

5-Day Devotional: Discovering the Gospel Proposal:

Becoming the Bride of Christ

Day 1: The Bad News That Makes the Good News Beautiful

Reading: Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23

Devotional:

Before we can truly appreciate the gospel, we must honestly reckon with our own condition. Scripture declares that every person has sinned and falls short of God's glory, and that the earned consequence of sin is death — not merely physical, but eternal separation from God. This is not meant to condemn but to awaken. A patient who does not know he is sick will never seek a physician. The good news of Jesus Christ only becomes truly good when we understand how desperately we need it. Sit with that reality today. Let honesty about your own brokenness open your heart to the gift God is offering.

Reflection: In what areas of your life have you minimized or ignored the reality of sin? How does an honest acknowledgment of your need change the way you receive God's grace?

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where you have been living as though you do not need God's intervention. Bring that area before Him in prayer today with full honesty and humility.

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Day 2: The Gospel Is the Power

Reading: Romans 1:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Devotional:

Paul declared that he was not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes. Notice what he did not say. He did not say the power rests in a church name, a worship tradition, a preacher's eloquence, or a congregation's history. The gospel itself — the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ — carries its own divine power. That power does not need our embellishments or additions. It simply needs to be proclaimed. The just shall live by faith, and that faith is anchored in the unchanging reality that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day.

Reflection: Have you ever placed more confidence in a religious tradition or institution than in the gospel itself? How can you recalibrate your trust toward the message rather than the messenger?

Practical Application: Memorize the core elements of the gospel from 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Practice explaining the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ in your own words, simply enough to share with someone who has never heard it.

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Day 3: The Proposal– Hearing, Believing, and Responding

Reading: Acts 2:36-38 and Romans 10:9-17

Devotional:

When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached the risen Christ, the people who heard him were cut to the heart. That phrase is significant. The Word of God did not merely inform their minds — it pierced their consciences. They asked the most important question a human being can ask: what must we do? Peter's answer was clear and complete. Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. This was the first gospel invitation ever extended to the church, and it remains the standard today. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, and that Word calls for a response. The proposal has been made. The question is whether you will say yes.

Reflection: When you first heard the gospel, what moved you? If you have not yet responded, what is holding you back from answering the proposal today?

Practical Application: Share the core message of Acts 2:38 with one person this week. You do not need to have every theological answer prepared. Simply share what Peter said and let the power of the Word do its own work.

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Day 4: First Things First– Bringing People to Jesus

Reading: Acts 8:26-38 and Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional:

When Philip encountered the Ethiopian eunuch, he did not begin by correcting the man's worship practices or debating church structure. He opened his mouth and preached Jesus. That is the starting point of every genuine gospel conversation. The Great Commission calls us to make disciples, and discipleship begins at the point of coming to Christ, not after a person has mastered every doctrine. There is a proper order to spiritual growth. We bring people to Jesus first through the gospel, and then we teach them how to live as followers of Christ. Reversing that order does not raise the standard — it creates unnecessary barriers between broken people and the Savior who is already reaching toward them.

Reflection: Think of someone in your life who is far from Christ. Have you been waiting until you could address every theological concern before sharing the gospel with them? What would it look like to simply preach Jesus to that person?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who needs to hear the gospel. This week, find a natural opportunity to share with them who Jesus is and what He has done. Focus entirely on Christ, not on church membership or doctrinal details.

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Day 5: The Door is Open– Will You Accept the Proposal?

Reading: Revelation 3:20 and 1 Peter 3:18-21

Devotional:

Jesus stands at the door and knocks. That image is both tender and urgent. He is not forcing entry. He is extending an invitation — a proposal — and waiting for a willing response. Scripture reminds us that Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God. Just as the ark once carried those who entered it safely through the waters of judgment, baptism now stands as the corresponding act of faith that connects us to the saving work of Christ. This is not a work of human merit. It is the completion of faith, the moment when trust in Christ becomes visible obedience. The proposal has been made. The ring has been offered. The only question that remains is yours to answer.

Reflection: If Christ is standing at the door of your heart today, what has been preventing you from opening it fully? Is there any unfinished business between you and the gospel invitation?

Practical Application: If you have never responded to the gospel in obedience to Acts 2:38, do not let another day pass without speaking to a minister or a trusted believer about taking that step. If you are already in Christ, spend time today in prayer renewing your commitment to be faithful unto death, as described in Revelation 2:10.

Minister Kelvin L. Briggs



5-Day Devotional: Bearing Fruit in Christ

Conclusion: The Fruit Check

As you complete this devotional journey, remember: God didn't call us simply to memorize the fruit of the Spirit—He called us to BE fruitful. These qualities should be visible evidence that we've been transformed by Christ. Self-control holds all these fruits together like a bridle controls a powerful horse. Let God's Word control your responses, your reactions, and your relationships.

Final Reflection Question: What fruit needs the most growth in your life right now? Commit to focusing on that fruit, allowing the Holy Spirit to cultivate it in you daily.

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8)

