

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of April 26, 2026 by Ed Burns

The Blessed Life

Day 1: Poor in Spirit, Rich in Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 5:3; Psalm 34:18

Devotional: True happiness begins when we recognize our complete dependence on God. Being "poor in spirit" means acknowledging that regardless of our earthly possessions or achievements, we need God every moment. This isn't about financial poverty but spiritual humility—releasing our grip on self-sufficiency and trusting God to provide, guide, and sustain us. When we stop relying on our own strength and start trusting in "Him who richly provides," we discover the kingdom of heaven is ours. Today, identify one area where you're trying to maintain control. Surrender it to God and experience the freedom that comes from trusting Him completely.

Day 2: The Gift of Mercy

Reading: Matthew 5:7; Ephesians 4:31-32

Devotional: Mercy means giving others what they don't deserve—just as God has given us what we don't deserve. Holding grudges, seeking revenge, or harboring bitterness may feel justified, but it only imprisons us. You've never met a happy, bitter person because unforgiveness destroys joy from within. God calls us to release those who've hurt us, not because they deserve it, but because we've been released from a debt we could never repay. When we extend mercy, we participate in God's character and open ourselves to receive His mercy afresh. Who needs your mercy today? Release them, not for their sake primarily, but for yours—and watch God work healing in your heart.

Day 3: Purity Brings Clarity

Reading: Matthew 5:8; Proverbs 4:23

Devotional: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Purity of heart isn't about perfection but about singular devotion to God. When our hearts are divided—pulled between God's ways and worldly desires—we lose clarity about His will. But when we pursue holiness, something remarkable happens: we begin to see God. We recognize

His work in circumstances, understand His direction in decisions, and perceive His presence in everyday moments. Purity isn't restrictive; it's liberating. It clears the fog so we can navigate life with divine wisdom. What's clouding your spiritual vision today? Confess it, cleanse your heart, and ask God for eyes to see Him clearly.

Day 4: Peacemakers Reflect the Father

Reading: Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18

Devotional: Our world desperately needs peace, but it can only come from those who possess it internally. We cannot give what we don't have. God, through Christ the Prince of Peace, offers us shalom—wholeness, completeness, inner rest regardless of external circumstances. When this peace fills our hearts, we become conduits of reconciliation in a fractured world.

Peacemaking isn't passive; it's actively pursuing restoration in relationships, extending grace where conflict exists, and choosing unity over division. We're never more like our Heavenly Father than when we bring His peace into broken situations. Where is God calling you to be a peacemaker? In your family? Workplace? Community? Step into that role today.

Day 5: Blessed Through Persecution

Reading: Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14

Devotional: Blessed and persecuted seem contradictory, yet Jesus links them inseparably. When we stand for righteousness in a world opposed to God's values, conflict is inevitable. But persecution isn't punishment—it's confirmation we're on the right side. Jesus promised that following Him would cost us something, yet He also promised that our reward would be great. The early church faced lions in colosseums yet sang praises. They understood something profound: temporary suffering for Christ leads to eternal glory with Christ. Don't be surprised when your faith creates friction. Instead, "rejoice and be glad" because you're walking the same path as the prophets and Jesus Himself. Your faithfulness today echoes in eternity.