

5-Day Devotional: Becoming Children of God

Day 1: Adopted into God's Family

Reading: John 1:1-14, Romans 8:14-17

Devotional: Nobody accidentally adopts. Adoption requires intention, sacrifice, and love. God deliberately chose to adopt you into His family through Christ Jesus. This wasn't a casual decision—it cost Him everything. The Spirit of God living within you testifies that you belong to Him, allowing you to cry out "Abba, Father" with confidence.

Today, pause and reflect: Have you truly received Christ and believed in His name? Are you living as someone who knows they're deeply wanted and chosen? Your identity isn't found in your performance or your past, but in your position as God's beloved child. Let this truth transform how you see yourself and how you approach your Heavenly Father today.

Day 2: Led by the Spirit, Not the Flesh

Reading: Romans 8:1-11, Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. This freedom isn't license to sin, but power to live differently. The sinful nature cannot please God, but you are not controlled by it if the Spirit lives in you. This is the great exchange—death to self, life in Christ.

Examine your life honestly today: What controls you? Are your decisions prompted by the Spirit or driven by fleshly desires? The Spirit produces fruit that transforms you from the inside out—love, joy, peace, patience. You cannot manufacture these qualities through willpower alone. Surrender control to the Spirit today. Ask God to lead you in specific decisions you're facing, and trust Him to produce His character in you.

Day 3: Full of Grace and Truth

Reading: John 1:14-18, Matthew 5:43-48

Devotional: Jesus embodied the perfect balance: 100% grace and 100% truth. Our world demands we choose sides—either gracious acceptance of everything or rigid truth without compassion. But Christ calls us to hold both fully. Grace without truth isn't loving; truth without grace isn't Christlike.

Who in your life needs you to extend grace today? Perhaps someone who has wronged you or doesn't deserve your kindness? Jesus says to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. This is how you become like your Father in heaven, who sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous alike. Practice being gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love. This isn't natural—it's supernatural, and it marks you as God's child.

Day 4: Salt and Light in the World

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16, Philippians 2:12-16

Devotional: You are salt and light—not will be, but are. Salt adds flavor and preserves; light dispels darkness and guides. But salt that loses its saltiness is worthless, and a hidden light serves no purpose. Your good deeds aren't meant to draw attention to yourself but to point others toward your Father in heaven.

Are you hiding your light under a bowl out of fear or embarrassment? Are you losing your saltiness by conforming to the world around you? God hasn't called you to be outstanding in a showy way, but He has called you not to be ashamed. Let your life shine naturally through compassion, integrity, and love. When people notice something different about you, be ready to tell them about the One who changed you.

Day 5: True Riches in Christ

Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Philippians 4:10-13

Devotional: The Smith family discovered a profound truth: wealth isn't measured by what you possess but by what you can give. They went from

feeling like millionaires to feeling like "poor white trash" and back to being "the rich family in church"—all while their circumstances remained unchanged. What changed was their perspective.

You are rich because of Jesus. Not in worldly possessions, but in eternal treasure. When you grasp how much you've been given in Christ—forgiveness, adoption, eternal life, the Holy Spirit—generosity flows naturally. Examine your heart: Do you see yourself as poor, constantly needing more? Or do you recognize the wealth you have in Christ? True riches enable you to give sacrificially, to love extravagantly, and to find joy in blessing others. Today, look for one way to share your spiritual riches with someone in need.