

5-Day Devotional: The Way of a Disciple

From Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025

Pastor Andrew

Day 1: The Journey Begins with Surrender

Reading: Philippians 3:7-9

Devotional:

Paul's radical declaration—counting everything as garbage compared to knowing Christ—challenges our modern attachments. What do we consider valuable? Career success? Financial security? Social status? Paul had impressive credentials, yet he released them all for the "infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus."

This isn't about despising good things, but about proper ordering. When Christ becomes our ultimate treasure, everything else finds its rightful place. Discipleship begins with this surrender—not a one-time decision, but a daily choosing. Today, ask yourself: What am I gripping too tightly? What would it look like to loosen my hold and reach for Jesus instead? True freedom comes not from acquiring more, but from releasing everything to gain Christ.

Day 2: The Humility of "Not Yet"

Reading: Philippians 3:12-14

Devotional:

After three decades of faithful ministry, Paul's confession is stunning: "I have not achieved it." There's profound freedom in these words. We don't have to pretend we've arrived. We don't have to project spiritual maturity we haven't attained.

The Christian life isn't about perfection; it's about direction. Paul models both humility and hunger—acknowledging his incompleteness while pressing forward with focus. This removes the exhausting pressure to appear further along than we are. It also frees us from the paralysis of past failures. "Forgetting what is behind" doesn't mean denying our history, but refusing to let it define our future.

Today, embrace where you actually are in your journey. Acknowledge growth areas without shame. Then, with renewed focus, press on toward Christ.

Day 3: Eternity Changes Everything

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:11; James 4:14

Devotional:

"He has planted eternity in the human heart." This changes how we view our lifelong discipleship journey. What feels exhausting in temporal terms becomes manageable when viewed through eternal lenses. This life—with all its struggles and growth—is merely the first breath of an endless existence.

James calls life "a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." Not to diminish its importance, but to expand our perspective. We're already living in eternity; we're just in the infant stages. The perseverance required for discipleship doesn't seem so daunting when we realize these decades are preparation for forever.

This perspective transforms suffering, waiting, and the slow work of transformation. What feels interminable now will one day seem momentary. Let this eternal reality fuel your perseverance today.

Day 4: Multiplication, Not Just Addition

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:2

Devotional:

Four generations in one verse: Paul, Timothy, trustworthy people, and others. This is God's multiplication plan. The faith isn't meant to stop with us—it's designed to flow through us to others.

Where are you in this verse? If you're exploring faith, you're among "the others," and we're honored you're considering Jesus. If you've surrendered to Christ, you're among "the trustworthy people"—not because you're perfect, but because you're His. And that means you're called to influence others toward Jesus.

This isn't about formal teaching or having all the answers. It's about sharing life while pointing to Christ. Who has God placed in your path? A neighbor? Coworker? Family member? Discipleship multiplication happens through ordinary people taking simple, faithful steps.

Today, pray for one person by name. Ask God how you might influence them toward Jesus.

Day 5: The Beauty Along the Trail

Reading: Psalm 103:1-5, 8

Devotional:

On steep trails, we focus on roots and rocks to avoid falling. But if we never look up, we miss the beauty around us. Discipleship requires both—watching our steps while regularly lifting our eyes.

The Psalmist models this balance: acknowledging God's compassion, grace, and steadfast love while navigating life's challenges. He doesn't ignore the rugged terrain, but neither does he miss God's goodness along the way.

As you continue your discipleship journey, practice both attentiveness and awareness. Be honest about struggles and growth areas. But also pause regularly to see what God has done, where He's brought you from, and the beauty of His presence with you now.

The trail continues beyond this series, beyond this year. You haven't arrived—none of us have. But you're not alone, and you're not without direction. Press on with perseverance. Look up with gratitude. And bring others along the way.