

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: Forward Progression of Faith

### Devotional

Faith isn't meant to be static. It's not a one-time decision that remains unchanged throughout our lives. Rather, Christianity is designed to be a journey—a forward progression of faith. Just as a child grows physically, mentally, and emotionally, our spiritual lives should demonstrate growth and maturation.

Think about your own faith journey. Where were you spiritually five years ago? One year ago? Last month? Are you moving forward, or have you become stagnant? God desires that we continually grow in our relationship with Him, deepening our understanding of who He is and what He has called us to do.

The early church in Acts demonstrates this forward movement beautifully. They didn't settle for what they already knew about Jesus; they allowed the Holy Spirit to guide them into new territories, both physically and spiritually. They faced challenges, made mistakes, and learned valuable lessons along the way—but they kept moving forward.

Today, consider where God might be calling you to move forward. Perhaps it's stepping out in faith to serve in a new ministry, deepening your prayer life, or being more intentional about sharing your faith with others. Whatever it may be, remember that God is with you every step of the way, guiding your forward progression of faith.

### Bible Verse

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

### Reflection Question

In what specific area of your spiritual life do you feel God calling you to move forward? What might be holding you back from taking that next step?

### Quote

Christianity is a forward progression of faith, not to new, in a sense, revelations, but in new growth and experience with God according to the truth of his word.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the journey of faith You've called me to. Forgive me for the times I've become comfortable with spiritual stagnation. I ask for Your guidance as I seek to move forward in my relationship with You. Give me courage to step out in faith, even when it feels uncomfortable. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 2: Led by the Spirit

### Devotional

Have you ever tried to navigate through an unfamiliar city without a map or GPS? It can be frustrating and inefficient. Similarly, trying to navigate life without the guidance of the Holy Spirit leads to unnecessary detours and dead ends.

In Acts, we see the early believers waiting for the Holy Spirit before beginning their ministry. Jesus specifically instructed them not to leave Jerusalem until they received this power from on high. Why? Because effective ministry isn't accomplished through human effort alone—it requires divine empowerment.

The Holy Spirit works in our lives in three distinct ways: He is **WITH** everyone, convicting the world of sin and drawing people to salvation; He is **IN** believers at the moment of salvation, sealing us as children of God; and He comes **UPON** believers to empower us for service and ministry.

Many Christians acknowledge the first two works of the Spirit but neglect the third. We may have the Holy Spirit living within us, but the question remains: does the Holy Spirit have us? Have we fully surrendered to His leading and empowerment?

Today, consider whether you're trying to serve God through your own strength or whether you're relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. The difference is not just in the results but in the journey itself.

### **Bible Verse**

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." - John 14:16-17

### **Reflection Question**

In what ways might you be attempting to serve God through your own strength rather than relying on the power of the Holy Spirit? What might change if you fully surrendered to His leading?

### **Quote**

You may have the Holy Spirit, but maybe the question is, does the Holy Spirit have you?

### **Prayer**

Holy Spirit, I acknowledge my need for Your power and guidance. Forgive me for the times I've relied on my own strength rather than Yours. I surrender my plans, my ministry, and my life to Your leading. Fill me afresh today, and empower me to be an effective witness for Jesus. In His name I pray, amen.

## **Day 3: Faith Based on Evidence**

### **Devotional**

In a world that often dismisses faith as blind acceptance without evidence, Christianity stands apart. Our faith isn't a leap into darkness but a step into light based on solid historical evidence.

Luke, the author of Acts, was a meticulous historian who carefully investigated the claims of Christianity before documenting them. He interviewed eyewitnesses and compiled an orderly account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The book of Acts continues this careful documentation, showing how the early church grew based on the undeniable reality of the risen Christ.

Jesus didn't just appear to one or two people after His resurrection—He appeared to over 500 witnesses at one time! These weren't hallucinations or wishful thinking; they were encounters with the physically resurrected Jesus that transformed fearful disciples into bold witnesses willing to die for what they had seen and experienced.

When doubts arise or when others challenge your faith, remember that Christianity isn't based on myths or legends but on historical events attested by multiple reliable sources. We follow Jesus not by blind faith but by proven faith—faith grounded in evidence that stands up to scrutiny.

Today, take confidence in knowing that your faith rests on a solid foundation. The same Jesus who proved Himself to those early disciples continues to prove Himself faithful in your life today.

### **Bible Verse**

"After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep." - 1 Corinthians 15:6

### **Reflection Question**

How has God proven His faithfulness in your own life? How might these personal evidences strengthen your faith during times of doubt or questioning?

### **Quote**

Moving forward realizes I'm not following Jesus by a blind faith, but a proven faith. It's not just believe it and you'll have warm fuzzies. I believe it because the evidence shows me the proof.

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the solid evidence of Your resurrection and the reliable testimony of those who witnessed it. Strengthen my faith when doubts arise, and help me to remember the ways You've proven Yourself faithful in my own life. Use me to share this proven faith with others who are seeking truth. In Your name I pray, amen.

## **Day 4: Empowered for Purpose**

### **Devotional**

Have you ever seen a powerful locomotive sitting idle on the tracks? All that potential energy and strength, yet accomplishing nothing until it's put into motion. Similarly, the Holy Spirit's power in our lives isn't meant merely for our personal comfort or spiritual experiences—it's given for a purpose.

In Acts, Jesus clearly states the purpose of the Spirit's empowerment: "You will be my witnesses." The baptism of the Holy Spirit isn't primarily about speaking in tongues or having emotional experiences; it's about being empowered to effectively share the gospel and make disciples.

The early church understood this purpose. When the Spirit came upon them at Pentecost, they immediately began proclaiming the gospel in languages they had never learned. The result? Three thousand people were saved in a single day! Throughout Acts, we see this pattern repeated—the Spirit empowers, believers witness, and people come to faith in Christ.

God's purposes are accomplished through the power of His Spirit working through willing people. He doesn't need our abilities, but He desires our availability. When we say, "Use me, Lord," God essentially responds, "I've been waiting for you to say that!"

Today, consider whether you're using the Spirit's power for its intended purpose. Are you being an effective witness for Christ in your sphere of influence? If not, perhaps it's time to ask for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit upon your life.

### **Bible Verse**

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Matthew 3:11

### **Reflection Question**

How effectively are you using the Holy Spirit's power to witness for Christ in your daily life? What specific opportunities to share your faith might God be placing before you today?

### **Quote**

The steam in a locomotive does not exist to toot the whistle. Its purpose is to power the engine and move the train.

### **Prayer**

Holy Spirit, forgive me for the times I've sought Your power for my own comfort rather than for Your purpose. I ask for a fresh outpouring of Your presence in my life today. Make me bold in sharing the gospel, sensitive to Your leading, and effective in my witness for Christ. Use me to draw others to Jesus. In His name I pray, amen.

## **Day 5: Eyes Fixed on His Return**

### **Devotional**

When the disciples stood gazing up into the sky after Jesus ascended, angels appeared with a gentle reminder: "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Their message was clear—don't just stand looking backward; live forward-facing in light of His promised return.

The ascension of Jesus teaches us something profound: just as He came literally and physically to earth the first time, He will return literally and physically to the same place. This isn't a metaphorical or spiritual return; it's a promise of His physical presence once again on earth.

This promise should shape how we live today. When we truly believe Jesus could return at any moment, it changes our priorities, our choices, and our perspective on current circumstances. Problems that once seemed overwhelming become temporary in light of eternity. Worldly pursuits lose their appeal when compared to the joy of His appearing.

Living with our eyes fixed on Jesus' return doesn't mean we abandon our responsibilities or become so heavenly-minded that we're no earthly good. Rather, it means we live with purpose and urgency, knowing that time is short and the opportunity to share the gospel won't last forever.

Today, ask yourself: If Jesus returned today, would He find you faithfully doing what He's called you to do? Let the anticipation of His return motivate you to live boldly for Him now.

### **Bible Verse**

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." - Zechariah 14:4

### **Reflection Question**

How would your daily priorities and decisions change if you lived each day with the conscious awareness that Jesus could return at any moment?

### **Quote**

Just as he came, literally, physically to earth, he will come back again, literally and physically.

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise of Your return. Help me to live each day with my eyes fixed on You rather than on the temporary circumstances around me. Give me a sense of urgency to share Your gospel and complete the work You've given me to do. May I be found faithful when You return. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.