

## Get in the Game: Activate Church Participation

### Living Faith in Action

#### Daily Devotional for January 20: Beyond Belief to Action

*Reading: James 2:14-26*

James the Just, who spent so much time in prayer that his knees developed calluses, understood something profound: faith without works is dead. It's not enough to simply identify as a Christian or attend church occasionally. True faith transforms how we live every single day. When we claim to follow Christ but fail to demonstrate that faith through our actions, we've missed the essence of the Gospel. Today, examine your life honestly. Are you living out your faith, or merely professing it? The world is watching how Christians behave in grocery stores, on golf courses, and in everyday interactions. Your faith should be visible not just on Sunday mornings, but in every moment. Consider one specific way you can demonstrate your faith through action today—perhaps through prayer for someone in need, a generous gift, or a word of encouragement. Let your works authenticate your beliefs.

#### Daily Devotional for January 21: Remembering Your Identity

*Reading: Romans 6:1-14*

Your baptism marked you as God's beloved child, sealed by the Holy Spirit. But how often do you remember this identity as you navigate daily life? The early church understood that baptism wasn't just a one-time event but a daily reality to be lived out. When you face challenges, when you're tempted to respond in anger, when you encounter someone in need—do you remember who you are? You are a representative of Christ in this world, carrying the presence of the Holy Spirit wherever you go. This isn't about perfection; it's about awareness. Today, practice remembering your baptism in specific moments. Before entering a difficult conversation, pause and recall that you belong to God. When making decisions, remember that the Holy Spirit dwells within you. Let this identity shape your choices, your words, and your interactions. You are never alone, never without divine guidance.

#### Daily Devotional for January 22: The Gathering Matters

*Reading: Hebrews 10:19-25*

The statistics are sobering: church attendance continues to decline, with 3,500 people leaving congregations daily. Yet Scripture is clear—we are not to forsake gathering together, especially as we see challenges increasing. Weekly worship isn't optional for spiritual health; it's essential. When you gather with fellow believers, something supernatural happens. You're formed and shaped by Scripture, challenged by preaching, encouraged by community, and nourished at Christ's table. These aren't empty rituals but means of grace that recalibrate your soul. Consider how worship has changed you over time. Have you allowed it to form you, or have you merely attended? This week, approach worship with fresh intentionality. Engage fully with the hymns, open your heart to the message, participate wholeheartedly in communion. Encourage someone else to join you. The church needs your presence, and you need the church. Your faithful attendance matters more than you realize.

## **Daily Devotional for January 23: Generosity as Worship**

### ***Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15***

One of the top reasons people leave church is the perception that it's "too focused on money." Yet the uncomfortable truth remains: churches exist because of faithful giving. The question isn't whether churches should talk about money, but whether we understand giving as worship. Your financial gifts aren't paying dues or keeping an institution afloat—they're expressions of faith, declarations of trust in God's provision, and investments in Kingdom work. When you give, you're saying, "God, I believe you'll provide for my needs, and I want to participate in what you're doing in this world." Consider your giving patterns. Are you generous or grudging? Do you give from your abundance or your firstfruits? Today, examine your heart toward giving. If you've been withholding, ask God to reveal why. If you've been faithful, thank Him for the privilege of partnership. Remember: you can't out-give God, and your generosity enables ministry that changes lives.

## **Daily Devotional for January 24: Invitation as Mission**

### ***Reading: John 4:28-42***

The average United Methodist invites someone to church once every 27 years. Yet the Samaritan woman at the well couldn't contain her encounter with Jesus—she immediately invited her entire town to "come and see." What's the difference? She experienced transformation and wanted others to experience it too. When was the last time you invited someone to church? Not out of obligation, but from genuine excitement about what God is doing? The younger generation—Gen Z and millennials—are spiritually hungry, seeking authentic community and meaningful engagement. They want to make a difference in their communities. Your invitation might be exactly what someone needs. Today, pray for three people who don't attend church regularly. Ask God to give you an opportunity and courage to invite them. Share what worship means to you, how it's shaped your life. Don't just invite them to a service; invite them into a relationship with a community that's seeking to follow Jesus together. Your witness matters.