

## **Day 1: You Don't Have to Earn It**

### **Devotional**

There is something quietly revolutionary about receiving a gift from someone who has absolutely nothing to gain from giving it. No agenda. No strings attached. Just pure, generous love. That is exactly what Paul was after in his ministry. He had every right to receive payment for his work. The people he served could have reasonably assumed he was in it for personal benefit. So he gave up that right entirely, not because it was wrong to have it, but because he wanted nothing standing between them and the gospel. This is the kind of love that stops people in their tracks. In a world where nearly every relationship carries some transactional element, someone who genuinely sets aside their own gain for your good is remarkable. It makes you lean in. It makes you listen. And here is the beautiful thing: this is exactly how God loves you. He has nothing to gain from loving you. He is complete, whole, and glorious without you. Yet He pursues you anyway, freely and fully. You are not a project. You are not a transaction. You are someone He wants. That truth is worth sitting with today.

### **Bible Verse**

*"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them." - 1 Corinthians 9:19*

### **Reflection Question**

Is there someone in your life who might be keeping their distance from the gospel because they sense an agenda, and what would it look like to love them with no strings attached?

### **Quote**

*"My reward is you hearing the gospel from someone who has nothing to gain from it. That I could just explain to you the wonders of Christ, the magnificence of His love, and the total freedom from sin in a way that you don't look at me and go, yeah, but you gain from me believing or that you get something from me in this."*

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for loving me freely, with nothing to gain and everything to give. Help me to reflect that same unconditional love to the people around me today. Amen.

## **Day 2: He Set It All Aside**

### **Devotional**

Think about what Jesus actually gave up. Not a promotion. Not a comfortable lifestyle. He set aside eternal divine glory, the full exercise of His power, and His rightful place at the center of all things. He became a baby, completely dependent on human hands to feed and hold Him. His entire life moved in one direction: downward. From glory to a manger. From a manger to a cross. Every step was a voluntary surrender of what He deserved so that we could receive what we did not. This is not just a theological fact to admire from a distance. It is the pattern we are invited to follow. Paul understood this deeply. He modeled his entire ministry on it. The rights he surrendered, the comforts he gave up, the lengths he went to in order to meet people where they were, all of it was a

reflection of Jesus. You may not be called to give up a paycheck or travel to distant places. But you are called to the same posture: setting aside what you want, what you prefer, and what is comfortable, for the sake of the person right in front of you. That is where the gospel becomes visible. Not in grand gestures, but in daily, quiet surrender.

### **Bible Verse**

*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." - Galatians 5:1*

### **Reflection Question**

What is one preference, comfort, or personal right you are holding onto that might be creating distance between you and someone who needs to experience the love of Christ through you?

### **Quote**

*"He set aside what he could do for who he could save."*

### **Prayer**

Jesus, thank You for setting aside everything so that I could be free. Give me the courage and humility to follow Your example in the small, daily moments of my life. Amen.

## **Day 3: Freedom Is For Someone**

### **Devotional**

We live in a culture that treats freedom as the ultimate prize. Freedom from obligation. Freedom from inconvenience. Freedom to do whatever feels right. But there is a deeper kind of freedom that most people never discover. Paul understood that his freedom was not the finish line. It was the starting point. He was free from all things, and he used that freedom to make himself a servant to all people. His freedom was not something to protect. It was something to spend on others. This reframes everything. When you follow Jesus, you are not just freed from sin and guilt, as wonderful as that is. You are freed for something. Freed to worship. Freed to love. Freed to lay down your preferences for the sake of someone else without resentment, because you are no longer enslaved to your own comfort. That kind of freedom is actually more liberating than the version our culture sells. It is not fragile. It does not depend on circumstances going your way. It is rooted in knowing who you belong to and what you were made for. You were bought at a price. That is not a burden. It is the most secure and freeing truth you will ever hold onto.

### **Bible Verse**

*"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." - Philippians 3:20*

### **Reflection Question**

In what area of your life are you treating freedom as something to protect rather than something to generously give away for the sake of others?

### **Quote**

*"Freedom is not merely freedom from something. It's freedom for someone. We are not just freed from our sins, we are freed to worship Jesus."*

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You that I am not my own. Help me to live today as someone who is free for others, not just free from my past. Amen.

### **Day 4: Love Looks Like Something**

#### **Devotional**

Love is not just a feeling. It is not just kind words or good intentions. Love looks like something. It has a shape, and that shape is sacrifice. Paul became all things to all people. That phrase can sound like compromise, but it is the opposite. He never changed what he believed. He changed how he showed up. He adjusted his approach, his comfort level, and his personal preferences so that the people in front of him could actually receive what he was offering. This is how the gospel travels. Not primarily through polished arguments or impressive rhetoric, but through people who visibly set aside their own interests for someone else. When someone in a culture obsessed with personal rights willingly surrenders those rights out of love, it is striking. It raises a question. It opens a door. You do not need a platform or a title to preach the gospel. You need your coworkers, your neighbors, your family members, and the willingness to love them in ways that cost you something. The grandest gift you can give the people around you is to love them so much that you would surrender your own comfort for their sake. That is not weakness. That is the most powerful witness you have.

#### **Bible Verse**

*"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." - 1 Corinthians 9:22-23*

#### **Reflection Question**

Think of one specific person in your everyday life. What would it look like to love them in a way that actually costs you something this week?

#### **Quote**

*"Love is the continual setting aside of what you might want, of what you might need in order to value the person in front of you in order to share in the gospel with the people around you."*

### **Prayer**

Lord, show me the people around me who need to see love that looks like sacrifice. Give me the willingness to set aside my comfort for their sake. Amen.

### **Day 5: Run With Purpose**

#### **Devotional**

Paul closes his argument with an image of an athlete. Not someone jogging casually, but someone running with locked-in focus, training with discipline, keeping their eyes on a prize that will never fade. This is the life you are called to. Not a passive drift through good intentions, but a purposeful,

self-denying pursuit of something far greater than personal comfort. The Christian life requires discipline, not to earn God's love, but because you already have it and you know what it cost. Here is the encouragement in all of this: you are not running alone, and you are not running toward uncertainty. The prize is secure. Jesus has already won it. You are running in response to what He has done, not to prove yourself, but to reflect Him. And on the days when you stumble, when you fail to set aside your rights, when you love poorly or miss the moment entirely, remember this: there is no sin that has overcome you so much that Jesus would abandon you. He purchased you. He wants you. He is not surprised by your weakness. Get back up. Keep running. The people around you need to see someone who runs with purpose and loves without condition. That witness changes lives.

### **Bible Verse**

*"So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." - 1 Corinthians 9:26-27*

### **Reflection Question**

What is one area of your life where you have been drifting rather than running with intention, and what would it look like to bring discipline and purpose back to that area?

### **Quote**

*"There is no sin that has overcome you so much so that Jesus would abandon you."*

### **Prayer**

Jesus, thank You that I run toward a prize that is already secured in You. Help me to live with intention and discipline today, knowing that Your love for me never wavers. Amen.