



5 Day Devotional

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore the highs and lows of Peter's faith journey, the transformative power of following Jesus, and the ongoing work of the Spirit within us. Each day will provide scripture, reflections, and prayer prompts to guide you through a meaningful time of devotion.

Day 1

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

In today's scripture, we see Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. This high point in Peter's journey signifies his recognition of Jesus' divine nature and his role as the Savior. Yet, this revelation came not by his own understanding but through the Father in heaven.

Often in our own faith journey, we have moments of profound clarity and spiritual insight. These moments, like Peter's declaration, remind us of the divine connection we have with God and the truth of who Jesus is. However, just as Peter experienced, these high points can be followed by challenges that test our understanding and commitment. The key is to remain steadfast and open to the ongoing work of the Spirit in us.

- Have you experienced a "high point" in your faith journey? Reflect on that moment.
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Messiah?
- How can you stay open to the Spirit's ongoing transformational work in your life?

- Pray for a deeper revelation of who Jesus is in your life.
- Ask for the strength to remain steadfast in both the highs and lows of your faith journey.

Day 2

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-23

Peter's high moment quickly turns to a low when he rebukes Jesus for speaking about His impending suffering and death. Peter's expectations of the Messiah didn't align with Jesus' mission. Jesus responds with a strong rebuke, "Get away from me, Satan!" indicating the importance of aligning our thoughts with God's divine plan rather than human expectations.

We, too, often have our own expectations of how God should act in our lives. When things don't go as planned, it's easy to question or challenge God's ways. This passage reminds us to trust in God's greater wisdom and plan, even when it contradicts our personal desires or understanding. God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts.

- Reflect on a time when your expectations didn't align with God's plan. How did you respond?
- Why is it important to trust in God's wisdom over our own understanding?
- What steps can you take to align your thoughts more closely with God's divine plan?
- Pray for the grace to trust in God's plan, even when it contradicts your own expectations.
- Ask God to help you align your thoughts and actions with His divine will.

Day 3

Scripture: Isaiah 55:8-9

Today's scripture emphasizes the vast difference between God's thoughts and ways and our own. Often, we see only a small part of the bigger picture, while God sees everything. This passage calls us to humble ourselves and acknowledge that our understanding is limited.

As illustrated by the story of Larkin saying "NO mommy stay," we often resist what God is doing in our lives because we don't understand it fully. Yet, God's plans are always for our good. Trusting in His higher wisdom allows us to experience His peace and guidance, even when we don't understand the circumstances we face.

- When have you struggled to understand God's plan for your life? How did you handle it?
- How can you practice humility in acknowledging the limits of your own understanding?
- What are some ways you can remind yourself of God's greater wisdom and plan?
- Pray for humility and trust in God's wisdom, especially in difficult circumstances.
- Ask God to reveal His higher thoughts and ways to you, helping you to trust Him more.

Day 4

Scripture: Matthew 16:24-25

Jesus' call to take up our cross and follow Him is a call to surrender and discipleship. It's about giving up our own will and desires and submitting to God's will. This process is not easy and often involves sacrifices, but it leads to true life and freedom in Christ.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once stated, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." This death is not physical but the death of our own selfish desires and the beginning of a new life in Christ. It's a

daily choice to walk in His ways and follow Him, trusting that through surrender, we gain true life.

- What does it mean to you to take up your cross and follow Jesus?
- In what areas of your life do you need to surrender to God's will?
- How can you practice true discipleship in your daily life?

- Pray for the strength to surrender your will to God and follow Him faithfully.
- Ask God to help you identify areas in your life where you need to let go and trust Him more.

Day 5

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

Paul urges us in today's scripture to offer our bodies as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This transformation is ongoing and aligns us more closely with God's will. It's about a daily commitment to live for God rather than conforming to the patterns of this world.

Transformation through surrender leads to living a life of hope, freedom, forgiveness, and purpose. It's a continuous process where we allow the Spirit to work within us, changing us to reflect Christ more each day. This is the journey of discipleship—ongoing, challenging, but ultimately rewarding.

- How can you offer your life as a living sacrifice to God today?
- What steps can you take to renew your mind and align it with God's will?
- Reflect on the transformations God has already accomplished in your life. How have they impacted you?

- Pray for ongoing transformation and the renewing of your mind by the Holy Spirit.
- Ask for the courage to offer your daily actions and decisions as a living sacrifice to God.