

2026-01-25 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Devotional: The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength

Day 1: Running the Play God Calls

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional: We face a daily choice: play it safe or run the play God calls. The sermon reminds us that faith means not just kicking field goals but running it into the end zone—giving our full effort for God's kingdom. Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before him," looking beyond present suffering to future victory. He saw you and me, knowing His sacrifice would rescue humanity. Today, ask yourself: Am I punting when God wants me to run? Living in the moment with Christ transforms obstacles into opportunities. When we stop playing it safe and extend ourselves for His kingdom, we discover that God rewards faithfulness in ways we never imagined. What "play" is God calling you to run today?

Day 2: Leaping for Joy in the Spirit

Reading: Luke 1:39-45

Devotional: Before John the Baptist was even born, he leaped for joy in his mother's womb at the presence of Jesus. Filled with the Holy Spirit from conception, he recognized divine presence when Mary entered the room. This remarkable moment reveals that joy isn't circumstantial—it's spiritual. The Holy Spirit empowers us to experience joy even when situations look bleak. We often limit the Spirit's work in our lives, thinking joy only comes from favorable circumstances. But true joy comes from recognizing God's presence regardless of our situation. The world sees our circumstances; the Spirit sees God's purposes. Today, invite the Holy Spirit to awaken joy within you that transcends your current challenges. Let Him fuel your heart with divine perspective.

Day 3: Blessed in Unlikely Places

Reading: Luke 6:20-23

Devotional: Jesus turned worldly wisdom upside down: blessed are the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the persecuted. He even said to "leap for joy" when people hate and exclude you because of Him. This defies human logic, yet reveals kingdom truth. Our blessing isn't found in comfort but in covenant relationship with God. When we process life through earthly eyes, we see only loss and hardship. But when we view circumstances through heaven's lens, we discover that what the enemy intends for harm, God redeems for good. Like Joseph in chains who eventually wore Pharaoh's gold, our present struggles may be pathways to future purpose. Don't let current difficulties define your joy. Your name is written in heaven—that's reason enough to rejoice.

Day 4: The Seed That Produces Joy

Reading: Luke 8:11-15

Devotional: God's Word is living seed that produces different results depending on the soil of our hearts. Some receive it with joy initially but fall away when tested. Others let worries, riches, and pleasures choke it out. But those with noble hearts retain the Word and persevere—producing abundant crops through joyful endurance. The key isn't just hearing God's Word but holding onto it intentionally, especially when circumstances tempt us to doubt. Joy becomes our strength when we anchor ourselves in Scripture rather than situations. The devil wants to steal the seed before it takes root; he wants to replace joy with frustration and fear. Today, examine your heart's soil. Are you retaining God's Word with perseverance? Let Scripture be the seed that grows unshakeable joy within you.

Day 5: Sacred Strength Through Holy Joy

Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Devotional: When the exiled Israelites heard God's Word read from dawn until noon, they stood the entire time, lifted their hands, said "Amen," and

put their faces to the ground in worship. The Word cut their hearts, and they wept—but then came the command: "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." After genuine repentance comes divine restoration. God doesn't want us stuck in perpetual mourning but moving into celebration of His faithfulness. The people went from weeping to feasting, sharing with those who had nothing. Their joy wasn't denial of past failure but confidence in present covenant. When we humble ourselves before God, He lifts us up and fills us with strength-giving joy. Today, let God's Word both convict and comfort you. Receive His joy as supernatural strength for whatever you're facing.