

5 Day Devotional for the week of March 15, 2026

This week's five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend, focusing on understanding the times we live in and preparing ourselves spiritually. Join us over the next few days as we reflect, pray, and grow together in faith.

Day 1

Romans 12:6-8 ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

In Romans 12, we are reminded of the diverse gifts that God has bestowed upon us, each according to His grace. These gifts are not just talents, but are meant to edify the body of Christ. God calls us to recognize and utilize these gifts, whether it's through leadership, service, or compassion, for the benefit of others and the glorification of His name. The power and responsibility of these spiritual gifts lie within the character and integrity with which they are exercised.

Reflect on how God has gifted you and consider whether you are fully embracing those gifts in your service to Him. Divine gifting coupled with strong character forms the bedrock of healthy Christian ministry. Let us aim for a character that supports our spiritual gifts, allowing us to become more effective in sharing God's love and truth.

- How has God uniquely gifted you, and how are you using those gifts?
- In what ways can you build your character to support your spiritual gifts?
- Are there areas in your life where your gifts could be more fully realized?
- Pray for a deeper understanding and utilization of your spiritual gifts.
- Ask for strength of character to uphold these gifts in service to others.

Day 2

Jeremiah 49:34-39 This is the word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah:

³⁵ This is what the Lord Almighty says: "See, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might. ³⁶ I will bring against Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven; I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam's exiles do not go. ³⁷ I will

shatter Elam before their foes, before those who want to kill them; will bring disaster on them, even my fierce anger," declares the Lord. "I will pursue them with the sword until I have made an end of them. ³⁸ I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her king and officials," declares the Lord. ³⁹ "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come," declares he Lord.

The prophecy against Elam serves as a reminder of God's sovereignty and His ability to fulfill His promises across generations. In today's world, it's essential to discern the movements of God and align our perspectives with His Word rather than the headlines around us. As we anticipate the unfolding of end times events, our comfort and confidence lie in trusting God's ultimate plan for redemption and restoration.

Although the circumstances around us might seem like chaos, God is orchestrating His will. It's crucial to remain grounded in the truth of Scripture, for it provides the lens through which we interpret current events and maintain hope amidst uncertainty. Let us encourage one another in faith, holding onto God's promises with unwavering trust.

- How do you react to world events that seem uncertain or troubling?
- Are you seeking God's perspective through Scripture rather than media?
- How can you build a community that encourages mutual faith and understanding?
- Pray for discernment to see and understand God's movements in the world.
- Reflect on trusting God's sovereign plans over worldly chaos.

Day 3

Matthew 24:36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but only the Father.

Jesus made it clear that no one knows the day or hour of His return, emphasizing a state of readiness and continual preparedness. This readiness is cultivated through a deep relationship with Christ, grounded in His Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It requires that we live with a sense of urgency, focusing our lives on fulfilling God's purposes while being a light to those around us.

The call is to live soberly, investing our time and talents in what is eternal. Our daily decisions should reflect our commitment to the Gospel, knowing that our actions have kingdom significance. Let us encourage one another to remain steadfast and alert, not distracted by worldly concerns but aligned with heavenly priorities.

- Are you living with the awareness that Christ could return at any time?
- Does your current lifestyle reflect the urgency of the Gospel call?

- What adjustments can you make to be spiritually alert and ready?
- Pray for an urgency and preparedness in your spiritual walk.
- Seek guidance to align your life with eternal values and purposes.

Day 4

Matthew 25:1-13 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 underscores the importance of spiritual readiness. It challenges us to examine whether our lives are filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit, ensuring we are prepared for the bridegroom's arrival. This readiness isn't born out of fear, but from a love and devotion to Christ, recognizing that our faith must be active and alive.

We are reminded that there is a limited time to prepare, and complacency can lead to being unprepared when Christ returns. Let us be like the wise virgins, who not only awaited their bridegroom but did so with wisdom and preparation. Seek to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit that continually fills you with the readiness for Christ's return.

- Reflect on your spiritual preparedness for the return of Christ.
- Are you actively engaging with the Holy Spirit in your daily life?
- What steps can you take to remain vigilant and watchful?
- Pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, refreshing your readiness for Christ.
- Seek a heart of wisdom that knows and follows God's will.

Day 5

Matthew 24:13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved." This verse from Matthew emphasizes the necessity of perseverance in our spiritual journey. The path of a believer is not without challenges, yet it is in these trials that our faith is refined and our resolve solidified. It's a call to remain steadfast, holding onto our hope in Christ, through the storms of life.

Believers are encouraged to focus on the eternal promises of God, knowing that trials have a purpose in shaping us into Christ's likeness. Let endurance be your testimony, steadfastness be your anchor, as you navigate through the perils and joys of life. Trust that God is faithful to complete the good work He began in you.

- How do you respond to trials and challenges on your faith journey?
- What does perseverance look like for you in the face of adversity?
- In what ways can you remind yourself of God's promises during tough times?
- Pray for strength and endurance to face spiritual battles.
- Reflect on God's faithfulness and His promises over your life.