

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **YOUR LIFE DOES NOT CONSIST OF “STUFF”**

Luke 12:15 “And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

The United States is a country of homes with basements, garages, backyard sheds and storage units. As of 2021 there were over 51,000 storage facilities in our country with more being built every day. We are a nation consumed with the accumulation of “stuff.”

The dictionary defines “stuff” as “matter, material and articles of both specific and indeterminate kinds . . .” In other words, in many cases we truly do not know all the “stuff” we have accumulated. If you have recently moved you are well aware as you packed up your personal “stuff” you found items you had totally forgotten you had. Even though you had not used that item in years, you still packed it and moved it to your next storage area.

Downsizing, is in reality, getting rid of the “stuff” you have accumulated over a long period of time. It requires determining what items you have no need to have. Once you decide what you will part with you then either sell, donate or discard.

Jesus says, “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15) In spite of the old saying, “whoever dies with the most toys wins,” the truth is “you can’t take them with you. Putting your faith or trust in “stuff” is idolatry for sure and useless as well.

As a Christian, your faith is not in “stuff” but in “Christ Jesus.” Your life no longer revolves around the things of this world, rather “I (you) have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I (you) who live, but Christ who lives in me (you). And the life I (you) now live in the flesh I (you) live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me (you) and gave himself for me (you).” (Galatians 2:20) “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Prayer: Lord, grant me a heart of faith that focuses not on the things of this world but on Jesus Christ and the eternal life He has won for me. In His holy name.  
Amen.

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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