

5 Day Devotional

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Day 1: The Prayer for Unity

Reading: John 17:20-23

Jesus prayed that we would be one, just as He and the Father are one. This unity is not merely organizational or superficial—it is a profound spiritual oneness that testifies to the world about God's love. When we choose division over unity, we undermine the very prayer of Christ. Our differences in background, politics, or status are meant to be transcended by our shared identity in Jesus. Today, consider what divides you from other believers. Are you allowing secondary matters to become primary? The world is watching to see if Christ's prayer is being answered in us. Unity is not uniformity, but it is a commitment to love across our differences, demonstrating that Jesus truly was sent by God.

Day 2: The Battle Within

Reading: James 4:1-3

The conflicts we experience with others often originate in the battles raging within our own hearts. When our desires go unsubmitted to God, they become demands that fuel quarrels and division. Like Eve in the garden, we can take good desires—for security, love, purpose, or wisdom—and pursue them in illegitimate ways, without trusting God's provision and timing. The enemy whispers that we must take what we want now, that God is withholding good from us. But this path always leads to death and destruction. Today, examine your heart honestly. What desires are driving your actions? Are you trusting God to meet your deepest needs, or are you demanding your own way? Surrender these desires to Him, asking Him to transform them by His grace.

Day 3: Resisting the Enemy

Reading: James 4:7-8; Genesis 3:1-6

Satan's strategy has not changed since Eden. He questions God's word, twists our desires, and convinces us to trust ourselves rather than God. The battle for unity in the church is fundamentally a spiritual battle against an enemy who seeks to divide and destroy. But we are not powerless. James gives us clear instructions: submit to God and resist the devil. Submission is not passive—it is the active choice to acknowledge God's authority over our lives. When we draw near to God in humility and repentance, He draws near to us. We do not fight this battle alone or in our own strength. The victory comes through intimacy with God, not self-effort. Today, identify one area where the enemy is whispering lies. Counter those lies with God's truth and draw near to Him in prayer.

Day 4: The Way Down Is the Way Up

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

The world tells us to assert ourselves, demand our rights, and pursue our desires at any cost. But the Kingdom of God operates by a radically different principle: the way up is down. Jesus, though equal with God, humbled Himself to become a servant, obedient even to death on a cross. And because of this humility, God exalted Him to the highest place. This is the pattern for all who follow Jesus. When we lay down our lives, surrender our demands, and serve others sacrificially, we discover true life. Humility is not weakness—it is the strength to trust God completely, even when it costs us everything. Today, look for an opportunity to serve someone without recognition or reward. Choose the way of Jesus, trusting that God lifts up the humble in His perfect timing.

Day 5: Preparing for His Presence

Reading: James 4:8-10; Psalm 24:3-6

We are not ordinary people living ordinary lives. We are the first fruits of God's new creation, kingdom people called to live in His presence. This requires preparation—washing our hands and purifying our hearts. James calls us to authentic repentance: grieving over our sin, mourning our divided hearts, and humbling ourselves before the Lord. This is not about earning God's favor through self-condemnation, but about honestly acknowledging where we have fallen short and turning back to Him. When we repent, we discover that God is not distant or angry—He is near, with His arm around us, ready to lift us up and restore us. Today, take time for honest self-examination. Confess specific sins and double-mindedness to God. Receive His grace and allow Him to purify your heart, preparing you to live fully in His presence.