

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: More Than Seasoning

Devotional

Have you ever noticed how we sometimes treat Jesus like salt on our food - just a little sprinkle to make life taste better? When things get tough, we add a quick prayer. When we're stressed, we throw in some Bible reading. But what if God has something much richer in mind? Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians from prison, yet his words overflow with joy and purpose. He discovered that Jesus isn't meant to be the seasoning that makes our existing life more palatable - He's meant to be the meal itself. When we face struggles, it's tempting to look for just enough Jesus to feel better in the moment. But God invites us into something deeper. He wants to be our life, not just an addition to it. This shift changes everything about how we approach difficulties.

Bible Verse

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' - Colossians 3:17

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life are you treating Jesus like seasoning rather than the main course?

Quote

Instead of approaching Jesus as a seasoning, Paul challenges us through this letter that he wrote to make Jesus our life.

Prayer

Lord, help me see that You want to be my life, not just an addition to it. Transform my heart to seek You as my sustenance, not just my comfort.

Day 2: The Purpose Behind Pain

Devotional

When suffering hits, our first instinct is to ask "Why?" Why is this happening to me? Why now? Why this way? But Paul offers us a different question that transforms everything: "What might God accomplish through this?" From his prison cell, Paul didn't see his suffering as a mistake or malfunction in God's plan. He saw it as a feature - something God was using for purposes beyond his immediate understanding. This perspective shift is revolutionary. Instead of looking backward at causes, we look forward to possibilities. Instead of demanding explanations, we open ourselves to transformation. Your current struggle isn't random or meaningless. God has a purpose that may be invisible to you right now, but it's real and it's good. When we change our question from "why" to "what," we position ourselves to discover mysteries about God's character and our own capacity for growth that we might never encounter any other way.

Bible Verse

'Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.' - Colossians 1:24

Reflection Question

How might God be using your current struggle to build something in you that could not be built any other way?

Quote

How might God be using the struggle to build in me something that could not be built any other way?

Prayer

Father, help me shift from asking "why" to asking "what." Open my eyes to see the purpose You have in my pain.

Day 3: Strength in Weakness

Devotional

There's a moment in every believer's life when we hit a wall - when our own strength, wisdom, and resources simply aren't enough. These threshold moments of suffering reveal a beautiful truth: we were never meant to handle life on our own. Paul understood this deeply. His struggles didn't make him feel defeated; they made him dependent on Christ's strength. This is where Jesus stops being seasoning and starts being the meal. When we try to muscle through difficulties in our own power, we miss the invitation to experience God's strength in our weakness. Our struggles aren't evidence that we're failing as Christians - they're opportunities to discover that Christ's power is made perfect in our weakness. The very thing that makes us feel most vulnerable can become the doorway to experiencing God's supernatural strength. You cannot contend with your struggles in your own strength, but through Christ, you have access to power beyond your own capacity.

Bible Verse

'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.' - Colossians 2:6-7

Reflection Question

What would it look like to depend on Christ's strength rather than your own in your current situation?

Quote

You cannot contend this on your own. You cannot contend for this in your own strength. But through Christ.

Prayer

Jesus, I acknowledge my weakness and my need for Your strength. Help me stop trying to handle everything on my own and learn to depend on You.

Day 4: Avoiding the Counterfeits

Devotional

When we're in pain, we become vulnerable to counterfeits - things that promise immediate relief but ultimately disconnect us from the true source of strength. These substitutes are attractive because they offer the illusion of control and quick fixes. Maybe it's positive thinking, blame, distraction, or trying to figure everything out on our own. But Paul warns us that these counterfeits, no matter how appealing, pull us away from Christ, who is our head and our life. The enemy knows that suffering creates desperation, and desperation makes us susceptible to anything that promises relief. But these false solutions are like junk food when we need real nutrition - they might satisfy temporarily, but they leave us weaker in the long run. The fullness of God is available to you right now, in your struggle, not after you escape it. Don't let counterfeits rob you of the genuine transformation that comes through staying connected to Christ in your pain.

Bible Verse

'See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.' - Colossians 2:8

Reflection Question

What counterfeits are you tempted to turn to for relief instead of turning to Christ?

Quote

Counterfeits are attractive because promise. It promises immediate relief. It promises that you can have control and figure out how to do this.

Prayer

Lord, protect me from the counterfeits that promise quick relief but lead me away from You. Help me recognize and resist these deceptions.

Day 5: Your Struggle as Invitation

Devotional

What if your deepest struggle isn't a roadblock but an invitation? An invitation to discover the mystery of God's presence in your life in ways you never imagined possible. Paul saw his suffering not as something to endure but as something that revealed Christ's life within him. Your pain has the power to unlock mysteries about God's character and your identity in Him. When others watch how you walk through difficulty - not with fake smiles or denial, but with genuine faith and trust - they witness something supernatural. Your struggle becomes a testimony that God is real and present, even in the hardest moments. This doesn't mean pretending everything is fine or that pain doesn't hurt. It means allowing Christ to be your life as you navigate the difficulty, trusting that He is using even this for purposes beyond your understanding. The way you suffer can become one of the most powerful testimonies of God's reality and faithfulness.

Bible Verse

'When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.' - Colossians 3:4

Reflection Question

How might your current struggle be an invitation to discover God's presence in a deeper way?

Quote

What if your struggle is an invitation? An invitation to discover the deep mystery of the presence of God in your life.

Prayer

God, help me see my struggle as an invitation to know You more deeply. Use my pain to reveal Your presence and power in my life.