



Devotions for September 20-27, 2025

"Living the Covenant Together"

"Why Church?" Series, Week 2

DAY 1 – Christ, the Head of the Church

Scripture—*"He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'" – Matthew 16:15-18*

Reflection—The church begins and ends with Jesus. It is His church, His mission, and His body. While we sometimes think of the church as a building or an organization, Jesus calls it a living, Spirit-filled community centered on Him.

When we confess Christ as Lord, we are confessing that He alone is the head of the church — not leaders, traditions, or programs. Our calling is to submit to His leadership and trust that He is actively building His church, even when circumstances look uncertain.

Consider—

- What fears or challenges do you see facing the church today, and how does Jesus' promise that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" encourage you to trust Him?
- How does knowing Jesus is the head of the church give you hope for the church's future?

Prayer—*"Jesus, thank You that You are the head of the church. Teach me to trust Your leadership and follow where You lead."*

DAY 2 – Living the Covenant Together

Scripture—*"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." – Ephesians 4:1-3*

Reflection—When we become part of a local church, we are making a covenant with one another. At Jacob's Well, that covenant includes loving and accepting each other, bearing one another's burdens, forgiving freely, and seeking unity.

This isn't just about church attendance — it's about being a spiritual family. Living out this covenant is challenging because it calls us to humility, patience, and grace. But it is through these relationships that we display Christ's love to the world.

Consider—

- Which core value (Love and accept one another, bear one another's burdens, correct one another and be open to correction, forgive one another, seek to build unity of the body, follow and respect our leaders) jumps out at you most and why?
- How might God be calling you to take a step toward deeper connection and commitment in your church family?

Prayer—*"Lord, thank You for placing me in a spiritual family. Help me to live out my covenant with humility, patience, and love."*

DAY 3 – Bearing With and Forgiving One Another

Scriptures—*"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." – 1 Peter 4:8*

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." – Galatians 6:2

Reflection—Church life can be messy. People will disappoint us, and we will disappoint others. This is why Scripture repeatedly calls us to bear with one another, forgive each other, and even lovingly correct each other when necessary.

When we forgive, we reflect the heart of Christ, who forgave us fully and freely. When we carry each other's burdens, we demonstrate what it means to be the body of Christ in action. These practices are not optional; they are essential to spiritual maturity and community health.

Consider—

- Is there someone you need to forgive, or a burden you could help someone carry this week?
- How might practicing forgiveness and support help you grow spiritually?

Prayer—*"Jesus, thank You for forgiving me completely. Help me to forgive others and carry their burdens with grace and love."*

DAY 4 – Growing as One Body on Mission

Scripture—*"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."* – Ephesians 4:15-16

Reflection—The church is not just a family — it's also a mission team. God gives the church leaders, teachers, and shepherds to equip every believer to do the work of ministry. When each part of the body is healthy and active, the whole church grows in love and strength. Our mission is clear: to share the gospel, make disciples, and bring Christ's love to our local community and the world. When we live on mission together, we experience the joy of being part of God's plan to redeem and restore all things.

Consider—

- What gifts has God given you to serve the church and its mission?
- How can you take a step this week to serve, share, or build up the body of Christ?

Prayer—*"Lord, thank You for giving me a role in Your mission. Help me to serve faithfully so that the church may grow in love and maturity."*

DAY 5 – The Church Sent Into the World

Scripture—*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* – Matthew 28:19-20

Reflection—The church exists for the glory of God and the good of the world. Our covenant at Jacob's Well includes a shared commitment to bring the gospel to the Chippewa Valley and beyond. This is not just the job of pastors or missionaries — every believer is called to be a witness. As we go into our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and even across the globe, we represent Christ. The church gathered is a place of worship and equipping, but the church scattered is how the world encounters Jesus through us.

Consider—

- Where has God placed you to be a witness of His love and truth?
- What step can you take this week to share the gospel through words or actions?

Prayer—*"Jesus, send me into the world as Your representative. Give me boldness to share Your good news and love people like You do."*