

2026-01-18 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Game Face Faith

Day 1: Bold Witness in the Face of Opposition

Reading: Acts 4:23-31

Devotional: The early church didn't pray for safety—they prayed for boldness. After facing threats, they asked God to enable them to speak with "mega boldness" and perform signs in Jesus' name. Their prayer shook the building, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. What would change in your life if you stopped praying for comfort and started praying for courage? The disciples understood that following Jesus meant accepting hardship, not avoiding it. They kept their heads in the game because they knew the real victory wasn't in earthly safety but in faithfully representing Christ. Today, ask God for boldness to speak His word regardless of the cost.

Reflection Question: What situation in your life requires you to pray for boldness rather than escape?

Day 2: Obedience Over Popularity

Reading: Acts 5:27-32

Devotional: "We must obey God rather than men." Peter's simple declaration reveals the core of authentic faith. The apostles had been arrested, threatened, and beaten, yet they returned to the very place that got them in trouble—teaching about Jesus. They understood that obedience to God isn't conditional on human approval or personal safety. The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Him. How often do we say "I'll pray about it" when God has already made His will clear in Scripture? True discipleship means doing what God says, when He says it, regardless of consequences. Your obedience might not make sense to others, but it makes all the difference to God.

Reflection Question: Is there an area where you're choosing human

approval over divine obedience?

Day 3: Rejoicing Through Suffering

Reading: Acts 5:40-42

Devotional: After being flogged—a punishment that could kill—the apostles left "rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name." This seems insane by worldly standards, but it reveals a kingdom perspective. They understood that persecution wasn't defeat; it was a badge of honor. Jesus promised that when we're persecuted for His sake, great is our reward in heaven. The scoreboard in God's kingdom looks different than ours. We think we're winning when everything goes smoothly, but God sees victory in faithfulness through hardship. These men kept their heads in the game because they knew the real championship celebration happens in eternity.

Reflection Question: How does your response to difficulty reveal what you truly believe about heaven?

Day 4: Divine Power in Human Weakness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Devotional: Paul describes believers as "jars of clay" containing treasure—the surpassing power of God in fragile human vessels. We're pressed but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, struck down but not destroyed. This isn't positive thinking; it's resurrection reality. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead works in us. When people see us endure what should break us, they witness something beyond human strength. That's the point. We're not called to be superhuman, but to reveal the divine. Changed people change people, but unchanged "Christians" just have religion. The world doesn't need to see you be strong; they need to see Christ be strong in your weakness.

Reflection Question: Where in your life is God's power most evident through

your weakness?

Day 5: Keeping Your Head in the Game

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional: We're surrounded by witnesses who finished their race faithfully. Now it's our turn. The writer urges us to throw off everything that hinders and run with perseverance, fixing our eyes on Jesus. Keeping your head in the game means maintaining focus on Christ regardless of the score, the opposition, or the pain. Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him"—He saw beyond the suffering to the victory. We lose heart when we focus on temporary circumstances instead of eternal realities. The game isn't over when you're behind; it's over when you quit. Don't lose heart. The championship celebration is coming, and every faithful step counts toward rewards you can't yet imagine.

Reflection Question: What needs to be "thrown off" so you can run your race more effectively for Christ?

Weekly Challenge: This week, identify one area where fear has kept you from bold obedience. Pray specifically for "mega boldness" and take one concrete step of faith, trusting that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. Remember: you're not playing for earthly applause but for eternal rewards.