

## 2026-10-18 5 Day Devotional

### 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Themes of Lordship, Holiness, and Surrender

#### Day 1: The Sufficiency of Grace in Hardship

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Devotional: Paul pleaded three times for God to remove his thorn. God refused — not out of cruelty, but out of love. His answer was that His grace is more than enough to carry us through what we cannot escape. True faith does not demand a comfortable life; it embraces whatever God allows, trusting that His presence makes the unbearable bearable. The question is not whether hardship will come, but whether we will resist it or receive it. Examine your current difficulties. Are you fighting what God may be using to draw you closer? Surrender the struggle and let grace be enough.

#### Reflection Questions:

What hardship in your life are you resisting rather than embracing?  
How would your perspective shift if you believed God's grace was truly sufficient in that situation?

Practical Application: Write down one current difficulty and deliberately pray over it, asking God to reveal what He may be producing in you through it rather than asking Him only to remove it.

#### Day 2: Holiness Is Not Optional

Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-16

Devotional: The command to be holy is not a suggestion reserved for pastors or missionaries. It is the direct instruction of God to every believer, grounded in the reality that God Himself is holy. Holiness is not about a list of rules or a starched, joyless existence. It is about reflecting the character of the One who lives within you. If the Spirit of God genuinely dwells in you, His nature

should increasingly become visible in your life. The question worth sitting with today is not whether you are perfect, but whether you are progressing. Is there evidence that God is becoming more Lord over your daily choices?

Reflection Questions:

In what areas of your life has God's holiness had the least influence?  
What would it look like practically to invite Him into those specific areas?

Practical Application: Spend time in prayer asking God to identify one area where your life does not yet reflect His holiness. Write it down and commit to one concrete step toward surrendering that area this week.

Day 3: Seeking First the Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 6:9-13, 33

Devotional: When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He began not with personal requests but with the acknowledgment of God's holiness and the priority of His kingdom. "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" is not merely a liturgical phrase — it is a daily posture of surrender. It means waking up and asking not what God can do for you today, but what His kingdom purposes might look like through you today. Most of us have divided our lives into compartments, offering God a portion while keeping the rest for ourselves. The kingdom of God does not fit in a compartment. It demands the whole plate.

Reflection Questions:

How much of your daily life is genuinely oriented around seeking God's kingdom first?  
In what compartments of your life — career, relationships, finances, habits — have you kept God at a distance?

Practical Application: Before any other activity tomorrow morning, spend ten minutes asking God specifically how His kingdom purposes might work

through your ordinary day. Write down what comes to mind and return to it at the end of the day.

#### Day 4: The Altar of Continual Surrender

Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: The problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar. Paul's appeal in Romans 12 is not a one-time transaction but a daily, ongoing act of worship — presenting your body, your will, your choices, your time, and your desires to God as an offering. Salvation is not the finish line; it is the starting line. The altar is not just a place you visited once at the front of a church. It is wherever you bow your will to God's will today. The question is not only whether you were ever on the altar, but whether you are still there, or whether you have quietly climbed back off without noticing.

#### Reflection Questions:

Do you still have the same hunger for God that you experienced when you first came to faith?

What has caused you to drift, and what would it take to return to a place of full surrender?

Practical Application: Identify a specific area of your life where you have gradually reclaimed control from God. Return to prayer today, symbolically placing that area back on the altar and asking the Holy Spirit to help you keep it there.

#### Day 5: The Fruit That Proves the Faith

Reading: John 15:1-8; Matthew 7:16-20

Devotional: Jesus did not say the world would know His followers by their church attendance or their correct theology alone. He said they would be known by their fruit. Fruit is not something you manufacture through effort; it is the natural overflow of a branch that remains connected to the vine.

When your life is genuinely surrendered to Christ and His Spirit is working within you, something becomes visible to the people around you — a change in language, in temper, in priorities, in how you treat others. Your family, your coworkers, and your neighbors are already forming a conclusion about your faith based on what they observe. What conclusion are they drawing?

#### Reflection Questions:

What fruit in your life would be immediately recognizable to the people who know you best as evidence of Christ in you?

Are there people in your life who are watching you and have not yet been drawn to ask about your faith? What might be standing in the way?

Practical Application: Reach out this week to one person in your life who does not yet know Christ. You do not need a prepared speech. Simply be present, be genuine, and be willing to share what God has done in your life if the opportunity arises. Pray before you go that God would open the door and give you the words.

This reading plan is designed not merely to inform but to move you toward greater surrender. Return to each day's application throughout the week and ask God to continue the work He has begun in you.