

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from Pastor Pett's sermon from Sunday, July 19, 2026, the Eighth Sunday After Pentecost:

5-Day Devotional: Living in Hope While We Wait

Day 1: The Incomparable Glory Awaiting Us

Reading: [Romans 8:18-21](#)

Devotional: Paul declares that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that awaits us. Like an unbalanced scale, the weight of future glory far exceeds any pain we currently endure. This isn't minimizing your struggles—it's magnifying God's promises. The creation itself groans under the curse of sin, subjected to futility not by its own choice but because of humanity's fall. Yet even cursed creation waits eagerly for redemption. When you feel overwhelmed by suffering, remember: what God has prepared is so magnificent that present pain pales in comparison. Your current chapter is not your final story.

Reflection: What suffering are you experiencing today? How does knowing about incomparable future glory change your perspective?

Day 2: Creation's Groaning and Our Shared Longing

Reading: [Genesis 3:16-19](#); [Romans 8:22-23](#)

Devotional: When Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed the ground itself. Earthquakes, floods, decay, and death—none of this was part of God's original design. Creation groans like a woman in labor, and we groan along with it. These birth pains increase in both intensity and frequency, signaling that something new is coming. Even as believers with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we experience this inward groaning. It's not a sign of weak faith; it's evidence that the Spirit within us recognizes this world isn't our true home. Your dissatisfaction with brokenness is actually the Holy Spirit affirming that better things are promised.

Reflection: Where do you see evidence of the world's brokenness today? How does this increase your longing for Christ's return?

Day 3: The Certainty of Christ's Return

Reading: [Acts 1:9-11](#); [1 Corinthians 15:51-54](#)

Devotional: Jesus will return the same way He left—visibly, bodily, triumphantly. This isn't wishful thinking; it's certain promise. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, everything changes. The dead will be raised imperishable. Our broken bodies will put on immortality. No more pain, no more surgeries, no more loss. Death itself will be swallowed up in victory. We don't know when this will happen, but we know it will happen. This knowledge transforms how we live today. We're not hoping for what we can see; we're confidently expecting what God has promised. Your faith isn't blind—it's anchored in the resurrection and return of Jesus.

Reflection: What aspect of Christ's return brings you the most comfort? How can this certainty affect your daily choices?

Day 4: Waiting With Patience in Our Weakness

Reading: [Romans 8:24-25](#); [2 Peter 3:13](#)

Devotional: Patience while waiting isn't easy. We're like children asking, "Are we there yet?" on a long journey. Our patience often ranks low on the scale, and that's where the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We don't even know what to pray for sometimes, but the Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. The triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—knows your heart better than you do. He hears your groans, understands your struggles, and sustains you through the wait. New heavens and a new earth are coming, where righteousness dwells. Until then, God's got your back through every moment of impatience and doubt.

Reflection: Where is your patience wearing thin? How can you invite the Holy Spirit to help you in this specific weakness?

Day 5: Hope: Having Only Positive Expectations

Reading: [Romans 8:26-28](#); [Hebrews 11:1](#)

Devotional: Hope isn't wishful thinking—it's having only positive expectations based on God's promises. We know what God has planned because He's told us. The Spirit who dwells in us intercedes according to God's will, and the One who searches hearts knows exactly what the Spirit is saying on our behalf. This means you're never alone in your struggle, never unheard in your groaning, never abandoned in your waiting. God is working all things together for good for those who love Him. Your hope isn't in circumstances improving; it's in the unchanging character and promises of God. Wait on Him with confident expectation.

Reflection: What promises of God anchor your hope today? How can you cultivate "only positive expectations" even in difficult circumstances?

Closing Prayer: Father, thank You that our present sufferings cannot compare to the glory You will reveal. Help us wait with patience, sustained by Your Spirit who intercedes for us. Strengthen our hope as we eagerly await the return of Jesus and the redemption of all creation. In Christ's name, Amen.