

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The Company You Keep

Devotional

Have you ever noticed how you start picking up the habits, speech patterns, or attitudes of people you spend a lot of time with? Maybe you've caught yourself using your best friend's favorite phrase or adopting your spouse's morning routine. This natural tendency reveals a profound truth: we become like those we walk with.

This principle works in every area of life, including our spiritual journey. When we choose to walk closely with God, something beautiful begins to happen. We don't just receive His company; we start reflecting His character. It's not about trying harder to be good or forcing ourselves to act differently. Instead, it's about proximity and relationship.

Think about Stephen in the book of Acts. He wasn't trying to impress anyone or put on a spiritual show. He simply walked so closely with God that God's presence became evident in his life. People could see something different about him - a peace that didn't make sense, a joy that circumstances couldn't steal, and a love that extended even to his enemies.

The beautiful truth is that God doesn't just walk beside us; He walks through us. When we align our hearts with His, His character begins to shine through our words, actions, and attitudes. Others notice, not because we're trying to be noticed, but because authentic transformation is impossible to hide.

Today, consider who you're walking with most closely. Are you surrounding yourself with influences that draw you closer to God's heart? The people and voices you allow into your life will shape who you become.

Bible Verse

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' - Acts 1:8

Reflection Question

Who are the top three influences in your life right now, and are they drawing you closer to or further from God's character?

Quote

Who you walk with is who you're going to become.

Prayer

Father, help me to be intentional about who I walk with. Draw me closer to You so that Your character becomes more evident in my life. Show me any relationships or influences that might be pulling me away from Your heart, and give me wisdom to make healthy choices. Amen.

Day 2: Reflecting His Glory

Devotional

There's something unmistakable about someone who has been in God's presence. Just as Moses' face glowed after spending time with God on Mount Sinai, people who walk closely with Jesus carry a different kind of light. It's not something they manufacture or fake - it's the natural overflow of time spent with the Source of all light.

When you consistently spend time with Jesus, people begin to notice something different about you. They might not be able to put their finger on it at first, but there's a peace in your eyes, a gentleness in your words, and a hope in your heart that doesn't match your circumstances. You're not trying to be different; you're simply becoming more like the One you're walking with.

This transformation isn't about perfection or having it all together. It's about authenticity - allowing God's character to shine through your humanity. When others are overwhelmed by stress, you have an unexplainable peace. When circumstances would normally steal joy, you find reasons to be grateful. When everyone else is responding with anger, you choose grace.

People notice these differences because they're supernatural. They can't be manufactured through willpower or positive thinking. They're the result of God's Spirit working in and through you as you walk in step with Him.

The beautiful part is that this isn't reserved for pastors or 'super Christians.' Every believer who chooses to walk closely with God will begin to reflect His character. It's not about being perfect; it's about being present with Him and allowing His love to transform you from the inside out.

Bible Verse

'All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.' - Acts 6:15

Reflection Question

What aspects of God's character do you most want to reflect in your daily interactions with others?

Quote

First thing you need to know when you walk with God is that you start to look like God.

Prayer

Lord, I want to reflect Your character in everything I do. Help me spend quality time with You so that Your light shines through me naturally. Transform my heart so that others see You in my words, actions, and attitudes. Make me a reflection of Your love and grace. Amen.

Day 3: Grace Under Pressure

Devotional

How we respond when life gets difficult reveals what's really in our hearts. It's easy to be kind when everyone is kind to us, but what happens when we're misunderstood, criticized, or even attacked? This is where walking with God makes the most profound difference in how we act.

Stephen faced the ultimate test. As stones flew toward him and his life was ending, he could have responded with anger, bitterness, or calls for revenge. Instead, he looked up to heaven and asked God to forgive his attackers. This wasn't natural human behavior - this was God's heart flowing through him.

When we walk closely with God, we begin to act like Him. We respond to hurt with healing, to anger with understanding, and to hatred with love. This doesn't mean we become doormats or that we don't feel pain. It means we choose to respond from God's heart rather than our wounded emotions.

This kind of response is only possible when we're connected to the Source of all grace. We can't manufacture forgiveness for those who hurt us deeply, but God can flow that forgiveness through us. We can't summon supernatural peace in the midst of chaos, but God can give us His peace that surpasses understanding.

The key is staying connected to Him, especially in difficult moments. When pressure comes, our first instinct should be to look up, just as Stephen did. In those moments of connection with God, we find the strength to act like Him rather than react from our flesh.

Bible Verse

'Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.'
- Acts 6:8

Reflection Question

Think of a recent difficult situation - how did you respond, and how might God want you to respond differently next time?

Quote

When you walk with people, God, you start to act like God.

Prayer

God, help me to act like You, especially when life gets hard. When I'm tempted to respond with anger or bitterness, remind me to look to You first. Fill me with Your grace so that I can extend forgiveness and love even to those who hurt me. Let Your heart flow through mine. Amen.

Day 4: Moving with Purpose

Devotional

Every step matters when you're walking with God. What might seem like ordinary moments - a conversation with a coworker, helping a neighbor, or even standing in line at the grocery store - become opportunities for God to work through you. When you walk with God, you begin to move like Him, seeing divine purpose in every interaction.

This shift in perspective changes everything. Instead of seeing people as interruptions to your day, you begin to see them as divine appointments. Rather than viewing challenges as obstacles, you start recognizing them as opportunities for God to show His power. You stop rushing through life and start moving with intentional purpose.

Stephen understood this. He didn't just preach from a platform; he lived his faith in everyday moments. He served tables, cared for widows, and engaged with people who disagreed with him. Every interaction was an opportunity to demonstrate God's love and truth.

When we move like God, we begin to see people as precious rather than projects. We're not trying to fix everyone or force spiritual conversations. Instead, we're simply available for God to love others through us. Sometimes that looks like practical help, sometimes it's a listening ear, and sometimes it's sharing hope in the midst of someone's darkness.

The beautiful truth is that God wants to use your ordinary life for extraordinary purposes. Every relationship, every conversation, and every act of kindness has the potential to impact eternity. When you walk with God, He gives meaning and purpose to every step you take.

Bible Verse

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' - John 10:10

Reflection Question

How can you be more intentional about seeing the people in your daily routine as precious souls rather than just faces in the crowd?

Quote

When you walk with God, you move like God. You start to understand that everything you do has an intentional purpose.

Prayer

Father, help me to move with Your purpose in everything I do. Open my eyes to see the divine appointments You place in my path each day. Help me to treat every person I encounter as precious to You. Use my ordinary moments for Your extraordinary purposes. Amen.

Day 5: Your Turn to Shine

Devotional

Stephen's story didn't end with his death - it was just the beginning. His faithfulness sparked a movement that spread the gospel far beyond Jerusalem. His willingness to walk with God, look like God, act like God, and move like God created ripples that are still impacting lives today. Now it's your turn.

You might think your life is too ordinary or your influence too small to make a difference. But God specializes in using ordinary people for extraordinary purposes. When you choose to walk closely with Him, allowing His character to shine through you, you become part of a movement that's changing the world one heart at a time.

The world desperately needs to see authentic followers of Jesus - people who reflect His love, demonstrate His grace, and move with His purpose. They need to see that following Jesus isn't about perfection; it's about transformation. They need to witness the peace that comes from walking with the Prince of Peace and the joy that flows from knowing the God of all comfort.

This isn't about becoming a preacher or missionary (unless God calls you to that). It's about being a beacon of light wherever you are - in your workplace, your neighborhood, your family, and your community. It's about letting Jesus flow out of you in such a natural way that people can't help but notice something different.

Remember, you can't change hearts - only God can do that. But you can be available for Him to work through you. You can choose to spend time with Jesus so that His character becomes evident in your life. You can decide to walk so closely with Him that His love, grace, and purpose flow through everything you do.

Bible Verse

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' - John 10:10

Reflection Question

What is one specific way you can be a beacon of God's light in your current circumstances this week?

Quote

It's your turn, it's your turn. Go act, go look and go move like Jesus, just like Stephen. Because this world needs to know.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the privilege of walking with You and representing You in this world. Help me to be faithful like Stephen, allowing Your character to shine through my life. Use me to impact others for Your kingdom, and help me never forget that this world needs to see You through me. Give me courage to shine Your light wherever You place me. Amen.