

5 Day Devotional for the week of September 7, 2025

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We'll explore Pastor Jeff's message about the power of forgiveness, reconciliation, and maintaining a heart of love in our relationships.

Day 1 Monday

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Forgiveness is one of the core tenets of our faith. Pastor Jeff highlighted that it is not just a suggestion but a command. It is a path to freedom that aligns us with God's will. Holding onto bitterness only poisons our spirit and separates us from the joy of our salvation. In the sermon, we learned that true healing comes when we let go and let God take control.

Our walk with God involves exercising forgiveness, not as a sign of weakness, but as an act of strength. When we forgive, we participate in God's grace, extending to us even before we knew to ask for it. This first day invites us to reflect on where we might be withholding forgiveness, and what it might look like to take the first step toward reconciliation.

- Who do I need to forgive today, and how can I take a step toward that?
- How has unforgiveness affected my relationship with God and others?
- What can I learn from Jesus' example of forgiveness?
- Pray for the strength and willingness to forgive those who have hurt you.
- Ask God to reveal any areas of bitterness in your heart that need healing.

Day 2 Tuesday

Matthew 18:15-17 ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister^[a] sins,^[b] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'^[c] ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

In Pastor Jeff's sermon, a key point was the biblical approach to conflict resolution. When offended, our instinct may be to retreat or lash out, but Christ calls us to confront our issues head-on with love and grace. Going directly to the person who has wronged us can be intimidating but is essential for healing and restoration.

When we address our conflicts in a Christ-like manner, we open the door to deeper understanding and unity. This aligns us with the words of Jesus, fostering a community grounded in truth and forgiveness. Day 2 challenges us to consider how we can embody this approach in our everyday interactions.

- When have I avoided conflict resolution, and what was the outcome?
- What steps can I take to practice direct and loving confrontation?
- How does addressing conflict influence my spiritual growth?
- Pray for courage and wisdom in addressing conflicts with love.
- Ask God to help you see others through His eyes, fostering compassion and understanding.

Day 3 Wednesday

Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

Pastor Jeff spoke about restoring those who have stumbled with a spirit of gentleness. This echoes the call to be not only our brother's keeper but also their encourager. When we restore someone, we participate in God's redemptive work, reminding them—and ourselves—of the grace we have received.

The church is meant to be a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints. On this day, we reflect on how we can be instruments of God's healing by lifting others up rather than condemning them. Let's commit to being voices of grace and encouragement in a world quick to judge.

- How can I better support my brothers and sisters in their walk with Christ?
- What are some ways I can offer grace to someone in need?
- How does restoring others contribute to my own spiritual growth?
- Pray for a gentle heart that seeks to lift others up.
- Ask God to show you who in your community needs support and encouragement.

Day 4 Thursday

Colossians 3:12-14 ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the

Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Choosing to clothe ourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience shapes our interactions and relationships. As Pastor Jeff highlighted, doing so fosters the bond of love, which leads to perfection and unity within the body of Christ. This divine wardrobe is not just for sporadic occasions but for daily living.

In a world that often encourages self-centeredness, we are called to live counter-culturally. Our actions should echo the heartbeat of God, reflecting His love in every facet of our lives. On Day 4, meditate on how putting on these virtues can transform not only your personal walk but also those you encounter.

- What does putting on compassion and kindness look like in my life?
- How can I practice humility and patience in challenging situations?
- What difference does it make when I choose love as my response?
- Pray for the strength to wear the virtues that Paul describes in Colossians.
- Seek God's guidance in nurturing relationships that foster love and growth.

Day 5 Friday

1 John 4:20-21 ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Pastor Jeff emphasized the need for consistency in our love for God and one another. Love must transcend words, ultimately finding its expression in actions. As John writes, claiming to love God while harboring hate for our brother contradicts our testimony and hinders our fellowship with the Lord.

We conclude this devotional journey by examining our hearts to identify areas where love is lacking. As recipients of unconditional love, we are to reflect that love to the world. On this final day, let's ask God to help us love authentically, bearing witness to His transformative power.

- In what ways have I fallen short of loving my neighbors as myself?
- How does unresolved conflict affect my relationship with God?
- What practical steps can I take to express God's love more fully?
- Pray for God's love to overflow from your life into the lives of others.

- Ask God to help you recognize and uproot any seeds of bitterness or resentment.