

2026-05-20 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Living Righteously in a Fallen World

Day 1: Seeking Good, Not Evil

Reading: Amos 5:14-15; Philippians 4:8-9

Devotional: God's command is clear: "Seek good, not evil, that you may live." This isn't merely about avoiding major sins—it's about examining the subtle compromises we make daily. What "small sins" have you tolerated in your life? The music you listen to, the attitudes you harbor, the conversations you entertain? God calls us to actively pursue good, not just passively avoid evil. This requires intentionality. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you've become comfortable with compromise. Remember, seeking good isn't about perfection—it's about direction. When we fix our thoughts on what is true, noble, right, and pure, God promises His peace will be with us. What one thing can you change today to seek good more intentionally?

Day 2: The Cost of Authentic Worship

Reading: Amos 5:21-24; 1 Peter 2:11-12

Devotional: God's words through Amos are startling: "I hate, I despise your religious festivals." How can a loving God reject worship? Because He sees past our Sunday performances to our Monday through Saturday lives. Religious activity without justice, righteousness, and obedience is noise to God. He desires authenticity over assembly, character over ceremony. As foreigners and exiles in this world, we're called to "live such good lives among the pagans" that even our critics eventually glorify God. This means our worship extends beyond church walls into every interaction, decision, and relationship. Are you bringing God offerings while holding onto sin? Today, examine whether your worship is genuine or merely religious routine. Let justice roll like a river in your life—not just in your songs.

Day 3: Submitting in an Unjust World

Reading: 1 Peter 2:18-25; Matthew 5:38-42

Devotional: Submission feels un-American. We value independence, self-advocacy, and standing up for our rights. Yet Peter calls us to submit even to harsh masters, bearing up under unjust suffering. Why? Because Christ suffered for us, "leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps." This is radical discipleship. When insulted, Jesus didn't retaliate. When suffering, He entrusted Himself to God who judges justly. This doesn't mean accepting abuse or enabling evil—it means responding with Christ-like character rather than worldly retaliation. Consider: when someone wrongs you, do you trust God's justice or seek your own revenge? Today, if you face unjust treatment, practice entrusting yourself to God. By His wounds you are healed—let that truth transform how you respond to suffering.

Day 4: Dying to Live

Reading: 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 6:1-14

Devotional: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness." We often take this truth lightly. Jesus didn't just pay a fine—He took our death sentence. No earthly lawyer has ever said, "I'll serve your time." But Jesus did exactly that, enduring the lashes, the mockery, the nails, and the cross. This should revolutionize how we view sin. When tempted by "small" sins, do we remember the price paid? Dying to sin isn't passive—it's an active, daily choice to crucify our sinful nature. Living for righteousness means striving to reflect Christ in every moment, not just being "a little better than yesterday." Today, identify one specific sin pattern and make a concrete plan to put it to death. Jesus' wounds purchased your freedom—live like it.

Day 5: Remaining in His Love

Reading: John 15:9-17

Devotional: "Remain in my love," Jesus says. Not earn it, not achieve it—

remain in it. How? By keeping His commands, particularly the greatest: "Love each other as I have loved you." This isn't sentimental affection—it's sacrificial action. Jesus defines the greatest love as laying down your life for friends. Then He elevates us from servants to friends, revealing everything the Father taught Him. We have no excuse for ignorance. His commands are clear: love God, love others, make disciples. Remaining in His love means obeying even when it's costly, loving even when it's hard, and serving even when it's inconvenient. His joy becomes complete in us when we live this way. Today, identify someone difficult to love and take one concrete action to love them as Christ loves you. This is how the world will know you're His disciple.

Reflection Questions for the Week:

What areas of compromise have you tolerated that God is calling you to address?

How does remembering Christ's suffering change your response to injustice?

What does "remaining in His love" look like practically in your daily life this week?