



**Got a
Minute?**



Truth Rooted in Scripture

31 DAYS OF **GROWING CLOSER** *To God*

*A Simple Daily Devotional
for Building a Stronger Faith*



By Greg Becker



gotamminute.us





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Welcome

A 31-day guide to help you know Jesus, trust Scripture, and grow in daily faith.

Maybe you are new to Christianity. Maybe you have followed Jesus for years but feel the need for a fresh start. Wherever you are, these 31 days are designed to help you slow down, open God's Word, and take one practical step closer to Him each day.

This devotional is not a substitute for reading the Bible. Each day points you to a passage in the New Living Translation. Read the passage first, then use the devotional to think through its meaning and application. The commentary is original and is intended to help you understand and respond to Scripture.

Do not rush. You are not trying to impress God by completing a religious assignment. Bring Him your questions, weaknesses, gratitude, and hopes. Some days may challenge you. Other days may encourage you. Let every day move you toward Jesus.

My prayer is that these brief moments become the beginning of deeper discipleship - a life rooted in Scripture, centered on Christ, and lived in daily dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Greg Becker

Got a Minute?

How to Use This Devotional

1. Begin with prayer

Ask God to give you understanding and a willing heart.

2. Read the passage in the NLT

The Scripture reference is listed at the top of each day. Read it before the devotional.

3. Read slowly

Notice the main truth and any area where God is correcting or encouraging you.

4. Answer honestly

Use the reflection question in a journal or discuss it with someone you trust.

5. Take the step

Growth happens as truth becomes obedience. Complete the practical action for the day.

6. Pray

Use the written prayer as a starting point, then continue in your own words.

7. Keep going

Missing a day is not failure. Simply return and continue.

SUGGESTED DAILY TIME

10-15 minutes



About Greg Becker

Founder of Got a Minute?



Greg Becker

Got a Minute?

Greg Becker is the founder of Got a Minute? and has been following Jesus since 1985.

He lives in Corona, California, with his wife of 39 years. Greg is the father of three daughters and grandfather to three granddaughters and two grandsons.

He serves in ministry development, as a deacon, supports men's ministry, helps lead convalescent outreach, and teaches believers to know and live God's Word.

Through Got a Minute?, Greg shares short, clear, Christ-centered teaching to help people discover biblical truth and apply it to everyday life.

MISSION

Helping people discover biblical truth — one faithful day at a time.



DAY 1

God Wants You to Know Him

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Week 1 • Beginning Your Walk with God

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | James 4:7-10

SCRIPTURE TEXT (James 4:8, NLT)

"Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world."

Christianity begins with an invitation, not a performance. God calls you to come near to Him. You do not have to pretend that you have everything together, and you do not have to earn the right to approach Him. Jesus made the way for you to know God personally.

James connects drawing near to God with surrender, honesty, and repentance. That means closeness with God is more than an emotional moment. It is a decision to turn toward Him and away from whatever is pulling your heart in another direction. God is not asking you to become perfect overnight. He is asking you to come honestly.

Some days you may feel close to God. Other days you may feel distracted, tired, or spiritually dry. Your relationship with Him is not held together by feelings. It rests on His character and His promises. Keep showing up. Keep opening His Word. Keep praying, even when your prayers feel simple.

During these 31 days, resist the urge to measure success by how inspired you feel. Measure it by whether you are becoming more willing to listen, trust, obey, and return to God. He already knows you completely, and He still invites you closer.

THINK ABOUT IT

What do you hope will change as you grow closer to God?

TODAY'S STEP

Read James 4:7-10 in the NLT slowly. Spend ten quiet minutes telling God honestly where you are spiritually.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for inviting me to know You. Help me come near with honesty, humility, and trust. Teach me to walk with You one day at a time. Amen.



DAY 2

What It Means to Follow Jesus

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Week 1 • Beginning Your Walk with God

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Luke 9:23-25

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Luke 9:23-24, NLT)

"Then he said to the crowd, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.'"

Following Jesus is more than agreeing with facts about Him. It is choosing Him as Lord and allowing His way to reshape your life. Jesus never hid the cost of discipleship. He called people to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him.

Self-denial does not mean that you have no value. It means you no longer treat your own desires as the highest authority. You surrender the right to control everything. You learn to ask, "What honors Jesus?" instead of only asking, "What do I want?"

Taking up your cross is not simply enduring inconvenience. In Jesus' day, the cross represented death. For a believer, it pictures dying to the old way of living so that Christ can lead. This happens daily through ordinary choices: telling the truth, forgiving someone, resisting temptation, serving when no one notices, and obeying Scripture when it is difficult.

You will not follow Jesus perfectly, but you can follow Him sincerely. When you stumble, return to Him. His grace does not excuse a careless life; it gives you strength to begin again. The safest place for your life is not in your own control. It is in the hands of the One who gave His life for you.

THINK ABOUT IT

In what area of life are you most tempted to keep control?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Luke 9:23-25 in the NLT. Write one practical way you can choose Jesus' way today.

PRAYER

Jesus, You gave Yourself for me. Help me surrender my plans, desires, and decisions to You. Give me courage to follow You faithfully today. Amen.



DAY 3

You Are Saved by Grace

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Week 1 • Beginning Your Walk with God

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Ephesians 2:1-10

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT)

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

The gospel is good news because salvation is something God accomplishes, not something you achieve. Sin left humanity spiritually helpless, but God acted because of His mercy and love. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He offers forgiveness and new life.

Grace means receiving what you could never earn. Faith means trusting what Christ has done rather than trusting your own goodness. Good works matter, but they are the result of salvation, not the price of it. You do not obey so that God might love you. In Christ, you obey because He has already shown you His love.

Many believers understand grace when they first come to Jesus but later begin living as if God's acceptance depends on flawless performance. That creates fear, pride, or exhaustion. The answer is not to care less about obedience. The answer is to obey from gratitude instead of insecurity.

Ephesians also says you are God's workmanship. Your life has purpose. God is shaping you and preparing opportunities for you to reflect His character. You are not saved by your good works, but you are saved for a life that displays His goodness. Rest in grace, then get up and walk in the new life He has given you.

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you find it easier to trust God's grace or to try to prove yourself?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 in the NLT. Thank God specifically for three things Jesus has done for you.

PRAYER

God, thank You that salvation is Your gift. Help me stop trying to earn what Jesus has already provided. Let my obedience flow from gratitude and love. Amen.

DAY 4

Your New Identity in Christ

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Week 1 • Beginning Your Walk with God

 Got a Minute?
30 seconds to grow closer to God

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

SCRIPTURE TEXT (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

Your past may explain parts of your story, but it does not have the authority to define your future. When you trust in Christ, God gives you a new identity. You are no longer simply a person trying to improve. You are a new creation learning to live from what God has already declared true.

Old habits, memories, and consequences may still be present. Becoming new does not mean every struggle disappears instantly. It means the deepest truth about you has changed. You belong to Jesus. You have been reconciled to God. Your shame is no longer your master, and your failures are no longer your final name.

The enemy often tries to keep believers trapped in labels God has removed: rejected, hopeless, dirty, useless, unforgivable. Scripture gives you a better vocabulary. In Christ, you are forgiven, loved, chosen, adopted, and being transformed.

Your new identity also gives you a new purpose. God calls reconciled people to become messengers of reconciliation. The grace you have received becomes grace you share. Instead of hiding in your past, you can point others to the Savior who met you there and brought you out.

THINK ABOUT IT

What old label do you need to stop carrying?

TODAY'S STEP

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 in the NLT. Write: "Because I am in Christ, I am..." and complete the sentence with three biblical truths.

PRAYER

Father, help me see myself through what You say rather than through my past. Teach me to live as a new creation and share Your grace with others. Amen.



DAY 5

Learning to Trust God

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Week 1 • Beginning Your Walk with God

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Proverbs 3:1-8

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Trust grows when you learn that God's wisdom is greater than your limited view. You can see what is directly in front of you; God sees the whole road. That does not make every circumstance easy to understand, but it gives you a reason to place your confidence in Him.

Trusting God with all your heart means refusing to make your own understanding the final judge. Your thoughts and feelings matter, but they are not always accurate. Fear can exaggerate danger. Pride can hide weakness. Impatience can make shortcuts look wise. God's Word provides a steady guide when your emotions shift.

Acknowledging God in all your ways means bringing Him into every area: relationships, money, work, habits, decisions, and plans. Do not reserve prayer only for emergencies. Invite God into the ordinary details of your day.

Trust is often demonstrated before clarity arrives. You may not know how everything will work out, but you can obey what God has already made clear. The next faithful step is usually more important than knowing the entire plan. God does not promise a trouble-free path, but He promises to direct those who humbly depend on Him.

THINK ABOUT IT

Where are you leaning most heavily on your own understanding?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Proverbs 3:1-8 in the NLT. Name one decision you need to surrender to God, and take the clearest biblical next step.

PRAYER

Lord, Your wisdom is greater than mine. Help me trust You with every part of my life and obey You even when I cannot see the entire path. Amen.



DAY 6

What to Do When You Doubt

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Week 1 • Beginning Your Walk with God

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Mark 9:14-29

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Mark 9:24, NLT)

"The father instantly cried out, 'I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!'"

Doubt does not have to drive you away from Jesus. It can become the place where you learn to bring Him your honest questions. In Mark 9, a desperate father expressed both belief and unbelief. Jesus did not reject him for his struggle. He met him in it.

There is a difference between honest doubt and hardened refusal. Honest doubt says, "I want to believe, but I am struggling." Hardened refusal says, "I will not believe regardless of the evidence." God can work with an open, humble heart.

When doubts come, do not isolate yourself. Return to Scripture, pray honestly, and talk with mature believers. Ask what is underneath the doubt. Sometimes the issue is intellectual. Sometimes it is disappointment, pain, unanswered prayer, or a desire to avoid surrender.

Faith is not pretending to have no questions. Faith is continuing to bring your questions to the trustworthy character of God. You may not receive every answer immediately, but you can hold tightly to what is clear: Jesus entered our world, died for sinners, rose from the dead, and invites us to follow Him. Ask Him to strengthen what feels weak.

THINK ABOUT IT

Is your current doubt mainly a question of evidence, pain, disappointment, or surrender?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Mark 9:14-29 in the NLT. Write your biggest question as an honest prayer to Jesus.

PRAYER

Jesus, I believe; help me where my faith is weak. Keep my questions from pulling me away, and use them to draw me into deeper trust. Amen.

DAY 7

God Is Not Finished with You

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Week 1 • Beginning Your Walk with God

 Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Philippians 1:3-11

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Philippians 1:6, NLT)

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Spiritual growth is a process. God begins His work in you, continues it through every season, and promises to bring it toward completion. That truth gives hope when progress feels slow.

You may notice areas where you still fall short and wonder why change is taking so long. Conviction can be healthy, but discouragement can distort your view. God is not surprised by your weaknesses. He knew everything about you when He called you, and He is patient as He forms Christlike character in you.

Growth is not always dramatic. Often it looks like responding more gently than you used to, recovering more quickly after failure, praying before reacting, or recognizing temptation sooner. Small acts of obedience matter because they reveal that God is working beneath the surface.

Do not use God's patience as an excuse to remain unchanged. Cooperate with His work. Stay in His Word, confess sin, receive correction, and practice obedience. At the same time, refuse to believe that one bad day has erased everything God has done. Your confidence is not in your ability to complete yourself. It is in the faithfulness of the God who began the work.

THINK ABOUT IT

Where can you see evidence that God has already been changing you?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Philippians 1:3-11 in the NLT. Thank God for one area of growth and ask Him to continue working in one area of weakness.

PRAYER

Faithful God, thank You for not giving up on me. Help me cooperate with Your work and trust Your patience as You make me more like Jesus. Amen.



DAY 8

Why the Bible Matters

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Week 2 • Building Strong Spiritual Habits

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | 2 Timothy 3:14-17

SCRIPTURE TEXT (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

The Bible is not merely a collection of inspiring thoughts. It is God's written Word, given to reveal who He is, expose what is false, correct our direction, and train us to live rightly. Without Scripture, we are easily shaped by culture, feelings, and opinions.

God's Word does more than provide information. It forms us. It shows us the character of God, the seriousness of sin, the beauty of grace, and the central place of Jesus in God's plan. It also prepares us for practical obedience.

Reading the Bible can feel difficult at first. Some passages are unfamiliar, and you may not understand everything. Do not let that stop you. Begin with what is clear. Ask questions. Use a trustworthy study Bible or teacher. Most importantly, keep returning to the text itself.

The goal is not simply to finish chapters. The goal is to know God, think truthfully, and live faithfully. A small passage read carefully can shape you more than several chapters rushed without attention. Approach Scripture with humility: "God, show me what is true, what needs to change, and how I can obey."

A Bible that remains closed cannot guide your steps. Open it consistently, and allow God's truth to renew your mind.

THINK ABOUT IT

What most often keeps you from reading the Bible consistently?

TODAY'S STEP

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 in the NLT. Choose a regular time and place for Bible reading during the next seven days.

PRAYER

God, thank You for giving me Your Word. Give me hunger, understanding, and a willing heart. Use Scripture to correct, train, and prepare me. Amen.



DAY 9

How to Begin Reading the Bible

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Week 2 • Building Strong Spiritual Habits



DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | John 20:24-31

SCRIPTURE TEXT (John 20:31, NLT)

"But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name."

The Bible is a large book, but you do not need to read it randomly. A helpful starting point is one of the Gospels, where you can watch Jesus speak, serve, confront sin, show compassion, die, and rise again. The Gospel of John was written to help readers understand who Jesus is and believe in Him.

Read slowly enough to notice details. Ask three simple questions: What does this passage show me about God? What does it show me about people? What response does it call for?

Context matters. Read the verses before and after the section. Notice who is speaking, who is listening, and what is happening. Avoid building a conclusion from one isolated sentence.

You do not need a complicated system. Consistency is more valuable than complexity. Begin with a manageable amount, perhaps one chapter or even a short section each day. Write down one truth and one application.

Remember that the Bible is not mainly about finding yourself in every verse. It reveals God's redemptive story, centered on Jesus. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see Christ clearly and respond with faith. Understanding grows over time, so do not be discouraged by what you do not yet know.

THINK ABOUT IT

What would make Bible reading feel more approachable for you?

TODAY'S STEP

Read John 20:24-31 in the NLT. Then begin John chapter 1 and write one observation about Jesus.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, open my mind as I read. Help me understand the Bible in context, see Jesus clearly, and respond with faith and obedience. Amen.



DAY 10

Learning to Pray

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Week 2 • Building Strong Spiritual Habits

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Matthew 6:5-13

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Matthew 6:9-13, NLT)

"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."

Prayer is not a performance designed to impress God or other people. It is honest communication with your Father. Jesus taught His followers to pray with sincerity, confidence, reverence, and dependence.

The pattern Jesus gave begins with God's name, kingdom, and will. That reorders our priorities. Prayer is not merely asking God to support our plans; it is learning to desire His purposes. Then we bring daily needs, confession, relationships, and spiritual battles before Him.

You do not need special vocabulary. God is not measuring the elegance of your sentences. Tell Him the truth. Praise Him for who He is. Thank Him for what He has done. Confess where you have sinned. Ask for what you need. Pray for others.

Some prayers will be emotional. Others may feel quiet and ordinary. Keep praying anyway. Relationships deepen through regular communication, not occasional dramatic moments.

Prayer also includes listening in the right sense: allowing Scripture to shape what you ask and giving God space to expose motives, bring conviction, and redirect your heart. God's written Word is the reliable standard; your impressions must always be tested by it.

Begin simply. A sincere five-minute prayer is better than an impressive prayer you never pray.

THINK ABOUT IT

Which part of prayer—praise, confession, requests, or surrender—is hardest for you?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Matthew 6:5-13 in the NLT. Use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern and pray through each theme in your own words.

PRAYER

Father, teach me to pray. Align my desires with Your will, meet my needs, forgive my sins, and help me forgive others. Amen.



DAY 11

Listening for God Through Scripture

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Week 2 • Building Strong Spiritual Habits

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Psalm 119:97-105

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Psalm 119:105, NLT)

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

People often say they want to hear from God while neglecting the clearest words He has already given. Scripture is the primary place where God reveals truth, corrects us, and directs our steps.

The psalmist describes God's Word as a lamp. A lamp does not always reveal the entire journey. It gives enough light for the next step. In the same way, God may not answer every question about your future, but He provides truth for faithful living today.

Listening through Scripture requires more than scanning words. Slow down. Observe repeated ideas. Consider what the passage meant in its original setting. Ask how it fits with the rest of the Bible. Then allow it to examine you.

Be cautious about saying, "God told me," when what you really mean is, "I had a strong thought." God will never guide you in a way that contradicts His Word. Mature believers test impressions through Scripture, wise counsel, prayer, and the character of Christ.

You may wish God would give a dramatic sign, but often His guidance is already clear: forgive, tell the truth, flee sexual sin, love your neighbor, serve humbly, and trust Him. Begin with revealed truth. Faithfulness in what is clear prepares you for decisions that are less clear.

THINK ABOUT IT

Are you seeking new guidance while ignoring something Scripture has already made clear?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Psalm 119:97-105 in the NLT. Write one truth that gives light for your next step.

PRAYER

God, help me listen to You through Your Word. Protect me from confusion and give me courage to obey the truth You have already revealed. Amen.

DAY 12

The Importance of Worship

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Week 2 • Building Strong Spiritual Habits

 Got a Minute?
30 seconds to grow closer to God

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Romans 12:1-2

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Romans 12:1, NLT)

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him."

Worship is more than singing. Singing is a powerful expression of worship, but biblical worship includes offering your whole life to God. Your schedule, choices, body, relationships, work, and thoughts can all become acts of devotion.

Romans describes worship as a living sacrifice. Unlike a one-time offering, a living sacrifice must keep surrendering. Every day brings new opportunities to place yourself back on the altar: choosing purity, showing patience, giving generously, or serving quietly.

Worship also involves refusing to let the world press you into its pattern. Culture constantly teaches you what to desire, fear, and celebrate. God transforms you by renewing your mind with truth. As your thinking changes, your life begins to reflect His will.

Corporate worship matters too. Gathering with believers reminds you that faith is larger than your private experience. Together, the church sings truth, hears Scripture, prays, gives, and remembers the gospel.

Do not wait until you feel inspired to worship. Worship can be a choice made in grief, confusion, or disappointment. Praising God does not deny pain; it declares that God remains worthy in the middle of it. Give Him more than a song. Give Him yourself.

THINK ABOUT IT

What part of your everyday life is hardest to offer fully to God?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Romans 12:1-2 in the NLT. Choose one ordinary responsibility today and consciously do it as an act of worship.

PRAYER

God, You are worthy of more than words. I offer You my mind, body, time, and choices. Transform me so my life reflects Your will. Amen.

DAY 13

Why You Need the Church

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Week 2 • Building Strong Spiritual Habits

 Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Hebrews 10:19-25

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Hebrews 10:24-25, NLT)

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Following Jesus is personal, but it was never meant to be private. God places believers in a spiritual family where they can worship, learn, serve, receive care, and encourage one another.

Churches are filled with imperfect people, so disappointment is possible. Yet withdrawing from Christian community usually makes spiritual struggles harder. Isolation hides discouragement, weakens accountability, and makes false ideas easier to believe.

The New Testament picture of church is not merely attending a weekly event. Believers are called to know one another, carry burdens, practice forgiveness, use spiritual gifts, and encourage faithfulness. You cannot obey all of the "one another" commands alone.

Look for a local church that teaches the Bible faithfully, centers on Jesus, practices loving accountability, and seeks to make disciples. No church will be perfect. The question is whether it is biblically healthy and whether you are willing to participate rather than simply consume.

Your presence matters. Someone may need your encouragement, prayer, generosity, or service. You also need theirs. God often strengthens His people through ordinary conversations, shared worship, wise correction, and faithful friendship. Do not merely ask, "What can this church give me?" Ask, "How can I grow and contribute here?"

THINK ABOUT IT

Are you connected to a local church, or are you mostly trying to follow Jesus alone?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Hebrews 10:19-25 in the NLT. Take one concrete step toward consistent involvement in a Bible-teaching local church.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for Your church. Help me pursue healthy Christian community, receive encouragement humbly, and use my life to strengthen others. Amen.

DAY 14

Making Time for God

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Week 2 • Building Strong Spiritual Habits

 Got a Minute?
Truth Rooted in Scripture

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Mark 1:29-39

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Mark 1:35, NLT)*"Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray."*

Jesus lived with constant demands. People needed healing, teaching, and help. Yet He intentionally withdrew to pray. If Jesus made space for fellowship with the Father, we should not assume spiritual health will happen accidentally.

Many people say they do not have time for God, but time often reveals priorities. This is not meant to produce guilt. It is an invitation to examine what is shaping your days. Minutes disappear into phones, entertainment, worry, and hurry. A small portion of that time can become space for Scripture and prayer.

A daily rhythm does not make God love you more. It helps you remain attentive to the God who already loves you. Choose a realistic time, place, and plan. Ten focused minutes practiced consistently can become a strong beginning.

Expect interruptions and imperfect days. Missing a day is not a reason to abandon the habit. Return without shame. Avoid turning your quiet time into a box to check. The goal is relationship and transformation.

You may need to go to bed earlier, place your phone in another room, or schedule time on your calendar. Every yes requires a no somewhere else. Make room for what matters most, and let your time with God influence the rest of your day.

THINK ABOUT IT

What usually receives the time and attention you intended to give God?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Mark 1:29-39 in the NLT. Put a specific daily appointment with God on your calendar for the next week.

PRAYER

Father, help me order my time wisely. Give me discipline without legalism and desire without distraction. Meet me as I seek You each day. Amen.



DAY 15

When God Feels Far Away

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Week 3 • Growing Through Life's Challenges

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Psalm 42

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Psalm 42:5-6, NLT)

"Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God!"

There are seasons when God feels distant. Prayer seems dry, worship feels difficult, and Scripture does not stir the emotions it once did. The Bible does not pretend these experiences are unusual. The psalms give language for spiritual thirst and sadness.

A feeling of distance does not necessarily mean God has left you. Feelings can be influenced by exhaustion, grief, stress, conflict, or unconfessed sin. Examine your heart honestly, but do not automatically assume you have failed.

The writer of Psalm 42 speaks to his own soul. He remembers God's faithfulness and chooses hope before his emotions change. This is an important spiritual practice. You can acknowledge how you feel without allowing feelings to become your final authority.

Continue the habits that place you in the path of truth: pray, read Scripture, gather with believers, and worship. Tell God that He feels far away. Honest lament is still prayer.

Sometimes God uses dry seasons to deepen faith beyond emotional dependence. You learn to seek Him because He is worthy, not merely because the experience feels rewarding. Hold onto what is true. The God who saved you has not become less faithful because today feels quiet.

THINK ABOUT IT

What circumstances may be influencing your sense that God is far away?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Psalm 42 in the NLT. Write two columns: "What I feel" and "What I know is true about God."

PRAYER

God, You know when my soul feels dry. Help me seek You honestly, remember Your faithfulness, and hope in You even before my feelings change. Amen.



DAY 16

Finding Peace in Anxiety

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Week 3 • Growing Through Life's Challenges

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Philippians 4:4-9

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Philippians 4:6-7, NLT)

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Anxiety can make your mind feel trapped in endless possibilities. Scripture does not shame you for feeling concern. It teaches you what to do with it: bring everything to God through prayer, thanksgiving, and specific requests.

Prayer is not denial. It is transferring the weight of your concerns into the hands of the One who can carry them. Thanksgiving helps you remember that fear is not the whole story. God has already been faithful in many ways.

Peace does not always mean circumstances change immediately. Often it means God guards your heart and mind while you walk through uncertainty. His peace is connected to His presence, not your ability to control the outcome.

Philippians also addresses thought patterns. Anxiety repeatedly asks, "What if?" God invites you to focus on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise. This does not mean ignoring real problems. It means refusing to feed your mind with exaggeration, rumor, or imagined disaster.

For severe or persistent anxiety, seeking help from a qualified medical or mental-health professional is not a failure of faith. God can work through prayer, community, wise care, and practical support. Bring your whole struggle into the light.

THINK ABOUT IT

What specific fear keeps replaying in your mind?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Philippians 4:4-9 in the NLT. Turn your biggest worry into a specific prayer, then list three things for which you are thankful.

PRAYER

God of peace, I give You what I cannot control. Guard my heart and mind, renew my thoughts with truth, and guide me toward wise help when I need it. Amen.



DAY 17

What to Do with Your Past

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Week 3 • Growing Through Life's Challenges

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Psalm 32

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Psalm 32:5, NLT)

"Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.' And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone."

Your past may contain sin you committed, pain others caused, or choices you wish you could change. You cannot rewrite history, but in Christ your past does not have to control your identity or direction.

When your past includes your own sin, healing begins with confession. Confession is agreeing with God about what happened, without excuses or minimizing. God's forgiveness is not based on your ability to punish yourself. It rests on Jesus' sacrifice.

Forgiveness does not always remove earthly consequences, and reconciliation may require time, wisdom, and safety. You may need to make amends where appropriate, seek counseling, or accept boundaries. Grace is not pretending nothing happened. It is allowing God to meet you truthfully.

When shame speaks, it says, "You are what you did." Conviction says, "What you did was wrong; bring it to God and walk in a new direction." Shame hides. Grace brings things into the light.

Your testimony does not glorify your past. It glorifies the Savior who redeems broken stories. You may still remember, but memory can become a reminder of mercy rather than a prison of condemnation. Let God use what He has healed to make you humble, compassionate, and watchful.

THINK ABOUT IT

Are you dealing mainly with guilt that needs confession or shame that needs to be answered by grace?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Psalm 32 in the NLT. Confess specifically to God, and identify one wise step of repair or support.

PRAYER

Merciful God, I bring You my past without hiding. Forgive my sin, heal my wounds, and teach me to live in the freedom and wisdom of Your grace. Amen.



DAY 18

Overcoming Temptation

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Week 3 • Growing Through Life's Challenges

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

SCRIPTURE TEXT (1 Corinthians 10:13, NLT)

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."

Temptation is common, but it is not harmless. It often begins with a desire that promises relief, pleasure, control, or approval. The promise is always incomplete. Sin offers something immediate while hiding what it will cost.

Scripture warns against overconfidence. The moment you think you could never fall is the moment you stop watching carefully. Humility says, "I am capable of making destructive choices, so I need God's strength and wise boundaries."

God promises a way of escape. That escape may look very practical: leaving the room, ending a conversation, blocking an account, calling a trusted friend, or refusing to keep access to something that repeatedly causes you to stumble. Do not pray for rescue while protecting the pathway to temptation.

Learn your patterns. Are you most vulnerable when lonely, angry, tired, bored, or stressed? Prepare before the moment arrives. Fill your mind with Scripture, strengthen healthy relationships, and confess struggles early.

Victory is not merely saying no to sin. It is saying yes to something better: communion with God, integrity, freedom, and love. When you fail, confess quickly and return to Christ. Do not let one fall become a reason to remain down.

THINK ABOUT IT

What pattern or situation most often makes you vulnerable to temptation?

TODAY'S STEP

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 in the NLT. Remove one practical access point to temptation and tell a trusted believer about your plan.

PRAYER

God, show me the way of escape and give me courage to take it. Help me walk humbly, prepare wisely, and desire fellowship with You more than sin. Amen.

DAY 19

When Your Prayers Seem Unanswered

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Week 3 • Growing Through Life's Challenges

 Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

SCRIPTURE TEXT (2 Corinthians 12:9, NLT)

"Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me."

Unanswered prayer can be one of the hardest parts of faith. You ask sincerely, wait expectantly, and nothing seems to change. It can leave you wondering whether God hears you or cares.

Paul repeatedly asked God to remove a painful struggle. God's answer was not the removal Paul wanted. Instead, God promised sufficient grace and power in weakness. This reminds us that "no" and "not yet" are still answers, even when they are difficult to receive.

We should pray boldly because God invites us to ask. At the same time, prayer is not a method for controlling God. He sees consequences, timing, motives, and purposes we cannot see. Trust means bringing honest requests while surrendering the outcome.

Sometimes delay changes the situation. Sometimes it changes us. Waiting can expose false expectations, deepen dependence, and teach perseverance. This does not make the pain unreal. Biblical faith makes room for lament.

Keep praying unless God clearly redirects you. Ask others to pray. Search Scripture for promises that actually apply, rather than claiming guarantees God has not made. Your unanswered question does not erase the cross, where God proved His love. His grace may meet you differently than you expected, but it will not be absent.

THINK ABOUT IT

How has a delayed or different answer affected your view of God?

TODAY'S STEP

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 in the NLT. Pray your request again, then add: "Your grace is enough for me today."

PRAYER

Father, You know what I have asked and how long I have waited. Help me trust Your wisdom, receive Your grace, and remain honest and faithful in prayer. Amen.



DAY 20

Trusting God During Suffering

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Week 3 • Growing Through Life's Challenges

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Romans 8:18-39

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Romans 8:28, NLT)

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

Suffering raises serious questions. Scripture does not call pain good, and it does not ask us to pretend loss is easy. It teaches that creation is broken by sin and that believers still groan while waiting for full restoration.

Romans 8 gives hope without minimizing grief. God is working through all things for the good of those who love Him, but that good is defined by His purpose: making us more like Christ. Not every event is good, yet no event is beyond His ability to redeem.

When you do not know how to pray, the Holy Spirit helps in your weakness. When circumstances seem chaotic, God remains purposeful. When suffering makes you question His love, the cross stands as evidence that He has entered suffering Himself.

Some wounds will not be fully explained in this life. Christian hope is not merely that tomorrow will be easier. It is that Jesus will return, resurrection will come, and creation will be renewed. Present pain is real, but it is not final.

Do not suffer alone. Let the church carry burdens with you. Seek practical help where needed. Trust is not passive resignation; it is choosing to remain with God, obey Him, and hope in His future even while you grieve today.

THINK ABOUT IT

What is the hardest part of trusting God in your current suffering?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Romans 8:18-39 in the NLT. Circle or write down every truth about God's help, purpose, presence, and love.

PRAYER

God, meet me in my pain. Help me grieve honestly, trust Your redeeming purpose, and hold tightly to the love You have shown through Jesus. Amen.

DAY 21

Choosing Faith Over Fear

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Week 3 • Growing Through Life's Challenges

 Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Numbers 13:25-14:9

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Numbers 14:9, NLT)

"Do not rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"

Fear often focuses on the size of the obstacle and forgets the faithfulness of God. When Israel's spies surveyed the Promised Land, most saw danger as the controlling reality. Joshua and Caleb saw the same danger, but they interpreted it through God's promise.

Faith is not pretending the giants are small. It is remembering that God is greater. Fear asks, "What could go wrong?" Faith asks, "What has God said, and what does obedience require?"

Not every risky idea is an act of faith. Biblical faith responds to God's truth, not impulse or pride. It seeks wisdom and counts the cost, but it refuses to let fear become lord.

Fear can spread quickly through a community. So can courage. Your words either magnify the obstacle or remind people of God's character. Be careful what you repeatedly rehearse.

You may still feel afraid when you obey. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is faithful action in the presence of fear. Take the next step God has made clear. The outcome may not unfold exactly as you expect, but obedience will keep you aligned with the One who sees beyond the obstacle.

THINK ABOUT IT

What "giant" has become larger in your mind than God's faithfulness?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Numbers 13:25-14:9 in the NLT. Write one fear statement, then answer it with a truth about God and one obedient step.

PRAYER

Mighty God, keep fear from ruling my decisions. Help me see challenges honestly, remember Your faithfulness, and move forward in obedient courage. Amen.



DAY 22

Loving Difficult People

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Week 4 • Living Out Your Faith

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Luke 6:27-36

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Luke 6:27-28, NLT)

"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you."

Jesus calls His followers to a love that goes beyond natural affection. Loving people who love you is easy. Loving those who offend, oppose, or misunderstand you reveals the character of God.

Biblical love is not approval of harmful behavior. It does not require you to remain in an unsafe situation or ignore wise boundaries. Love seeks the true good of another person, which may include truth, distance, correction, or consequences.

Jesus commands us to pray for those who mistreat us. Prayer changes the posture of our hearts. It becomes harder to nourish hatred while sincerely asking God to work in someone's life.

Loving an enemy does not mean trusting an untrustworthy person. Trust is earned, and reconciliation normally requires repentance from both sides. Love, however, can refuse revenge even when reconciliation is not possible.

Remember how God treated you when you were far from Him. His mercy toward you becomes the pattern for your treatment of others. You may not feel warm affection, but you can choose not to insult, slander, retaliate, or celebrate another person's pain.

Ask God for one concrete act of Christlike love. Sometimes the most spiritual step is a restrained response, a truthful conversation, or a prayer no one else hears.

THINK ABOUT IT

Who is most difficult for you to love right now, and why?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Luke 6:27-36 in the NLT. Pray for that person by name and choose one loving action that does not violate wise boundaries.

PRAYER

Jesus, You loved me when I was far from You. Give me mercy, wisdom, and courage to love difficult people without compromising truth or safety. Amen.

DAY 23

Learning to Forgive

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Week 4 • Living Out Your Faith

 Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Matthew 18:21-35

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Matthew 18:21-22, NLT)

"Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'"

Forgiveness is one of the clearest and hardest expressions of the gospel. We forgive because God has forgiven us an immeasurable debt through Christ.

Forgiveness does not say the offense was acceptable. It does not erase justice, remove all consequences, or require immediate restoration of trust. It means releasing personal revenge and surrendering judgment to God.

Forgiveness may be a decision you repeat many times as emotions return. You can choose forgiveness before you feel relief. Healing often takes longer than the initial decision.

Do not confuse forgiveness with reconciliation. Forgiveness can be offered by one person. Reconciliation requires truth, repentance, and rebuilding by both. In cases of abuse or danger, seek safety and wise counsel. Forgiving someone does not mean giving them continued access to harm you.

Unforgiveness promises protection, but it often keeps the wound active. It allows the offender to occupy your thoughts and shape your reactions. God invites you to place the debt in His hands.

Remembering your own need for mercy creates humility. You are not saying your pain is small. You are saying God's grace is greater, and you will not let another person's sin determine the condition of your soul.

THINK ABOUT IT

What do you fear might happen if you choose to forgive?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Matthew 18:21-35 in the NLT. Tell God exactly what happened, what it cost, and that you are releasing personal revenge to Him.

PRAYER

Merciful God, thank You for forgiving me through Jesus. Help me release revenge, pursue truth and wisdom, and walk toward freedom one step at a time. Amen.



DAY 24

Serving Others

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Week 4 • Living Out Your Faith

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | John 13:1-17

SCRIPTURE TEXT (John 13:14-15, NLT)

"And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

On the night before the cross, Jesus washed His disciples' feet. The One with all authority took the position of a servant. This shows that greatness in God's kingdom is not measured by attention, status, or control.

Service notices needs and responds with love. It may be visible, but often it is quiet: listening carefully, helping with an ordinary task, giving time, preparing a meal, encouraging someone, or doing work others avoid.

Serving does not mean never resting or saying yes to every request. Jesus Himself withdrew and set boundaries. Healthy service flows from love and obedience, not fear of disappointing people.

Check your motives. It is possible to serve while secretly craving recognition. When your service goes unnoticed, resentment may reveal that applause had become the reward. Jesus teaches us to serve because we belong to Him.

You do not need a title to have a ministry. Wherever God has placed you, there are people to love. Ask what would genuinely help rather than doing only what makes you feel useful.

The gospel frees you from proving that you are important. Because your identity is secure in Christ, you can take the lower place. In God's kingdom, no act of faithful love is wasted.

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you tend to avoid serving, overcommit, or serve mainly when people notice?

TODAY'S STEP

Read John 13:1-17 in the NLT. Meet one practical need today without announcing it or expecting recognition.

PRAYER

Jesus, You came as a servant. Give me humble eyes to notice needs, wise boundaries, and a heart that serves for Your glory rather than applause. Amen.

DAY 25

Sharing Your Faith

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Week 4 • Living Out Your Faith

 Got a Minute?
30-Second Bible Readings

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | 1 Peter 3:13-17

SCRIPTURE TEXT (1 Peter 3:15, NLT)

"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it."

Sharing your faith does not require having every answer. It begins with belonging to Jesus and being ready to explain the hope He has given you.

Peter connects witness with character. People should see a life shaped by Christ: integrity, courage, kindness, and hope. Your actions do not replace the message, but they can make your words credible.

When you speak, do it with gentleness and respect. The gospel is powerful; it does not need arrogance. Listen carefully to the person in front of you. Ask questions. Avoid treating people as projects.

Your testimony can be simple: what your life was like, how you came to trust Jesus, and what He is changing. Keep the focus on Christ rather than making yourself the hero.

Be clear about the gospel. Humanity has sinned and is separated from God. Jesus died for our sins and rose again. Salvation is received by grace through faith, leading to a new life under His lordship.

Some people will not respond positively. Your responsibility is faithfulness, not forcing a decision. Pray, speak truthfully, and trust the Holy Spirit. A brief conversation may be one part of a much longer story God is writing.

THINK ABOUT IT

What fear most often keeps you from talking about Jesus?

TODAY'S STEP

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17 in the NLT. Write your testimony in three short parts: before Christ, how you trusted Him, and what He is doing now.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, make me ready to share the hope I have. Give me clarity, courage, gentleness, and genuine love for the people You place around me. Amen.



DAY 26

Walking with the Holy Spirit

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Week 4 • Living Out Your Faith

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Galatians 5:13-26

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT)

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

The Christian life cannot be lived through willpower alone. God gives the Holy Spirit to live within believers, guide them in truth, produce Christlike character, and empower obedience.

Galatians describes a conflict between the desires of the sinful nature and the Spirit. Becoming a Christian does not remove every wrong desire, but it changes who leads your life. Walking by the Spirit means daily dependence and responsive obedience.

The fruit of the Spirit is character God grows in you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Fruit develops over time. You cannot staple it onto your life through appearance. It grows as you remain connected to Christ and surrender to the Spirit.

Do not use "the Spirit led me" to justify something Scripture forbids. The Holy Spirit inspired the Word and will not contradict it. His leading produces holiness, truth, love, and self-control.

Pay attention to conviction. When the Spirit exposes sin, respond quickly rather than making excuses. When He brings Scripture to mind, obey. When He prompts you toward love or service consistent with the Bible, be willing.

Ask not only, "What should I stop doing?" Ask, "What fruit does God want to grow in this situation?"

THINK ABOUT IT

Which fruit of the Spirit is most needed in your life right now?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Galatians 5:13-26 in the NLT. Choose one recurring situation and plan a Spirit-shaped response before it happens.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, fill and guide me. Expose what is sinful, strengthen me to obey Scripture, and grow the character of Jesus in my life. Amen.

DAY 27

Discovering Your Purpose

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Week 4 • Living Out Your Faith

 Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 22:34-40

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Many people search for one hidden assignment that will make life meaningful. Scripture begins more simply. Your primary purpose is to know God, love Him, love others, become like Christ, and faithfully do the good works He places before you.

Your calling is larger than a career. Jobs can change, seasons can shift, and abilities can be limited, but your purpose in Christ remains. You can glorify God in a workplace, home, church, hospital room, classroom, or retirement community.

God has shaped you with experiences, abilities, relationships, and opportunities. Some parts of your story may point toward specific ways to serve. Pay attention to needs that move your heart, gifts others recognize, and opportunities confirmed by wise believers.

Do not wait for a dramatic revelation before doing obvious good. Purpose is often discovered while serving. Start with what is in front of you. Be faithful in small responsibilities. God can redirect a moving person more easily than someone who refuses to begin.

Avoid comparing your assignment with someone else's platform. Visibility is not the same as significance. The goal is not to build a name but to honor Jesus. A quiet life of love and obedience can have eternal impact far beyond what you see.

THINK ABOUT IT

Are you waiting for a special calling while overlooking a clear opportunity to love or serve?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Matthew 22:34-40 in the NLT. List one gift, one need, and one action you can take this week.

PRAYER

God, thank You for creating me with purpose. Help me love You, love people, and faithfully do the good works You place before me. Amen.



DAY 28

Becoming More Like Jesus

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Week 4 • Living Out Your Faith

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | Colossians 3:1-17

SCRIPTURE TEXT (Colossians 3:12, NLT)

"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

God's goal is not merely to make you more religious. He is shaping you to reflect Jesus. This involves putting off the patterns of the old life and putting on new character.

Colossians names attitudes and behaviors that must be removed: sexual sin, greed, anger, slander, lying, and other destructive habits. Grace does not make these things unimportant. Grace gives you a new identity and power to change.

Then Scripture describes what to put on: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. Transformation is not only about stopping bad behavior. It is learning a new way to respond.

Your mind matters in this process. Set your attention on Christ. Let His Word fill your life. Worship, gratitude, and Christian community all help shape your heart.

Change usually happens through repeated choices empowered by God. You practice telling the truth, pausing before anger, forgiving, and serving. Over time, obedience becomes a new pattern.

Do not measure Christlikeness only by how much Bible information you know. Ask whether you are becoming more loving, truthful, humble, pure, patient, and grateful. Knowledge should lead to worship and obedience. The clearest evidence of maturity is not how impressive you appear, but how much your life resembles Jesus.

THINK ABOUT IT

What old pattern needs to be put off, and what Christlike quality should replace it?

TODAY'S STEP

Read Colossians 3:1-17 in the NLT. Write a replacement plan: "Instead of ____, by God's help I will ____."

PRAYER

Jesus, make my life look more like Yours. Help me put away old patterns and clothe myself with compassion, humility, truth, forgiveness, and love. Amen.



DAY 29

Living with an Eternal Perspective

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Final Days • Moving Forward in Faith

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

SCRIPTURE TEXT (2 Corinthians 4:18, NLT)

"So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

What you can see right now is real, but it is not all that is real. Scripture teaches believers to view present life in light of eternity. This perspective does not make earthly responsibilities unimportant; it helps you value them correctly.

Success, possessions, comfort, and recognition are temporary. Character, faithfulness, people, and the kingdom of God have eternal significance. When temporary things become ultimate, disappointment becomes devastating.

Paul experienced intense suffering, yet he described it in comparison with the eternal glory ahead. He was not minimizing pain. He was placing it within a larger story.

An eternal perspective changes how you use time and resources. You become more willing to forgive, give, serve, endure, and share the gospel. You remember that hidden faithfulness is seen by God.

This life is not disposable. What you do matters because God works through it. But this life is not your final home. Aging, loss, and death do not have the last word for those who belong to Christ.

Ask yourself what will matter one hundred years from now. Let that question expose misplaced priorities. Then live today with both urgency and hope, knowing that resurrection and God's presence are ahead.

THINK ABOUT IT

What temporary concern has been consuming more attention than it deserves?

TODAY'S STEP

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 in the NLT. Review your schedule or spending and make one adjustment that reflects eternal priorities.

PRAYER

Eternal God, lift my eyes beyond what is temporary. Help me use my time, resources, and relationships for what honors You and lasts forever. Amen.



DAY 30

Finishing the Race Faithfully

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Final Days • Moving Forward in Faith

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | 2 Timothy 4:1-8

SCRIPTURE TEXT (2 Timothy 4:7, NLT)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful."

The Christian life is not only about starting well. It is about continuing with Jesus through changing seasons, disappointment, opposition, success, and age.

Near the end of his life, Paul described faithfulness as fighting the good fight, finishing the race, and keeping the faith. He had not lived perfectly, but he had remained committed to Christ and his calling.

Endurance is built through daily obedience. People rarely drift into faithfulness. They drift away when small compromises, unresolved bitterness, isolation, or spiritual neglect accumulate.

Build a life that can last. Stay connected to Scripture and the church. Invite correction. Guard your character more carefully than your reputation. Rest when needed. Repent quickly. Keep serving from love rather than ego.

There may be seasons when your role changes. Faithfulness is not tied to one platform or position. You can honor God when leading, supporting, waiting, recovering, or letting others take your place.

Do not compare your pace with someone else's race. Keep your eyes on Jesus. The goal is not applause from people but approval from the Lord. One day, every sacrifice made in faith will be seen clearly. Until then, take the next faithful step.

THINK ABOUT IT

What could quietly pull you away from long-term faithfulness if left unaddressed?

TODAY'S STEP

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 in the NLT. Identify one habit to strengthen and one compromise to remove so you can run faithfully.

PRAYER

Lord, help me finish well. Guard my faith, character, and love for You. Give me endurance to take the next faithful step in every season. Amen.



DAY 31

This Is Only the Beginning

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Final Days • Moving Forward in Faith

Got a Minute?

DAILY BIBLE READING (NLT) | John 15:1-17

SCRIPTURE TEXT (John 15:5, NLT)

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

Completing 31 days is worth celebrating, but the goal was never to finish a booklet. The goal is to remain connected to Jesus.

Jesus described Himself as the vine and His followers as branches. A branch does not produce fruit through strain or independence. It bears fruit by remaining connected to its source of life.

Abiding in Christ includes trusting Him, receiving His words, obeying His commands, praying, and living in His love. These are not separate religious tasks. They are parts of an ongoing relationship.

Expect God to prune you. He may remove habits, attitudes, relationships, or priorities that limit spiritual fruit. Pruning can feel like loss, but the Gardener is purposeful.

Do not attempt to continue alone. Stay rooted in Scripture, prayer, worship, and Christian community. Consider what rhythm will help you keep growing after today. You might continue through the Gospel of John, join a small group, meet with a mature believer, or begin another reading plan.

Jesus' command is clear: love one another. Spiritual growth should make you more loving, not merely more informed. Let what God has taught you become encouragement, service, forgiveness, and witness.

This is not the end. It is another beginning. Keep walking with Jesus, one faithful day at a time.

THINK ABOUT IT

What practice from these 31 days will you carry forward?

TODAY'S STEP

Read John 15:1-17 in the NLT. Write a simple 30-day plan for Scripture, prayer, church involvement, and one act of love each week.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for walking with me through these days. Keep me close to You, make my life fruitful, and help me love others as You have loved me. Amen.



Start Here: Have You Trusted Jesus?

Growing closer to God begins with being reconciled to Him. The Bible teaches that every person has sinned and cannot repair that separation through good works, religion, or personal effort.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived without sin, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the dead. Salvation is God's gift, received by grace through faith. To follow Jesus is to turn from sin, trust in what He has done, and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

You do not need perfect words. You need an honest heart. You can speak to God now, admitting your need and placing your trust in Jesus. A prayer does not save by itself; Jesus saves. Prayer is simply one way to express genuine faith.

A PRAYER OF FAITH

God, I know that I have sinned and need Your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my old way of life and place my trust in Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Give me new life and help me follow You. Amen.

Read Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8-10; and John 3:16-17 in the NLT.

Tell a mature Christian about your decision and become connected to a Bible-teaching local church. Visit gotamminute.us/start-here for additional help.



Keep Growing

You have completed 31 days, but a lifelong walk with Jesus is built one day at a time. Keep reading the Bible, praying honestly, gathering with the church, and putting truth into practice.

Growth will not always feel dramatic. Remain faithful in the ordinary moments. When you fail, confess it and return to grace. When you are confused, return to Scripture. When you are discouraged, let other believers walk with you. When God gives you an opportunity to serve, take it.

Consider reading the Gospel of John next, one chapter at a time. Continue using the same pattern: pray, read, observe, apply, and respond.

Most importantly, keep your attention on Jesus. He is not merely the beginning of your faith. He is the One who sustains you, transforms you, and will faithfully lead you home.

Truth rooted in Scripture. Applied to life. One minute at a time.



About Got a Minute?

Got a Minute? exists to help people understand biblical truth and apply it to everyday life. Through short, clear, Christ-centered teaching, we answer questions people are already asking about God, the Bible, faith, salvation, and life.

Our goal is to turn brief moments of attention into lasting spiritual growth and help people become lifelong students and followers of Jesus Christ.

Website: gotamminute.us

Email: questions@gotamminute.us

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