

# 5-Day Devotional:

## Building Spiritual Custom for Every Season

### Day 1: Preparing Before The Storm

Reading: Daniel 6:1-10

#### Devotional:

Daniel's custom of prayer wasn't created in the lion's den—it was revealed there. He knelt three times daily, not because of crisis, but because it was his habit "since his early days."

**The storms of life don't announce themselves, but they will come.**

**The question is:** What spiritual foundations are you building today for tomorrow's challenges? Daniel's peace during persecution came from years of consistent communion with God. You cannot rise to the level of what you wish in a crisis; you fall to the level of your preparation. **Start today.** Establish rhythms of prayer, Scripture reading, and worship that will anchor your soul when the winds blow. Don't wait for the lion to roar before you learn to pray.

~ *Minister Kelvin L. Briggs*

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### Day 2: Thanksgiving Before The Answer

Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

#### Devotional:

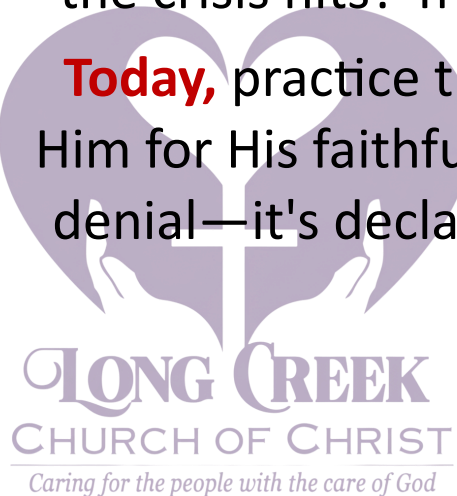
**Notice the order:** "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING."

Thanks comes before the giving. Daniel thanked God while facing the lion's den because his gratitude wasn't based on circumstances—it was rooted in God's character.

Peace that surpasses understanding doesn't come from knowing the outcome; it comes from knowing the One who holds the outcome.

Are you only praying after the diagnosis, after the bill arrives, after the crisis hits? True faith thanks God before seeing the answer.

**Today,** practice thanksgiving for what you don't yet see. Thank Him for His faithfulness, His immutability, His promises. This isn't denial—it's declaration that God is good whether you're on the mountaintop or in the valley.



~ Minister Kelvin L. Briggs

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### Day 3: Where Is Your Window Open?

Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

### Devotional:

Daniel opened his window toward Jerusalem—toward God. In our distraction-filled world, what windows are you leaving open?

**Are you open to anxiety but closed to prayer?**

**Open to gossip but closed to worship?**

**Open to fear but closed to faith?**

Jesus said some things only come by prayer and fasting. Moses forsook Pharaoh's palace "for the invisible one he did not see." Your focus determines your freedom. **Spend 15 minutes today in God's Word—not skimming, but meditating. Chew on it.**

Let it reshape your thinking. **Then spend 15 minutes praying over what you've read.** When you face your lions, you'll reach for the Spirit's sword, not your own. Close the windows to distraction. Open your heart fully to the One who keeps you in perfect peace when your mind is stayed on Him.

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### Day 4: One Intentional Hour

Reading: Mark 1:29-39

#### Devotional:

Jesus—the Word made flesh—rose early while it was still dark and went to pray. If Jesus needed this, why don't we?

**The challenge:** give God **one intentional hour daily.**

**Thirty minutes drawing near through Scripture study and meditation.**

**Thirty minutes moving out to encourage someone, to do good works, to love in deed and not just word.**

You have 24 hours. You sleep, work, eat, watch TV, scroll social media. **Can you give Him one?** This isn't legalism—it's relationship. You can't sharpen iron without friction, and you can't grow spiritually without intentionality.

Check on someone who's struggling. Read one chapter slowly. When trials come, you won't rely on your own strength—you'll have spent time with **the One who sustains you.**

~ *Minister Kelvin L. Briggs*

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### Day 5: Spiritual Customs, Not Just Events

Reading: Acts 17:10-12; Hebrews 10:23-25

### Devotional:

The Bereans "searched the Scriptures daily."

Not just on Sunday. Not just during crises. **Daily.** There's a difference between spiritual events and spiritual customs. Events are Easter, Christmas, Fifth Sunday meals.

Customs are "**pray without ceasing,**" **daily Bible reading,** **consistent worship, regular fellowship.** You don't rise to what you wish in a storm—you fall to the level of your spiritual customs.

The enemy has convinced us that checking on each other is intrusive, that we'll be fine just attending Sunday service. But Scripture says "exhort one another daily." Your presence encourages someone in the valley. Your testimony strengthens someone facing your yesterday. Get off the sideline.

Join a ministry. Make the prayer call. Iron sharpens iron through friction—through real, consistent, sometimes uncomfortable community. Your church family needs your gifts. **Start building customs today that will hold you through every season**

**tomorrow.** ~ Minister Kelvin L. Briggs

LONG CREEK

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Caring for the people with the care of God