

# 5 Day Devotional

GRACE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## 5-Day Devotional: Living Faith That Transforms

### Day 1: Beyond Favoritism to Love

**Reading:** James 2:1-9

**Devotional:** The church gathering should be the one place where worldly labels fall away. Yet James confronts us with an uncomfortable truth: we often judge people by external appearances, giving preferential treatment based on wealth, status, or appearance. This isn't just poor manners; James calls it "evil thoughts" because it corrupts our thinking at its core. Jesus demolished the walls between rich and poor, slave and free, every ethnicity and background. When we rebuild those walls, we work against Christ himself. Today, examine your heart. Who do you instinctively value more? Who do you overlook? The royal law is beautifully simple: love your neighbor as yourself. No evaluation needed. No judgment required. Just love everyone, all the time.

### Day 2: The Absurdity of Worldly Values

**Reading:** Luke 6:20-26

**Devotional:** James asks his readers a piercing question: Does it make sense to honor the wealthy when God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith? Our Savior came from Nazareth, the wrong side of the tracks. He had no wealth, no political power, no approval from the elite. His followers were fishermen and tax collectors. He ate with sinners. If we claim to follow this Jesus while giving special treatment to those the world deems important, we reveal whose values we've truly absorbed. The kingdom of God operates on an entirely different economy—one where the last are first, the humble

are exalted, and the poor inherit the kingdom. Reflect today: Are you following Jesus or the world's playbook?

### **Day 3: Faith Without Transformation is Dead**

**Reading:** James 2:14-19

**Devotional:** A picture of fire cannot warm you. A photograph of food cannot feed you. And faith that exists only as mental agreement cannot save you. James confronts comfortable Christianity with uncomfortable truth: even demons believe in God and tremble. What separates genuine faith from demonic acknowledgment? Transformation. Real faith in Jesus doesn't leave us unchanged; it sets us ablaze with His presence, reshaping our priorities, actions, and loves. If your faith hasn't led you to actually obey Jesus—to love your neighbor, serve the needy, pursue holiness—then you're holding a picture of fire while freezing in the snow. The question isn't whether you believe certain facts about Jesus, but whether Jesus is actually Lord of your life.

### **Day 4: Love in Action**

**Reading:** 1 John 3:16-24

**Devotional:** James paints a vivid picture: someone hungry and cold stands before you, and you respond with warm wishes but no warm coat. "Go in peace, keep warm and well fed," you say, while doing nothing to meet their needs. This, James says, is what faith without deeds looks like. John echoes this truth: how can God's love be in us if we see someone in need and do nothing? Real faith doesn't just feel compassion; it acts on it. It doesn't just acknowledge truth; it lives it out. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to show you someone in need—perhaps someone you've been overlooking. Then ask for the courage to move beyond good intentions to actual help. Let your faith become visible through love.

### **Day 5: One New Humanity**

**Reading:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Devotional:** Jesus came to create one new humanity, tearing down every dividing wall—between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, rich and poor, every race and nation. Yet throughout history, the church has repeatedly rebuilt what Jesus destroyed, absorbing cultural prejudices and national values that contradict the gospel. Whether it was segregated churches or favoritism toward the wealthy, we've often chosen cultural conformity over kingdom transformation. This should humble us and make us vigilant. What walls are we building today? What cultural values have we absorbed without realizing they contradict Jesus? True faith transcends all earthly labels and divisions. We are called to be servants of Jesus first, citizens of His kingdom above all else. Let that identity shape everything.