

12-28-25 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Living Authentically in God's Grace

Day 1: New Mercies Every Morning

Reading: Lamentations 3:22-26

Devotional: God's compassions never fail—they are new every morning. What a profound truth to begin our journey! We are not consumed by our failures because of the Lord's great love. As you reflect on the past year, remember that God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve. His faithfulness is great, offering fresh mercy with each sunrise. Today, consider what mistakes or regrets you're carrying from yesterday, last month, or last year. God invites you to release them and receive His new compassion. This isn't permission to continue in sin, but freedom to move forward in His grace. Let this truth settle deep: you are loved not because of your performance, but because of His character. How will you embrace His fresh mercy today?

Day 2: The Indescribable Gift

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:15; John 3:16

Devotional: Paul calls salvation "the indescribable gift"—and rightfully so. How do you adequately describe God packaging Himself in human flesh, dying for our rebellion, and conquering death? This gift is indescribable not just in how it was given, but in what it demands: reception and relationship. Many believe in God but never truly surrender to Jesus. The gift sits unopened. Today, examine your relationship with Christ. Have you merely acknowledged His existence, or have you truly invited Him to take the wheel of your life? Salvation isn't a one-time transaction but an ongoing transformation. The Holy Spirit didn't enter you to sit idle but to work through you, cleaning up remaining dirt and empowering you to share this indescribable gift with others. What would full surrender look like in your life today?

Day 3: Unified Hearts and Open Hands

Reading: Acts 4:32-37

Devotional: The early church experienced something extraordinary: unity of heart and mind so profound that no one claimed their possessions as their own. This wasn't mandated communism but voluntary generosity flowing from transformed hearts. Barnabas, the "son of encouragement," exemplified this spirit by selling property and laying the proceeds at the apostles' feet—not for recognition, but from genuine love. Consider your relationship with your possessions. Do you see yourself as an owner or a steward? God gave you the ability to produce wealth, but for what purpose? The early believers understood that meeting needs mattered more than accumulating wealth. Today, ask God to reveal one area where you're holding too tightly. What would it look like to have "everything in common" with your church family? Start with trust, then move toward generosity.

Day 4: The Danger of Deception

Reading: Acts 5:1-11; John 8:44

Devotional: Ananias and Sapphira's story confronts us uncomfortably. They wanted the appearance of generosity without the sacrifice. Peter's words cut to the heart: "You have not lied to men but to God." Satan had filled their hearts, transforming what could have been a beautiful gift into deadly deception. The issue wasn't keeping back money—Peter confirmed the property and proceeds were theirs to do with as they pleased. The sin was lying about it, pretending complete surrender while holding back. Where are you pretending? We've all mastered the art of looking more spiritual than we are. Maybe it's about money, maybe about forgiveness you claim but haven't given, or commitment you've announced but haven't lived. God knows our hearts and minds. Today, choose brutal honesty with God. Confess where you've been pretending. His grace is sufficient for truth.

Day 5: Demolishing Strongholds

Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Devotional: Paul reminds us that though we live in this world, we don't fight with worldly weapons. Our battle is spiritual, requiring divine power to demolish strongholds—those concrete mindsets contrary to God's Word. What strongholds have you built? Perhaps it's unforgiveness you've justified, a lifestyle choice you've rationalized, or a belief system inherited from family rather than tested against Scripture. These strongholds limit God's blessing and keep us from experiencing full freedom in Christ. As you step into this new year, commit to examining your beliefs through the lens of God's Word rather than tradition or personal preference. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you've been wrong, where you need to surrender, where you need to trust. True freedom comes when we demolish these strongholds and replace them with God's truth. What concrete mindset is God asking you to surrender today?

Reflection Questions for the Week:

How has God shown you fresh mercy this week?

What does full surrender to Christ look like in your specific circumstances?

Where might you be pretending spiritually rather than living authentically?

What stronghold is God inviting you to demolish with His truth?

How will you make your life a testimony to God's transforming power in 2026?