

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: When Comfort Becomes a Trap

Devotional

It is easy to look at your life, your church, or your circumstances and feel like things are going well. Bills are paid. Attendance is up. Programs are running. Everything looks fine from the outside. But there is a quiet danger in seasons of comfort: we can slowly stop needing God in any real, felt way.

The church in Laodicea knew this trap well. They lived in one of the wealthiest cities in the ancient world, a place so self-sufficient that when a devastating earthquake struck, they turned down outside help. They did not need anyone. And without realizing it, that same Spirit had crept into their faith.

Jesus did not rebuke them for false teaching or moral failure. He rebuked them for self-sufficiency. They had confused their comfort and success with God's approval. And the gap between how they saw themselves and how Jesus saw them was staggering.

Here is the encouraging truth: Jesus did not walk away. He knocked. He called out. He offered something better than anything their city could produce. That same invitation is open to you today. Comfort is not the enemy of faith, but it can quietly become a substitute for it. The good news is that God is not waiting for you to fail before He speaks. He is speaking now, in the middle of the good seasons, asking you to stay close.

Bible Verse

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." - Revelation 3:15-16

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life right now does comfort or self-sufficiency make it easy to go through the motions of faith without genuinely depending on God?

Quote

"One of the hardest times to turn to God is when you don't feel like you need Him. That's true for individuals. It's also true for local churches. When everything's paid off, when attendance is strong, programming is full, the building is beautiful, it becomes very easy to take your eyes off of God and put them on the machinery of maintaining what you've achieved."

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for the moments when I have mistaken comfort for closeness with You. Keep my heart tender and dependent on You, especially in the seasons when everything seems fine. Amen.

Day 2: More Than Enthusiasm

Devotional

Most of us have heard the lukewarm passage and assumed Jesus was asking for more passion, more fire, more spiritual energy. But the picture is actually more specific and more convicting than that.

Laodicea had no water source of its own. Water was piped in through clay aqueducts from miles away, arriving at room temperature, mineral-laden, and nauseating. Cold water refreshed weary travelers. Hot water brought healing. Lukewarm water made people sick.

Jesus was not simply asking the church to feel more excited about their faith. He was asking a harder question: Is your church actually useful to anyone? Are people finding rest here? Are people finding healing here? Or are they walking away worse off than when they came?

That reframes everything. A church, and a believer, is not measured by how much enthusiasm they display on Sunday morning. The measure is whether the people around them are being refreshed and restored. That is a call to something deeper than emotion. It is a call to genuine, outward-facing love.

The encouraging part is this: Jesus still believed the church in Laodicea could be that. He had not given up on them. And He has not given up on you. You can still be a source of cold water to someone who is exhausted today.

Bible Verse

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." - Revelation 3:15-16

Reflection Question

Think about the people in your life who are weary or hurting. Does your faith show up for them in practical, refreshing ways, or has it mostly stayed contained to your own spiritual life?

Quote

"What Jesus is saying is actually far more devastating than either be on fire for me or be cold against me. He's saying that a church should be like cold water. It should be a place of rest, refreshment and peace for weary people."

Prayer

Jesus, make me useful to the people around me. Let my faith be something that refreshes and heals others, not something I keep only for myself. Amen.

Day 3: The Gap Between How We See and How God Sees

Devotional

There is a moment in Jesus's letter to Laodicea that should stop all of us cold. The church believed they were rich, clothed, and able to see clearly. Jesus said they were poor, naked, and blind. The gap between their self-assessment and His was total. And they had no idea.

That is the part that lingers. Not that they were struggling and knew it. But that they were struggling and thought they were thriving.

Arrogance does not always look like pride. Sometimes it looks like contentment. Sometimes it looks like a church that is fully funded, well-attended, and quietly convinced that God must be pleased because things are going so well. But Jesus was precise in His diagnosis. A church can be fully functioning and still be utterly without God.

The good news is that Jesus offered them exactly what they lacked. Gold refined by fire. White robes of true righteousness. Eye salve that would allow them to see their own condition honestly. He did not shame them and leave. He offered them a better version of everything they thought they already had.

God's correction is not punishment. It is mercy. He humbles the arrogant because arrogance is the very thing that cuts us off from Him. Letting Him show you the truth about yourself is the first step back toward something real.

Bible Verse

"I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see." - Revelation 3:18

Reflection Question

Is there an area of your spiritual life where you have been assuming things are fine, but you have not actually invited God to examine it honestly with you?

Quote

"The church's self assessment and Jesus assessment, polar opposites. And the church has no idea. That should give us pause."

Prayer

Father, give me the courage to see myself clearly. Where I have been blind to my own condition, open my eyes with Your truth and Your grace. Amen.

Day 4: Having Church Without Christ

Devotional

It is one of the most haunting images in all of Scripture. Jesus, standing outside the door of His own church, knocking to be let in.

He was not speaking to outsiders. He was speaking to believers, to people who gathered regularly in His name, who sang songs and read Scripture and called themselves His followers. And yet somehow, in the middle of all of it, He had ended up on the outside.

This is what self-sufficiency does over time. It does not usually happen through a dramatic rejection of God. It happens gradually, quietly, as the programs and the budgets and the routines become the thing the church trusts. The machinery keeps running. The doors stay open. But the presence of Christ is no longer at the center of the table.

The meal Jesus references is the communion table, the place where every distinction collapses. Rich and poor, strong and broken, all of it falls away. Every person sits as a son or daughter of the Most High King. That table only means something when He is at it.

Here is the hope: He is still knocking. He has not given up. The rebuke itself is love. A God who had truly walked away would not bother to knock. He is asking to come back in, and the door opens from the inside.

Bible Verse

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." - Revelation 3:20

Reflection Question

In your own rhythms of faith, whether personal or in community, where might Jesus be knocking on a door that has quietly been closed to Him?

Quote

"The question is not whether unbelievers will open the door, friends. The question is, why is Jesus on the outside?"

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I open the door. Come back to the center of my life and my community. Let nothing I build in Your name ever crowd You out of it. Amen.

Day 5: Two Sides of One Coin

Devotional

It would be easy to walk away from this week thinking the lesson is simply to try harder, to be more passionate, to do more for God. But the real invitation runs deeper than that.

A church that is disconnected from God will inevitably become indifferent to the world around it. And a church that is indifferent to the world is almost always a church that has drifted from God. These are not two separate problems. They are the same problem, seen from two different angles.

Laodicea did not fall into heresy. They did not adopt false doctrine. They simply became comfortable, and comfort made them useless to their neighbors. They stopped being cold water for the weary. They stopped being a place of healing for the broken. And in doing so, they lost their connection to the very God they were still gathering to worship.

The call today is not to manufacture more enthusiasm. It is to stay genuinely close to God, close enough that His heart for people becomes your heart for people. When that connection is real, it shows up in how you treat the exhausted coworker, the struggling neighbor, the person sitting alone.

You were made to be a source of refreshment in a tired world. That is not a burden. It is a privilege. And it starts with simply letting Christ back to the center of everything.

Bible Verse

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." - Revelation 3:20

Reflection Question

How does your connection to God, or the lack of it, show up in the way you engage with the people around you who are hurting or in need?

Quote

"The church's connection to God and the church's connection to the world are not two separate things. They're two sides of one coin. You can't love God and be indifferent to your neighbor."

Prayer

God, light us on fire so that we would be a cool drink of water and a place of healing for all who come near. Keep us close to You so we can be present for others. Amen.