Rooted and Growing Deep: Generosity
5-Day Devotional

Day 1: You Are Not a Stranger

Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Devotional: It is easy to move through life feeling like an outsider, as if belonging is something you must earn. But the gospel declares the opposite. You did not work your way into God's family. You were welcomed into it. The word saint simply means holy one, and your holiness is not a product of your perfection. It is a product of being loved by God. Today, sit with that truth. You are not on the outside looking in. You are a member of the household. Let that reality settle into the parts of you that still feel unworthy, and let it shape how you see every other person you encounter today.

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life do you still feel like a stranger to God's love, and what would it mean to fully accept your place in his household?

Practical Application: Write down the name of one person in your life who may feel like an outsider. Reach out to them today with a simple, genuine word of welcome.

Day 2: The Sabbath of the Soul

Reading: Exodus 31:16-17

The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a signbetween me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'"

Devotional: The Hebrew word used for God being refreshed in this passage carries the image of taking a breath. Even God, in the poetry of creation, paused. He looked back over all that had been made and declared it good. We live in a culture of relentless forward motion, always chasing the next thing, rarely stopping to ask what is already good. The Sabbath is not a rule designed to restrict you. It is an invitation to breathe, to look back, and to see the goodness that is already present in your life. What would happen if you stopped long enough to name it?

Reflection Question: When did you last pause long enough to look back at your life and genuinely say, "This is good"?

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes today with no phone, no task, and no agenda. Simply sit in quiet and name three things in your life that are good. Speak them aloud or write them down.

Day 3: Embraced in Every Broken Part

Reading: Mark 7:31-37

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand onhim.

After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Devotional: Jesus could have healed this man with a word spoken from a distance. He had done it before. But in this moment, he chose something far more intimate. He reached out and touched the very parts of this man that the world had labeled as broken, as unclean, as unwanted. There is a profound message in that touch. God does not love a cleaned-up version of you. He draws near to the parts you are most ashamed of, the parts you hide, the parts you believe disqualify you, and he declares them worthy of his hands. You are not too broken to be touched by grace.

Reflection Question: What part of yourself do you tend to hide from God, believing it is too broken or too shameful to bring into his presence?

Practical Application: In prayer today, bring that hidden part of yourself before God. Do not explain it away or minimize it. Simply offer it, and ask him to meet you there.

Day 4: Looking Back to Move Forward

Reading: Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge.

Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this.

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a

second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

Devotional: God repeatedly called Israel to remember. Not to live in the past, but to let the past form their present character. When we forget where we came from, when we forget what we were rescued from, we lose our capacity for empathy. The saints who have gone before us often understood this instinctively. They had lived through difficulty and loss, and that experience made them tender toward others who were suffering. Remembrance is not nostalgia. It is a spiritual discipline that keeps us rooted in gratitude and open to the needs of those around us. Who shaped you? And how does their legacy call you to live today?

Reflection Question: Think of someone who has passed on whose love or faithfulness shaped who you are. What specific quality did they carry that you want to carry forward?

Practical Application: Find a way today to honor the memory of someone who blessed your life by extending that same blessing to someone else in a concrete and tangible way.

Day 5: Children of God, Saints in the World

Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Devotional: The word lavished in this passage suggests an extravagance that goes beyond what is necessary or expected. God did not offer you a measured, cautious love. He poured it out. And the result of that outpouring is identity: you are a child of God. That is not something you are working toward. It is what you already are. Being a saint does not require fame, power, or a life free of failure. It requires receiving this love and then living from it, welcoming others, serving the forgotten, giving generously, and worshiping with an open heart. The saints who came before us did exactly that. Now it is your turn.

Reflection Question: If you genuinely believed, at the deepest level, that you are a beloved child of God, what would you do differently tomorrow?

Practical Application: Choose one of the following this week and do it as an act of sainthood: welcome someone who feels excluded, serve someone who cannot repay you, or give generously to a need you have been aware of but have not yet acted on.