



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Awakened to Reality

Reading: John 16:4-11

Like passengers asleep on a descending plane, we often live unaware of our spiritual danger. The Holy Spirit comes not to disturb our comfort, but to awaken us to truth. Jesus promised that the Helper would convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment—not to condemn, but to rescue. This conviction is God's grace, opening blind eyes to see both our desperate need and Christ's sufficient provision. When the Spirit reveals your sin, don't run from the guilt. Instead, recognize it as the first step toward freedom. The verdict of "guilty" has already been stamped "paid in full" by Jesus on the cross. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to show you any areas where you've been spiritually asleep, and thank Him for loving you enough to wake you.

Day 2: The Advantage of His Absence

Reading: John 16:7, Acts 2:1-4, 37-41

"It is to your advantage that I go away." These words must have confused the disciples. How could losing Jesus physically be good? Yet Christ's departure made possible something greater—the Holy Spirit dwelling within all believers everywhere. On Pentecost, what Jesus promised became reality. The Spirit fell, Peter preached, and 3,000 were added to the church in a single day. This wasn't human eloquence or clever marketing; it was Spirit-empowered proclamation. Today, you have the same Helper living within you that empowered the early church. Jesus is no longer limited to one location—He is present wherever His people gather and His Word is preached. Reflect on this truth: the Spirit of Christ lives in you. You carry His presence into your workplace, home, and community. How does this reality change how you approach your day?

Day 3: The Courtroom of the Heart

Reading: Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Holy Spirit functions as both prosecutor and defense attorney, depending on your relationship with Christ. For those outside of Christ, He prosecutes, presenting irrefutable evidence of guilt before a holy God. But for believers, He defends, reminding the accuser that we possess Christ's righteousness. This is

the great exchange: Jesus took our sin; we received His righteousness. When you stand before God, you won't present your good deeds or compare yourself to others. Your only plea is Christ's finished work. The gavel has fallen—"guilty"—but Jesus stepped down from the bench and paid your penalty Himself. The verdict now reads "paid in full." Today, when guilt or shame attempts to condemn you, remember: there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Your defense attorney always wins.

Day 4: Guided Into All Truth

Reading: John 16:12-15, Psalm 119:105

In a world where truth seems relative and moral compasses spin wildly, the Holy Spirit serves as our guide into all truth. He doesn't speak on His own authority but reveals what He hears from the Father and Son, always pointing us to Jesus. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture testifies about Christ—predicted in the Old Testament, revealed in the Gospels, preached in Acts, explained in the Epistles, and expected in Revelation. The Spirit inspired these words and now illuminates them in our hearts. We don't need new revelation; we need the Spirit to open our eyes to the truth already given. When you open your Bible, you're not just reading an ancient text—you're encountering the living God through His Spirit-breathed Word. Ask the Holy Spirit today to guide you into deeper understanding of Christ through Scripture. Let His Word be the true north for your wandering heart.

Day 5: Spirit-Empowered Living

Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Galatians 5:16-25

Paul could have impressed people with eloquent speeches and philosophical wisdom, but he chose instead to preach in "weakness and fear and much trembling," relying on the Spirit's power. Why? So that people's faith would rest not in human wisdom but in God's power. This is the essence of Spirit-empowered living—recognizing our complete dependence on Him for everything that matters eternally. You cannot convict anyone of sin, open blind eyes, or raise the spiritually dead. Only the Holy Spirit can do these things. But He invites you to participate in His work. As you walk in step with the Spirit, He produces His fruit in you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Today, surrender your efforts to control outcomes and instead pray, "Holy Spirit, if You don't show up, nothing of eternal value will happen." Then watch Him work through your weakness to display His power.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 16:4-15)

1. How does the image of a plane going down and needing safety instructions help you understand the urgency of the gospel message in your own life?
2. In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit as your helper, advocate, or defense attorney in times of spiritual struggle or persecution?
3. Jesus said it was 'to your advantage' that He go away so the Holy Spirit could come. How would your faith be different if Jesus were still physically present in one location rather than spiritually present everywhere through the Holy Spirit?
4. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin as a prosecutor rather than just making people feel guilty? How does this change your understanding of conviction?
5. Pastor Nick describes people wanting to 'stay asleep' rather than face the reality of their sin and need for salvation. What keeps people spiritually asleep in today's culture?
6. How does understanding that all of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation points to Jesus change the way you read and apply the Bible?
7. Paul said his preaching was 'not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.' Why is it important that faith rests in God's power rather than human wisdom or eloquence?
8. If you were to stand before God today as judge, would you try to defend yourself with good works, or would you rely solely on Christ's righteousness? What does your honest answer reveal about where you're placing your trust?
9. Pastor Nick mentions that Christianity is 'in opposition to the world' and persecution should not surprise us. How are you preparing yourself and your family for potential persecution as cultural tensions increase?
10. When you take communion, do you truly reflect on the 'paid in full' verdict that Jesus secured through His death, or has it become routine? How can you restore a sense of wonder at the great exchange of your sin for His righteousness?



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 16:4-15)

Key Takeaways:

1. The Holy Spirit was given for our good and God's glory
2. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin
3. The Holy Spirit guides believers into all truth

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit "convicts" the world? How is this different from simply "feeling guilty"?
2. The sermon mentioned three things the Holy Spirit convicts concerning: sin, righteousness, and judgment (verses 9-11). Can someone explain each of these in their own words?
3. The sermon stated: "All of Scripture points to Jesus." How does this truth affect the way you read the Old Testament? Can you think of examples?
4. Jesus said the Holy Spirit "will guide you into all truth" (v. 13). In what areas of your life do you need the Holy Spirit's guidance right now?
5. How would you explain the "great exchange" (Jesus took our sin; we receive His righteousness) to someone who's never heard it?
6. Have you ever experienced a moment when you suddenly became aware of spiritual danger or the seriousness of eternity? What awakened you?
7. Share about a time when you felt the Holy Spirit convicting you of sin. How did you respond? What was the outcome?
8. The sermon emphasized that the Holy Spirit doesn't just make us "feel bad" but renders a verdict of guilty before a holy God. How does understanding this legal aspect of conviction change your view of the gospel?
9. Paul said his preaching was "not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Corinthians 2:4). When have you seen the Holy Spirit work powerfully despite human weakness?
10. Pastor Nick confessed his dependence on the Holy Spirit every time he preaches. How can you cultivate this same dependence in your daily life and service?