



5-Day Devotional: Grace Plus Nothing

Day 1: The Masterpiece of Grace

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

Devotional: Imagine standing before a masterpiece painting, crayons in hand, thinking you could improve it. Absurd, right? Yet we often approach God's grace this way. The gospel is complete—Jesus declared "It is finished" on the cross. Salvation isn't Jesus plus your good works, church attendance, or spiritual disciplines. It's Jesus, period. You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, but these works are the fruit of salvation, not the source. Stop trying to add to what Christ has already perfected. Today, put down your religious crayons and simply enjoy the masterpiece of grace. You cannot improve what God has already declared complete.

Day 2: Freedom from Performance

Reading: Galatians 2:16-21

Devotional: Exhaustion sets in when we try to earn God's love through performance. Paul confronted this head-on: we're justified by faith in Christ, not by works of the law. The Christian life isn't "try harder"—it's "die to self and let Christ live through you." You don't clean yourself up to come to Jesus; you come to Jesus and He cleans you up from the inside out. Stop measuring your relationship with God by outward appearances or spiritual checklists. His love for you isn't based on your performance. You've been crucified with Christ; now live by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave Himself for you. Rest in His finished work today.

Day 3: Beware of False Brethren

Reading: Galatians 2:4-5; 2 Peter 2:1-3

Devotional: Not everyone who speaks Christian language carries the true gospel. False teachers slip in subtly, adding requirements to grace—"Believe in Jesus AND do this." They don't announce their arrival; they use biblical vocabulary with twisted meanings. The danger isn't outright rejection of Jesus but adding conditions to His finished work.

Stay alert and discerning. Know the pure gospel so well that you recognize counterfeits immediately. When someone suggests you need Jesus plus anything else for salvation, remember Paul's fierce defense: we don't yield to such teaching "for even an hour." The gospel truth must remain pure. Guard your freedom in Christ zealously, and help others recognize when grace is being cheapened by human additions.

Day 4: Your Identity in Christ

Reading: Colossians 2:9-15

Devotional: In Christ, you are complete. You've received a circumcision not made with hands—a heart transformation that no external ritual could accomplish. God cancelled the certificate of debt that stood against you, nailing it to the cross. Your identity isn't found in following rules, cultural markers, or religious performance. It's found solely in belonging to Jesus. When you know who you are in Him, you'll hear His voice clearly and understand your purpose. Stop letting others define your worth by external standards. You don't need to become like anyone else to belong to God. He accepts you exactly as you are through Christ. Let this truth anchor your soul: you are complete in Him.

Day 5: Living by Grace, Not Guilt

Reading: Romans 6:1-14

Devotional: Grace isn't permission to sin—it's power to overcome. Some abuse grace by continuing in sin, thinking forgiveness is automatic. Others live under crushing guilt, constantly wondering if they've done enough. Both miss the point. You died to sin when you came to Christ; now you're alive to God. This doesn't mean perfection, but it does mean direction. You're no longer a slave to sin but a servant of righteousness. Stop carrying guilt that Jesus already carried on the cross. There's no sin His blood cannot cover except unbelief. When you mess up—and you will—run to Him, not from Him. Me and Jesus, we're square. Live in that freedom today.