for communion with God. God in Christ had become the Center.”

- Richard Foster, *Freedom of Simplicity*

“The single-minded person does the next small thing that is needed in order to focus on God instead of giving in to the automatic responses of the past. To treasure God is to have a single-focused life.”

- Jan Johnson, *Abundant Simplicity*

“Purity of heart is to will one thing.”

- Søren Kierkegaard

# James 4:1-4, 8

<sup>1</sup> What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup> You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God... <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

# Psalm 119:113

<sup>113</sup> I hate the double-minded  
(half-hearted)  
(those with divided loyalties)  
but I love your law.

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5

<sup>1</sup> But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup>  
People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful,  
proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>  
without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal,  
not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of  
pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness  
but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

# Philippians 3:7-16

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me *I now consider loss* for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ... <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But *one thing I do*: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

# Hebrews 12:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



# Matthew 5:8

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the *pure in heart*, for they shall see God.”

# Psalm 37:4

<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

# Matthew 13:44-46

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything 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> When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had, and bought it.”

# Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (The *Shema*)

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

# Luke 12:31 / Matthew 6:33

*But seek his kingdom,* and  
these things will be  
provided for you.

*But seek first the kingdom of  
God* and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be  
added to you.

## II. HOW TO FIND SIMPLICITY

**MARGIN**

# BREATH PRAYER