

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Dead or Alive: The Reality of New Life

Devotional

When someone dies, we don't expect them to keep living their old life. Yet many of us claim to have died with Christ while still clinging to our former ways of thinking and acting. True salvation isn't just about saying a prayer or getting baptized—it's about experiencing a complete transformation where our old self actually dies and we become entirely new creations. This isn't a gradual improvement program; it's a fundamental change in our very identity. The person you were before Christ is gone, and the person you are now has been raised to new life with Him. This reality should be evident in how we think, speak, and treat others. When we truly understand that we've been made new, we can't help but live differently.

Bible Verse

'So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' - Galatians 3:27-29

Reflection Question

If someone observed your life for a week without knowing you claim to be a Christian, what evidence would they see of your new identity in Christ?

Quote

You cannot walk around with half a corpse hanging on you.

Prayer

Lord, help me to truly understand that my old self has died with You and I am now a new creation. Give me the courage to live out this new identity in every area of my life.

Day 2: Grace Without Responsibility: A Dangerous Deception

Devotional

Grace is not a license to live however we want—it's the power to live how God wants. Some people treat salvation like a get-out-of-jail-free card, believing that once they're saved, their actions don't matter anymore. This mindset creates Christians who hold up the Bible with one hand while their lifestyle gives the middle finger to everything it represents. True grace doesn't eliminate personal responsibility; it empowers us to live responsibly. When we understand the incredible cost of our salvation, we're motivated to honor Christ with our choices. Grace covers our failures, but it also transforms our desires. We don't avoid sin just to stay saved—we avoid it because we love the One who saved us and want to reflect His character to the world.

Bible Verse

'So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.' - Ephesians 4:17-18

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life might you be using grace as an excuse rather than allowing it to transform your behavior?

Quote

There are people who came to a decision that their only responsibility was to say a prayer and get baptized or just claim to be saved and have others agree with them. Well, I'm saved and they agree with me, so it doesn't matter. And then just believe that now I'm saved by Jesus with no personal responsibility at all. It's all by grace, so it doesn't matter what I do.

Prayer

Father, help me to never take Your grace for granted, but instead let it motivate me to live in a way that honors You. Show me where I need to take more responsibility for my actions.

Day 3: Your Lifestyle is Your Loudest Sermon

Devotional

Words are cheap, but lifestyle is expensive. You can tell people about Jesus all day long, but if your actions contradict your message, your lifestyle will speak louder than your words. Many people have been turned away from faith not because of Jesus, but because of Christians whose behavior didn't match their beliefs. When we live with integrity, kindness, and genuine love, we become walking testimonies of God's transforming power. People are watching how we handle stress, treat our families, conduct business, and respond to conflict. Every interaction is an opportunity to show others what Jesus looks like in human form. The goal isn't perfection—it's authenticity. When we mess up, we acknowledge it and demonstrate how grace works in real life.

Bible Verse

'So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.' - Ephesians 4:17

Reflection Question

What would change in your daily interactions if you truly believed that your lifestyle is your loudest testimony about Jesus?

Quote

There's no louder testimony than our lifestyle.

Prayer

Lord, help my actions align with my beliefs so that my life becomes a clear testimony of Your love and grace. Make me aware of how my behavior affects others' perception of You.

Day 4: Breaking Down the Walls We Build

Devotional

Life hurts, so we build walls. Trauma and disappointment teach us to protect ourselves by becoming emotionally callous and self-reliant. But here's the problem: the same walls that keep pain out also keep love from getting in. When we numb ourselves to hurt, we also numb ourselves to empathy, compassion, and genuine connection with others. Jesus chose a different path. Instead of building walls, He made Himself completely vulnerable to every pain we could imagine. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He showed us that true strength comes from openness, not closure. Following Jesus means gradually tearing down the protective barriers we've built and learning to feel again—both the pain and the joy, the disappointment and the hope. It's scary, but it's the only way to truly love and be loved.

Bible Verse

'You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.' - Ephesians 4:22-24

Reflection Question

What emotional walls have you built to protect yourself, and how might they be preventing you from fully loving others?

Quote

Jesus literally made himself vulnerable to every pain we could imagine just so that he could express his love for us through his life, death and resurrection. He did everything exactly the opposite of what is intuitive to us.

Prayer

Jesus, give me the courage to be vulnerable like You were. Help me tear down the walls I've built and learn to love others with an open heart, even when it hurts.

Day 5: Filling the Void with Something Better

Devotional

Getting rid of bad habits is only half the battle—you have to replace them with something better, or they'll come back stronger than before. When we remove negative patterns from our lives, we create a void that must be filled. If we don't intentionally fill it with godly habits and practices, our old ways will return with reinforcements. This is why spiritual disciplines like worship, prayer, Bible study, and fellowship are so crucial. They're not just religious activities—they're training exercises that prepare us to live as new creations every day. Just like athletes practice drills to perform well in games, we practice Christian disciplines to live faithfully in real life. The goal isn't to become perfect church-goers, but to become people who naturally reflect Christ's character in every situation we encounter.

Bible Verse

'and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.' - Ephesians 4:24

Reflection Question

What positive habits and practices do you need to cultivate to fill the spaces left by the negative patterns you're trying to eliminate?

Quote

Getting rid of bad habits is a good thing. But friends, you cannot leave that void, because if you do, it will be filled with something.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, help me not just remove what's wrong in my life, but actively pursue what's right. Fill me with Your presence and guide me in developing habits that honor You.