



Devotions for the Journey

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# Welcome

This guide is a companion to our Acts series.  
Each week includes a few moments to pause, reflect, and return to  
God's Word.

From the early church to the East Valley, God's mission continues.  
The gospel is still moving through where we live, work, and play.

Let the Word shape your life and witness.

# Week 1

Sunday, April 12

Sermon Text: Acts 1:1-11

# Tuesday Devotion

## Acts 2:14–41

Jesus has ascended into heaven, and now the Holy Spirit has come upon the apostles at Pentecost. Peter stands before a crowd and boldly proclaims the truth about Jesus Christ. He declares that Jesus was crucified, raised from the dead, and is the fulfillment of God's saving plan.

Peter says a lot in this sermon, but his message still speaks clearly to us today. First, God fulfills His promises. Peter explains that what the crowd is witnessing is not confusion or drunkenness, but the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, just as the prophet Joel foretold (Acts 2:15; Joel 2:28–32). Pentecost is not a random event. It is the fulfillment of God's Word.

Second, Peter shows that Jesus' death was part of God's plan for salvation (Acts 2:23). He points to the words of David in Psalm 16 and Psalm 110 to show that Jesus would not remain in death and now reign at the right hand of God. Jesus is the Christ, the living Son of God, crucified and raised just as the Scriptures promised.

Finally, Peter calls the people to repent and be baptized. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for all who turn to Jesus in faith. That day, more than 3,000 people received the Word, repented, and were baptized.

### Questions

- How does Peter's message still apply to your life today?
- When you read Scripture, how can you move from simply hearing it to letting it shape your daily life?
- Peter calls the crowd to repent. Is there a specific sin, habit, or attitude the Holy Spirit is calling you to bring before God?

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for my sins and rose again in victory. Through His death and resurrection, I receive Your gifts of grace and forgiveness. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on me, that I may walk in Your ways and turn from my sin. Strengthen my faith so that I may boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.*

# Friday Devotion

## Acts 5:1-11

The Holy Spirit is moving. Hearts are turning, and lives are being changed. Yet not every heart is truly surrendered to God. Some may appear faithful on the outside while still living in dishonesty.

This is a striking and sobering passage. At first, God's judgment may seem severe. To understand it, we need to look closely at what Ananias and Sapphira actually did. They sold property and gave money to the church. That was not the sin. Peter makes clear in Acts 5:4 that the property and money were theirs to do with as they chose. Their sin was deception. They claimed to give the full amount while secretly keeping some back for themselves. Their problem was not generosity, but dishonesty. They lied not only to the church, but to God. God saw their hearts and exposed what was hidden.

Does this mean God will strike us down whenever we lie? No. But this passage does remind us that sin is serious. It also shows us that God desires truth in His people. Faith is not about appearances. Jesus said the same thing when He confronted the Pharisees and religious leaders. God wants our hearts more than our image. When we walk honestly before Him, we live in the light of His grace and forgiveness.

### Questions

- In what area of your life are you tempted to appear more faithful or spiritual than you really are?
- What would it look like to practice deeper honesty and humility in your walk with Christ?
- How can you intentionally seek God's approval rather than the approval of others?

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, You see every corner of my heart. Forgive me for the times I seek the praise of others or try to hide the truth from You. Create in me an honest and humble heart that desires to walk faithfully before You. By Your Holy Spirit, lead me to live with integrity, trusting in Your grace and seeking to honor You in all I do. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.*

# Week 2

Sunday, April 19

Sermon Text: Acts 5:27-32

# Tuesday Devotion

## Acts 8:9-25

Faith is a gift from God. It cannot be bought, earned, or controlled. In this passage, we meet Simon, a man who wrongly believes the power of God can be purchased. Simon had built a reputation as a powerful magician. This was not entertainment in the modern sense. In the ancient world, magic was often tied to spiritual rituals, incantations, and a desire for power and control. Simon's identity and influence were wrapped up in these practices.

But when he heard Philip preach Christ, Simon believed and was baptized. Later, Peter and John arrived in Samaria and laid hands on the baptized believers, and they received the Holy Spirit. Simon saw this and offered money to the apostles because he wanted that same power. Peter sharply rebuked him, saying that his heart was not right before God (Acts 8:21).

Simon saw the Holy Spirit as a means of gaining power, not as the free gift of God's grace. He treated God's work as something to acquire or control. But God is not a tool to be used. He is not a genie to grant our wishes. No amount of money, good behavior, or human effort can create true faith. God meets us in our need and gives us grace we could never earn.

### Questions

- In what ways might you be tempted to "use" God rather than trust Him?
- Are there areas of your life where your outward faith does not match your inward heart?
- How can you surrender control this week and rely more fully on the Holy Spirit?

### Prayer

*Lord, You know my heart better than I do. Forgive me for the times I try to control, manipulate, or use what You have freely given. Create in me a clean heart that trusts in Your grace alone. Lead me to true repentance and shape me by Your Spirit so that my life reflects genuine faith in You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

# Friday Devotion

## Acts 8:26–40

The Holy Spirit leads people into places they would never go on their own. In this passage, Philip is sent to a desert road, where God uses him to bring good news and baptism to one seeking the truth.

Philip is led by the Spirit to an unexpected place: a desert road. There he meets an Ethiopian eunuch, a royal official who is reading from the prophet Isaiah. At the Spirit's prompting, Philip approaches him and explains the Scriptures, showing how they point to Jesus.

The eunuch had been reading Isaiah 53:7–8, part of the great prophecy about the suffering servant. This chapter reveals that Jesus' suffering was part of God's plan and that His death would not be the end. He would rise in victory and bring salvation to many.

Philip shared these truths, and the Ethiopian eunuch believed and was baptized. What seemed like a random encounter was not random at all. God was at work through His Word and Spirit. The same is true today. God creates faith through His Word, and He strengthens that faith through the waters of baptism. Like the eunuch, we can rejoice in the gifts God has given us in Christ.

### Questions

- Where might God be calling you to be attentive and available, even in places or moments that seem ordinary?
- How can you grow in your understanding of Scripture so that you are better prepared to point others to Jesus?
- In what ways can you more fully trust that God is at work in both your life and the lives of others?

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, You seek and save the lost through Your Word and Spirit. Open my heart to understand the Scriptures and to see You clearly in them. Make me willing to go where You lead and to speak Your truth with boldness and love. Strengthen my faith through Your promises, and fill me with the joy that comes from knowing You as my Savior. Amen.*

# Week 3

Sunday, April 26

Sermon Text: Acts 9:15-31

# Tuesday Devotion

## Acts 9:32–43

The work of the Holy Spirit continues through ordinary people. In this passage, Peter performs miracles that echo the ministry of Jesus Himself.

As Peter travels through Lydda, he meets a man named Aeneas who has been paralyzed for eight years. Peter says to him, “Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” The healing power did not come from Peter himself, but from Jesus working through him.

Then Peter travels to Joppa, where a woman named Tabitha has died. She was known for her good works and acts of charity. Peter prays, then says, “Tabitha, arise” (Acts 9:40), and she is restored to life.

These miracles are astonishing, but the greater miracle is what follows: many people believe in the Lord. The signs point beyond themselves to Jesus. While we may not perform miracles like Peter, God still uses His people to bring hope, healing, and the good news of Christ to others.

### Questions

- Where in your life do you need to hear the words, “Jesus Christ heals you”?
- When life feels hopeless, how does this passage strengthen your trust in Jesus’ authority over life and death?
- What are some ways God can use your life to point others to Jesus?

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, You are still at work among Your people, bringing healing, restoration, and new life. Strengthen my faith to trust in Your power and presence. Help me serve others with love and humility, just as Tabitha did, and point others to You in all I do. In my weakness, remind me that You are my healer and my hope. Amen.*

# Friday Devotion

## Acts 10:9–33

The gospel is moving beyond the Jewish people to the Gentiles. God's mission is expanding, and Peter is about to learn that the good news of Jesus is truly for all.

Peter receives a vision of a sheet filled with animals considered unclean under Jewish law. When a voice tells him to kill and eat, Peter resists. This happens three times, signaling that God is doing something significant.

Soon after, the Spirit tells Peter to go with three Gentile men sent by Cornelius. Though Peter is confused, he obeys. When he arrives at Cornelius's house, he begins to understand the vision more clearly. God was not only speaking about food. He was also teaching Peter not to call any person unclean whom God has welcomed.

This is a major turning point in Acts. The gospel is not limited by ethnicity, tradition, or human boundaries. Salvation is for all whom God calls. Those who hear the Word and are baptized receive the same grace and forgiveness.

### Questions

- Are there people or groups you may subconsciously see as unlikely to receive the gospel?
- Where might God be calling you to step outside your comfort zone in order to share His Word?
- How can you grow in readiness, like Cornelius, to hear and respond to what God is saying?

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, thank You that Your salvation is for all people, including me. Break down any pride, fear, or assumptions in my heart that would keep me from sharing Your gospel with others. Give me courage to follow where You lead and a humble spirit that is ready to hear Your Word. Use me as Your instrument, trusting that You are already at work in the hearts of those around me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

# Week 4

Sunday, May 3

Sermon Text: Acts 10:34-35, 42-48

# Tuesday Devotion

## Acts 11:1-18

After Peter's vision and his visit with Cornelius, the church begins wrestling with what God is doing. As the Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles, many Jewish believers have questions.

Peter is questioned because he entered the homes of Gentiles and ate with them. In response, he explains the vision God gave him and how the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and his household.

The vision was not just about food. It was about people.

God was making it clear that the gospel is not limited by ethnicity, tradition, or human boundaries. Salvation is God's work from beginning to end. It is given by grace through faith, not by heritage or law.

This was difficult for many Jewish believers to accept, but they eventually glorified God and recognized that He had granted repentance and life to the Gentiles also.

As Gentiles, we may read this with gratitude, but we still face similar temptations. We may assume certain people are less likely to respond to the gospel. We may limit God's work to what feels familiar or comfortable. But God's mission is always bigger than our comfort.

### Questions

- Where might you be holding onto assumptions or traditions that limit how you see God working in others?
- In what ways are you tempted to limit the reach of the gospel?
- How can you trust God more fully when He works in ways that stretch your comfort?

### Prayer

*Lord, You are the God of all people, and Your grace knows no boundaries. Forgive me for the times I have limited Your work in my heart or in the lives of others. Open my eyes to see people as You do, and give me a willingness to follow wherever Your Spirit leads. Help me trust that salvation is Your work, not mine. In Jesus' name, amen.*

# Friday Devotion

## Acts 12:1-19

As the church grows, so does opposition. While the gospel is spreading, suffering and persecution are rising as well.

Herod Agrippa violently attacks the church. James, the brother of John, is martyred, and Peter is imprisoned. Peter is arrested during the days of Unleavened Bread, and Herod plans to bring him out after Passover.

Luke emphasizes the heavy security around Peter. He is guarded by four squads of soldiers. By human standards, escape is impossible.

But during the night, an angel appears, Peter's chains fall off, and he is led out of prison. Even Peter can hardly believe what is happening until he is fully outside the gate.

This passage holds both sorrow and hope. James is killed. Peter is rescued. We are not told why God allowed one and delivered the other. But we are reminded that God remains sovereign in both suffering and rescue. Even when opposition rises, His mission continues.

### Questions

- How do you respond when you read about James's martyrdom?
- Why do you think God rescued Peter but not James?
- How does the faith of James and Peter encourage you in your own walk with Christ?

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, strengthen my faith in every season. Help me remain faithful whether life feels easy or difficult. Give me courage to share the good news of Jesus wherever You lead me. When I face hardship or opposition, remind me that You are the one true God, and that nothing can overcome Your purposes. In Jesus' name, amen.*

# Week 5

Sunday, May 10

Sermon Text: Acts 15:1-21

# Tuesday Devotion

## Acts 16:1-5

After the Jerusalem Council, the mission continues. Paul and Barnabas separate, and Paul begins traveling with Silas. Along the way, they meet Timothy, a young believer shaped by a faithful family.

Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Gentile father. His life reflects the impact of faith passed down, something Paul later affirms in his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.

This passage also shows Paul's wisdom. He has Timothy circumcised, not because it is required for salvation, but to remove unnecessary barriers for the Jews they are trying to reach. This is very different from requiring circumcision for Gentiles, which the Jerusalem Council had rejected.

Paul is living in the freedom of the gospel. Salvation comes through faith alone, not the law. Yet that freedom is used with wisdom and love so that more people can hear and receive the good news.

As they travel, the churches are strengthened and continue to grow.

### Questions

- What does this passage reveal about God's character and work?
- What does this passage reveal about people and our need for wisdom and faith?
- If this is true, what is one specific way you can live differently this week?
- Who might God be calling you to encourage or share with?

### Prayer

*Gracious Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word and for the way You strengthen Your church throughout the world. Thank You for the gift of faith passed down through families, as seen in Timothy, Eunice, and Lois. Help raise up disciples in our homes and churches who will serve Your kingdom. Thank You for setting us free from the burden of trying to earn salvation, and for justifying us through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Give me wisdom and love like Paul, that I may remove unnecessary obstacles and help others hear the good news of Jesus. Strengthen Your church in faith and increase it according to Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.*

# Friday Devotion

## Acts 16:25–34

As many hearts turn to Jesus, Paul and Silas face suffering and imprisonment. Yet even in prison, they do not lose heart, and God does not abandon them.

Before this passage, Paul casts a spirit of divination out of a slave girl, and her owners become furious because they have lost their source of income. As a result, Paul and Silas are beaten and thrown into prison.

What do they do there? They pray and sing hymns.

Their worship in suffering echoes the faith of earlier believers who rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. Then, in the middle of the night, an earthquake shakes the prison, opens the doors, and loosens everyone's chains.

The jailer assumes the prisoners have escaped and prepares to take his own life. But Paul stops him. Then the jailer asks one of the most important questions anyone can ask: "What must I do to be saved?" Paul responds, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

The jailer hears the Word, tends Paul and Silas's wounds, and is baptized along with his household. His fear is turned to joy through the gospel.

### Questions

- What does this passage teach you about God?
- What does it reveal about human need and the power of the gospel?
- What is one specific way you can respond this week?
- Who might need to hear this good news from you?

### Prayer

*Gracious Father, in the midnight hours of life, teach me to pray and sing Your praises. When the foundations of my world are shaken, remind me that You hold all things together and are always working for good. Forgive me for the times I complain instead of worshiping, and for the times I try to save myself instead of trusting You. Thank You for Your mercy that breaks the chains of sin and opens the prison doors of fear and bondage. Help me remember that I am saved not by my own works, but by faith in Jesus Christ. In His name, amen.*

# Week 6

Sunday, May 17

Sermon Text: Acts 17:16-34

# Tuesday Devotion

## Acts 18:24-28

While Paul and Peter are central figures in Acts, they are not the only ones proclaiming Jesus. In this devotion, we meet Apollos, a gifted and passionate teacher who still had more to learn.

Luke introduces Apollos, a Jew from Alexandria, a city known for learning, scholarship, and culture. Apollos was eloquent, knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and fervent in spirit. He knew Jesus was the Messiah and taught boldly about Him.

Yet Apollos did not know the full message of Christian baptism. So Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained the way of God more accurately.

This is a beautiful picture of humility and discipleship. Apollos was educated and gifted, but he was still teachable. He received correction, grew in understanding, and became even more effective in ministry.

The church is meant to be a place of both bold witness and ongoing formation. We never outgrow our need to be taught by God's Word and shaped by other faithful believers.

### Questions

- What does this passage reveal about God?
- What does it reveal about people and our need for humility?
- What is one specific way you can remain teachable this week?
- Who has helped shape your faith, and how can you thank God for them?

### Prayer

*Good and gracious Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word, which is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Thank You for the example of Apollos, who was fervent in spirit and willing to be taught more accurately. Thank You for faithful believers like Priscilla and Aquila, who speak the truth in love and help build up the body of Christ. Give me a humble and teachable heart. Guard me from pride, carelessness, and false confidence. By Your Holy Spirit, deepen my love for Scripture and strengthen my courage to speak the good news of Jesus. In His name, amen.*

# Friday Devotion

## Acts 20:7-16

The power of the Holy Spirit is on display once again in this passage. During one of Paul's long nights of preaching, an unexpected tragedy takes place, and God works through it in an astonishing way.

Paul is preparing to leave, so he gathers with believers, breaks bread, and teaches late into the night. Very late into the night. Eventually, a young man named Eutychus, sitting in a window, falls asleep, tumbles from the third story, and dies.

Paul goes down, embraces him, and says, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." Then Paul goes back upstairs, breaks bread, continues teaching, and the people are comforted because Eutychus is alive.

What stands out is Paul's calm confidence. He is not panicked. He is not shaken. He trusts fully in God's power. Paul's faith is so grounded in the work of the Spirit that even death does not cause him to lose hope.

We may not face the same kind of miracle, but we are called to the same kind of trust. God is powerful, present, and worthy of our confidence.

### Questions

- What areas of your life fill you with fear?
- How can you grow in trusting God with greater confidence?
- What does your current rhythm of hearing and engaging with Scripture look like, and what is one step you can take to prioritize it this week?

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, grow my faith in You. Teach me to trust You in every situation with steady confidence. Give me courage to speak the name of Jesus and to build my life on the solid foundation of Your truth. Strengthen me to rest in Your power and presence each day. Amen.*

# Week 7

Sunday, May 24

Sermon Text: Acts 2:1-4, 42-47

# Tuesday Devotion

## Acts 22:1-29

We often want to hide the shameful parts of our past. Paul does the opposite. He tells the truth about who he was, because he knows Christ has changed who he is.

After being arrested in Jerusalem, Paul asks to speak to the crowd. He shares his testimony, recounting his former zeal in persecuting Christians and his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Paul does not hide his past. He openly confesses that he once opposed Christ and His followers. But he also proclaims that his sins have been washed away. He now belongs to Jesus.

Paul explains that his mission is to preach the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. The crowd becomes enraged at the mention of the Gentiles, and Paul is nearly flogged until it is discovered that he is a Roman citizen.

This passage reminds us that God can redeem any past for His purposes. Paul's story does not glorify sin. It glorifies grace. His past is real, but it no longer defines him. Christ does.

### Questions

- What is your story of how Christ has worked in your life?
- What is one of the biggest changes God has brought about in you?
- How comfortable are you sharing that story with others, and why does it matter?

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me out of darkness into Your light, just as You did with Paul. Give me courage to share my story and speak Your truth boldly. Teach me to trust You fully and live as a faithful witness to Your grace. Amen.*

# Friday Devotion

## Acts 27:13-44

Paul is now on his way to Rome. Once again, we see a pattern repeated throughout Acts: no matter the circumstances, Paul continues to trust God.

As Paul is being transported by ship, a violent storm arises. The crew throws cargo overboard and does everything they can to save themselves, but the storm remains overwhelming.

In the middle of the chaos, Paul stands firm. An angel has appeared to him and promised that no lives will be lost, though the ship itself will be destroyed. Paul's faith does not stop the storm, but it steadies him in the storm.

Eventually the ship runs aground, but everyone survives just as God promised.

This passage reminds us that trusting God does not mean life will be free of hardship. It means that even in hardship, God remains faithful. He is with His people through every storm.

### Questions

- What storm are you facing right now, and how is it testing your trust in God?
- What helps you find hope in God during difficult seasons?
- How can you be a steady voice of encouragement to others who are struggling?

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, when the storms of life rage and I feel powerless, remind me that You are still in control. Strengthen my faith to trust Your promises even when I cannot see the outcome. Help me be steady and hopeful, pointing others to Your faithfulness. Carry me through every storm until I safely reach the shore You have prepared. Amen.*

# The Story Continues

The story of Acts is not finished.

The gospel is still moving.  
Not just across the world, but right here.

God is still sending His people.  
And by His grace, you are part of that mission.

*Gracious Father,  
thank You for Your saving work through Jesus Christ.  
Strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit.  
Lead us to live as Your people  
and to share the good news wherever You send us.*

*In Jesus' name, amen.*