

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: Available, Not Impressive

### Devotional

Have you ever felt like you're not qualified enough to make a difference for God? Maybe you look at others who seem more gifted, more educated, or more experienced and think, "God could never use someone like me." But here's the beautiful truth from Acts 11: God isn't looking for impressive credentials—He's looking for available hearts.

When persecution scattered believers from Jerusalem, these weren't the famous apostles or trained theologians. They were ordinary people—merchants, craftsmen, mothers, fathers—who simply carried hope wherever they went. Yet their willingness to share the gospel with Greeks in Antioch birthed the first truly diverse, globally-minded church in history.

Your workplace, your neighborhood, your school—these aren't random locations. They're your Antioch, the places where the Spirit has scattered you with purpose. You don't need a seminary degree or a platform to make an eternal impact. You just need an open heart and a willingness to let God use your ordinary life for His extraordinary purposes.

Somewhere in your daily routine is someone who is one conversation away from hope, one prayer away from encouragement, one act of kindness away from seeing Jesus more clearly. God isn't waiting for you to become more impressive. He's waiting for you to become more available.

### Bible Verse

'The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.' - Acts 11:21

### Reflection Question

What ordinary moments in your daily routine could become opportunities for God to work through your availability rather than your abilities?

### Quote

God uses people who are available far more than he worries about using people who are impressive.

### Prayer

Lord, help me see that You don't need me to be impressive—You need me to be available. Open my heart to the opportunities You place before me today, and give me courage to step into them with faith. Use my ordinary life for Your extraordinary purposes. Amen.

## Day 2: The Speed of Obedience

### Devotional

There's something powerful about immediate obedience. When the Holy Spirit spoke to the church in Antioch in Acts 13, they didn't form a committee or wait for a more convenient time. They fasted, prayed, and immediately sent Paul and Barnabas on what would become the first intentional missionary journey in church history.

Building on yesterday's truth about availability, we discover that God's movement advances not at the speed of our planning, but at the speed of our obedience. How often do we sense God's prompting but delay our response? We want to think it through, weigh our options, or wait until we feel more prepared.

But the early church shows us a different way. When God speaks, they act. When the Spirit moves, they move. This doesn't mean being reckless—it means being responsive. It means trusting that the God who calls us is the same God who equips us.

You don't have to cross an ocean to be part of God's movement. Sometimes obedience looks like crossing a room to encourage a coworker. Sometimes it's picking up the phone to check on a friend. Sometimes it's saying yes to an opportunity that stretches your faith.

The question isn't whether you're ready for what God is asking. The question is whether you're willing to trust Him with your next step of obedience.

### **Bible Verse**

'While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."' - Acts 13:2

### **Reflection Question**

What is one area where you sense God calling you to immediate obedience, and what's holding you back from taking that step today?

### **Quote**

The movement advances at the speed of obedience.

### **Prayer**

Father, forgive me for the times I've delayed my obedience because of fear or uncertainty. Help me trust that Your timing is perfect and that You will provide everything I need as I step forward in faith. Give me courage to move at the speed of obedience. Amen.

## **Day 3: Refined by Opposition**

### **Devotional**

Paul's missionary journeys weren't exactly vacation trips. In Acts 14, he was stoned and left for dead. Throughout his travels, he faced beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, and constant threats. Yet he never saw opposition as a reason to quit—he saw it as part of the process.

Building on our understanding of availability and obedience, we now encounter a challenging truth: following Jesus often means stepping into uncomfortable and even dangerous situations. Opposition isn't a sign that we're on the wrong path; it's often confirmation that we're exactly where God wants us.

We live in a culture that says, "Do it until it gets hard." But the gospel operates differently. Opposition becomes the very furnace in which our faith is refined and the gospel is launched more deeply into the world. When Paul was imprisoned, he wrote letters that became Scripture. When he was shipwrecked, he ministered to an entire island.

Your opposition might not be physical persecution. It might be criticism at work for your integrity, loneliness for your convictions, or financial pressure for your generosity. But remember: obedience in the face of opposition becomes more than sacrifice—it becomes an investment in something far bigger than ourselves.

God doesn't promise the mission will be safe, but He promises He will not fail. Your faithfulness in difficult moments isn't just about surviving—it's about thriving in ways that only God can orchestrate.

### **Bible Verse**

'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,' they said.' - Acts 14:22

### **Reflection Question**

How might God be using current opposition or difficulty in your life to refine your faith and expand His kingdom through you?

### **Quote**

Opposition is not a signal from God to quit. We live in a world and in a culture where we'll do it till it gets hard. And oftentimes opposition is the very furnace in which the gospel is refined and launched more deeply.

### **Prayer**

Lord, when opposition comes, help me see it through Your eyes. Give me strength to persevere and wisdom to see how You might be using these challenges to refine my faith and advance Your purposes. Help me trust that You are working even in the difficult moments. Amen.

## **Day 4: No Place Too Remote or Influential**

### **Devotional**

Paul's journey took him from small towns to the halls of power. He preached in remote villages and stood before Roman governors. He ministered to slaves and reasoned with kings. The gospel, it turns out, belongs everywhere—from the back roads to the world capitals.

As we've learned about availability, obedience, and perseverance through opposition, we now discover the scope of God's mission. There's no place too remote and no place too influential for the gospel to belong. Whether you're in a small rural community or a major metropolitan area, whether you work with your hands or in corporate boardrooms, God has placed you exactly where He wants you.

Paul's ministry in Acts shows us that the gospel travels. It was never meant to stay put in one location or with one group of people. It was meant to multiply, to move through us to the ends of the earth. Your sphere of influence—however large or small it may seem—is part of this grand movement.

Maybe you feel like your workplace is too secular, your neighborhood too indifferent, or your social circle too resistant. But remember: Paul faced hostile crowds, corrupt officials, and violent opposition, yet the gospel advanced. Your everyday life is sacred ground, and your everyday moments are kingdom moments.

God isn't asking you to change your location—He's asking you to recognize the significance of where you already are.

### **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**

How can you begin to see your current sphere of influence—whether it seems remote or influential—as sacred ground where God wants to work through you?

### **Quote**

There's no place that's too remote and there's no place that's too influential for the Gospel to belong.

### **Prayer**

God, help me see that there's no place too small or too significant for Your gospel. Whether I'm in quiet moments with family or important meetings at work, help me recognize these as opportunities to represent You. Use me right where I am. Amen.

## **Day 5: Your Chapter Begins Now**

### **Devotional**

Acts doesn't end with a period—it ends with a comma. The story isn't finished; it's continuing through you and me. Everything we've learned this week about being available, walking in obedience, persevering through opposition, and recognizing our sphere of influence leads to this moment: your chapter in God's ongoing story begins now.

Paul ends up in Rome, still preaching, still teaching, still advancing the gospel even under house arrest. The book closes not with "The End" but with the understanding that the next chapter would be written by the next generation of believers. That's us.

Every ounce of spiritual life you've ever tasted comes because you have access to the Scriptures, because someone before you was faithful to pass on the Word of God. Now it's your turn. For the movement of God to continue, someone needs to help others hear the word of God. That's where you step in.

You don't need to be an apostle or a trained teacher. You just need to be faithful with what God has given you. Your workplace, your neighborhood, your friendships—these are your mission field. The gospel advances when ordinary believers realize that their everyday life is sacred ground.

God isn't asking for perfection. He's asking for 100% obedience to whatever He shows you next. No pressure, no guilt—just simple listening to the Lord and doing what He tells you. The movement advances at the speed of your obedience.

### **Bible Verse**

'For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.' - Acts 28:30

### **Reflection Question**

As you consider your role in continuing the story of Acts, what is one specific step of obedience God is calling you to take this week?

### **Quote**

Acts doesn't end with a conclusion. It ends with a comma.

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for allowing me to be part of Your ongoing story. Help me see that my life matters in Your kingdom plan. Give me courage to take the next step of obedience You're showing me, trusting that You will use my faithfulness to advance Your gospel. Write Your story through me. Amen.