



Hilton Head Island
community church

“What’s Next, God?” - Devotional Guide

Day 1: Breaking Free from Yesterday's Victories

Devotional

Have you ever found yourself scrolling through old photos, reliving moments that felt perfect? There's something comforting about revisiting times when everything seemed to click. In our spiritual lives, we can fall into a similar pattern - constantly looking back at seasons when God felt close, when prayers were answered quickly, or when our faith felt unshakeable.

While remembering God's faithfulness is important, there's a danger in becoming so fixated on yesterday's victories that we miss today's opportunities. When we camp out in past experiences, we risk missing the fresh work God wants to do in our lives right now.

Think about it: if you're always looking in the rearview mirror while driving, you'll miss the road ahead and likely crash. The same is true spiritually. God's past performance absolutely indicates His future ability, but He rarely works in exactly the same way twice.

Maybe you're in a season where God feels distant, where the old ways of connecting with Him aren't working like they used to. Instead of trying harder to recreate yesterday's experience, what if God is inviting you into something new? What if He's preparing you for a breakthrough that requires you to step beyond the familiar?

God honors our past experiences with Him, but He refuses to be confined by them. He's always moving, always creating, always doing something fresh. The question isn't whether God is working - it's whether we're paying attention to where He's working now.

Bible Verse: Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.' - Isaiah 43:18-19

Reflection Question: What past spiritual experience are you holding onto so tightly that it might be preventing you from seeing what God wants to do in your life today?

Quote: I think there are times in the life of a Christ follower where we are so fixated on what God did yesterday that we fail to see where he's working today, and we fail to have a vision for what he might do tomorrow.

Prayer: God, help me to treasure the ways You've worked in my past without becoming trapped by them. Open my eyes to see the new things You're doing in my life right now. Give me the courage to step beyond the familiar and trust You for what's next. Amen.

Day 2: The Danger of Spiritual Comfort Zones

Devotional

Comfort zones are tricky things. They feel safe and predictable, but they can also become prisons that keep us from experiencing the fullness of what God has for us. In our spiritual lives, we often create comfort zones around the ways we've experienced God in the past.

Maybe your comfort zone is a particular style of worship, a specific way of praying, or even a certain church pew where you always sit. These aren't bad things, but when we become so attached to them that we resist any change, we might be limiting what God wants to do in our lives.

The Israelites in exile faced this exact challenge. They had experienced God's power in dramatic ways - the parting of the Red Sea, manna from heaven, water from rocks. These were incredible miracles that demonstrated God's faithfulness. But now, in a foreign land, God was preparing to work differently. He wasn't going to repeat the exact same miracles; He was going to do something new.

The danger wasn't that they didn't believe God could work - it was that they wanted Him to work in the same familiar ways. They were comfortable with the God of the Red Sea but uncertain about the God who might work through different means.

Sometimes God allows our old methods to lose their effectiveness not because He's abandoned us, but because He wants to expand our understanding of who He is. When the familiar stops working, it might be His invitation to discover new dimensions of His character and power.

God is not confined by our expectations or limited by our past experiences. He's infinitely creative and always ready to surprise us with His goodness.

Bible Verse: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." - Matthew 6:10

Reflection Question: What spiritual 'comfort zone' might God be asking you to step out of so you can experience more of who He is?

Quote: The danger wasn't that Israel didn't believe that God had worked. It was that they believed that he would work, but they wanted him to do it the same way again.

Prayer: Father, I confess that I sometimes try to put You in a box based on how You've worked before. Help me to trust You enough to step out of my comfort zones. Expand my understanding of who You are and how You work. May Your kingdom come in new ways in my life. Amen.

Day 3: Caught Between Memory and Hope

Devotional

There's a space between remembering and hoping that can become a spiritual no-man's land. It's the place where we're no longer living in past victories but haven't yet stepped into future possibilities. We get stuck in this in-between space, neither fully grateful for what was nor expectant for what could be. This middle ground might feel safe, but it's actually a place where we can miss the Spirit of God speaking into our lives. When we're caught between memory and hope, we're often paralyzed by uncertainty, afraid to let go of what we know but equally afraid to reach for what we don't.

Maybe you're in this place right now. You remember seasons when God felt close and your faith was strong, but you're not sure what to expect moving forward. The old ways of connecting with God don't seem to work like they used to, but you haven't discovered new ways yet.

This in-between space, while uncomfortable, is actually where transformation happens. It's where God often does His deepest work in our hearts. But to experience this transformation, we have to be willing to move - to take steps from memory toward hope.

Moving from memory to hope requires courage because it means releasing our grip on what we can control and trusting God with what we can't. It means being willing to experience some discomfort as we learn new ways of walking with Him.

God doesn't want us to forget His faithfulness, but He also doesn't want us to limit our future to our past. He's calling us to step forward in faith, trusting that His best work in our lives might still be ahead of us.

Bible Verse: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah 43:18-19

Reflection Question: How might God be inviting you to move from simply remembering His past faithfulness to actively hoping and expecting His future work in your life?

Quote: I think sometimes we get stuck between. Between memory and hope, and we kind of stay in that place. And I think that place can be a place where we miss the spirit of God speaking into our lives.

Prayer: Lord, I don't want to get stuck between memory and hope. Help me to treasure Your past faithfulness while stepping boldly into the future You have for me. Give me courage to move forward even when I can't see the whole path ahead. I trust that You're doing something new. Amen.

Day 4: From Survival to Anticipation

Devotional

There's a significant difference between surviving and thriving in our spiritual lives. Survival mode keeps us focused on just getting through each day, maintaining the status quo, and avoiding spiritual risks. But God calls us to something much greater - a life of anticipation and expectancy. When we're in survival mode, we tend to hold tightly to whatever spiritual stability we have.

We might go through the motions of faith - attending church, reading our Bibles, saying prayers - but we're not really expecting God to do anything transformative. We're just trying to maintain what we have. But what if God wants to move us from survival to anticipation? What if He wants us to expect that He's actively working in our lives, preparing something beautiful that we can't yet see? Anticipation changes everything. When we anticipate God's work, we start looking for signs of His movement. We become more aware of His presence in everyday moments. We begin to see possibilities instead of just problems.

Moving from survival to anticipation requires us to release our grip on control. It means opening our hands and hearts to whatever God wants to do, even if it's different from what we expected. It means being willing to let go of spiritual nostalgia and embrace spiritual expectancy. This shift doesn't happen overnight, and it often involves some discomfort. God might push us out of familiar patterns and into new territories where we have to depend on Him more fully. But this is where spiritual breakthrough happens - when we trust God enough to do something completely new in our lives. God is continually doing something new, but we can overlook it if we're stuck in survival mode, only clinging to what He has done in the past.

Bible Verse: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." - Matthew 6:10

Reflection Question: In what areas of your spiritual life have you been in 'survival mode,' and how might God be calling you to move into a posture of anticipation and expectancy?

Quote: To move from that place of nostalgia to expectancy, to expecting God to do something. To move from a place of just survival to a place where anticipating that God is going to do something and that he is doing something.

Prayer: God, I don't want to just survive spiritually - I want to thrive in relationship with You. Move me from a place of just getting by to a place of expecting great things from You. Help me to anticipate Your work in my life and to be open to the new things You want to do. Amen.

Day 5: Pursuing His Presence for What's Next

Sometimes the answer we're looking for isn't found in getting what we want from God, but in pursuing God Himself. When we're desperate to know what's next in our lives, our natural tendency is to seek specific answers, clear directions, and detailed plans. But what if the pursuit itself is the answer? Pursuing God's presence changes our perspective on everything. Instead of demanding that He reveal His entire plan, we learn to trust Him one step at a time. Instead of trying to control outcomes, we focus on staying close to Him. Instead of grasping for certainty, we find peace in His character.

This kind of pursuit requires us to ask honest questions: What am I holding onto that's keeping me from You, God? What do I need to release my grip on? These aren't easy questions because they often reveal areas where we've been trying to maintain control instead of trusting God. Maybe you're holding onto a specific vision of how your life should unfold. Maybe you're clinging to past successes or afraid of future failures. Maybe you've become comfortable with spiritual mediocrity and need to be stirred up again.

When we pursue God's presence with open hands and expectant hearts, amazing things happen. We discover that He's been working all along, even when we couldn't see it. We find that His plans are often better than anything we could have imagined. We learn that the journey with Him is just as important as the destination.

God has something incredible in store for those who seek Him wholeheartedly. But we'll miss it if we're too busy trying to recreate yesterday's experiences or control tomorrow's outcomes. The invitation is simple but profound: pursue His presence, and trust Him for what's next.

Bible Verse: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah 43:18-19

Reflection Question: What would it look like for you to pursue God's presence rather than pursuing specific outcomes, and what might you need to release in order to do this wholeheartedly?

Quote: I believe if we pursue the presence of God, if we pursue him and answering that question, what's next God? We are going to find him and he is going to do something amazing in our midst.

Prayer: Father, I want to pursue Your presence above all else. Help me to release my grip on the things I think I need and to trust You completely for what's next. Open my hands and my heart to receive whatever You have for me. I believe You're doing something new, and I want to be part of it. Amen.