

5 Day Devotional for the week of September 14, 2025

This week's five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We'll explore key themes and scriptures that guide us to recognize the importance of building God's house, embracing community, and living out our mission for His glory.

Day 1

Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

In the opening moments of the sermon, we were reminded of the significance of letting the Lord build the house. This isn't just about physical structures but about the spiritual and communal foundation that we establish based on His guidance. Just as Pastor Dale articulated, unless the Lord builds the house, our efforts are in vain. This calls us to commit our plans and paths to God, ensuring that everything we do is rooted in His will and purpose.

Living in a world bustling with distractions, it's easy to divert our focus to personal achievements and material success. However, as we dedicate ourselves to being stewards of His blessings, we learn that it is not about the quantity of what we have but the quality of our relationship with Him and each other. When we prioritize God's presence and guidance, our community becomes a beacon of His love and light.

- How can I ensure that my daily actions and decisions are rooted in God's will?
- What does it mean for me to be a steward of God's house?
- In what areas have I been laboring in vain, and how can I redirect my focus?
- Pray and seek God's guidance for areas in your life that need His foundation.
- Reflect on the ways you can contribute to building a community centered around Christ.

Day 2

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Our journey as believers calls us to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. The sermon emphasized that this foundation is not merely about physical structures but about the spiritual integrity we develop individually and collectively. It challenges us to evaluate if our actions align with His eternal blueprint or if they merely serve our ambitions.

As we navigate through personal trials and community building, it is crucial to remember that Christ is the cornerstone. By anchoring ourselves in Him, we find strength, grace, and purpose to overcome every

challenge. When Jesus is the foundation, our lives become a testimony of His faithfulness and grace at work within us.

- What steps can I take to ensure Christ is the cornerstone of my life and community?
- How do my personal ambitions align or conflict with enriching God's kingdom?
- How can I encourage others to ground their lives on the foundation of Jesus?
- Ask God for wisdom to discern His plan as your life's foundation.
- Pray for opportunities to build up others in faith and unity.

Day 3

Ephesians 2:19-22 ¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

In the sermon, Pastor Burton reminded us that the church is not just a physical building—it's the people who gather and the mission they live out. Ephesians reveals that we are no longer strangers, but fellow citizens in God's household. This identity calls us to embrace our role in His family and contribute to the growth of His kingdom.

This privilege of being part of God's family carries the responsibility of building a welcoming and nurturing community. We're called to be living stones fitted together to create a dwelling place for God's Spirit. Together, we can create spaces where believers are strengthened and the lost are welcomed into His love.

- In what ways can I contribute to making my community a dwelling place for God's Spirit?
- How can I better embrace my identity as a member of God's household?
- What barriers exist that prevent me from fully participating in community life, and how can I overcome them?
- Thank God for the privilege of being part of His family.
- Ask God to guide you in fostering relationships that reflect His love and unity.

Day 4

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Great Commission is not just a mission for missionaries or pastors—it is an invitation for all believers

to engage actively in spreading the gospel. As Pastor Ruben powerfully articulated, our mission is to 'crowd heaven,' reaching souls for Christ through our words, actions, and lives.

Fulfilling the Great Commission means understanding that there's work for everyone in God's kingdom. Whether through acts of kindness, sharing testimonies, or inviting others to church, everyone has a role in expanding God's family. Embracing this mission brings us joy and aligns our hearts with God's purpose.

- What unique gifts or opportunities do I have that can contribute to fulfilling the Great Commission?
- How can I share the gospel in everyday conversations and interactions?
- Who in my life can I invite into a relationship with Christ this week?
- Pray for courage and opportunities to share the gospel.
- Reflect on your role in the mission of crowding heaven and ask for guidance to step confidently into it.

Day 5

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

The culmination of our exploration leads us back to the profound truth that everything is from, through, and for Him. This verse serves as a reminder that God is at the beginning and end of everything we do. Our lives, while deeply personal, are part of a grander narrative written by God.

In recognizing that all things exist by His will and for His glory, we are invited into a life of surrender and purpose. Living with this understanding reshapes our priorities and actions, transforming us into vessels that reflect His grace and love in the world.

- How does recognizing that everything is from, through, and for God change the way you view your daily tasks?
- In what areas of your life is God's sovereignty most evident, and where do you need to invite Him more?
- What does living for God's glory look like in practical terms for you?
- Reflect on areas of your life where you can more fully acknowledge God's sovereignty.
- Ask God to help you live in a way that recognized His hand in all things and honors Him daily.