



5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into [the sermon from this weekend](#). We will explore themes of renewal, joy, and the fresh work that Jesus wants to do in our lives, as well as the call to step out of spiritual ruts and embrace a vibrant faith.

Day 1

Mark 2:18-20

18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees[a] were fasting. People came and asked him, "Why do John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but your disciples do not fast?" 19 Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the groom is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast. 20 But the time[b] will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

This day's scripture challenges us to consider the joy found in our relationship with Jesus. When we find ourselves stuck in spiritual routines or expectations, Jesus invites us to a life of delight rather than drudgery. It can be easy to fall into a rhythm of simply going through the motions, fasting or praying out of obligation rather than out of a desire to connect with our Savior. This passage reminds us that Jesus brings a new way of living that is centered on joy and satisfaction in Him.

As we reflect on our spiritual practices, it is vital that we assess our motivations. Are we engaging in these practices to satisfy an obligation or to deepen our relationship with God? God desires to refresh and renew us, transforming our actions into expressions of love and worship, enabling us to experience the fullness of life He offers.

- What spiritual routines might you be following out of obligation rather than joy?
- How can you invite Jesus to renew your heart and mind in your daily practices?
- In what ways can you express your delight in Jesus this week?
- Pray for God to reveal areas of your life where you've fallen into a rut.

- Ask Him to help you experience joy in your spiritual practices.

Notes:

Day 2

Mark 2:21-22

21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch pulls away from the old cloth, and a worse tear is made. 22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins."

In these verses, Jesus makes a poignant observation about the necessity of fresh starts. The metaphor of new wine and old wineskins serves as a powerful reminder that God is continually at work, calling us into new experiences and deeper relationships with Him. As we hold onto our past practices or rigid expectations, we may inadvertently limit God's work in our lives. Just as new cloth cannot be sewn onto old garments, new joy and growth cannot occur when we cling to outdated spiritual mindsets.

This day's message encourages us to abandon our rigid thinking and be open to the fresh movements of God's Spirit in our lives. Jesus came to offer us a new way, an opportunity to embrace transformation and renewal. Are we willing to let go of our perceived control and allow Him to lead us to a fresh start?

- Are there areas of your life where you feel stuck or resistant to change?
- What new opportunities might God be presenting to you that you have overlooked?
- How can you practice openness to God's will in your life?

- Pray for the courage to let go of old patterns that no longer serve you.
- Ask God to reveal His fresh plans and direction for your life.

Notes:

Day 3

Isaiah 25:6-9

6 On this mountain,[a] the Lord of Armies will prepare for all the peoples a feast of choice meat, a feast with aged wine, prime cuts of choice meat,[b] fine vintage wine.

7 On this mountain he will swallow up the burial shroud, the shroud over all the peoples, the sheet covering all the nations.

8 When he has swallowed up death once and for all, the Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face and remove his people's disgrace from the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken.

9 On that day it will be said, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he has saved us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him. Let's rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

This day's scripture unveils the promise of God's abundant grace and joy, illustrating the beautiful invitation we have to join Him in celebration. Just as a wedding feast is an occasion for joy, our relationship with God is meant to be marked by delight and intimacy. When we experience the fullness of His love, the burdens of life begin to lift, allowing us to rejoice in His presence.

As we consider our walk with Christ, we should not only acknowledge His invitations to feasting and celebration but also actively engage in them. This devotion encourages us to cultivate a heart of gratitude for the mercies He provides, recognizing that every moment spent in His presence is an opportunity for joy and renewal.

- What does it mean for you to fully partake in the joy of the Lord?
- How can you celebrate God's grace in your life today?
- In what ways can you share that joy with others this week?

- Thank God for the moments of joy He has brought into your life.
- Pray for opportunities to share that joy with those around you.

Notes:

Day 4

Matthew 6:16-18

16 “Whenever you fast, don’t be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they disfigure their faces so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that your fasting isn’t obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

As we delve into the theme of true fasting in today’s scripture, we are reminded that spiritual practices should never be about outward appearances or gaining approval from others. Jesus addresses how fasting can become a performative act rather than a genuine expression of longing for God. The emphasis is placed on the heart—God desires authenticity in our walk with Him, not ritualistic behaviors that lack true devotion.

This encourages us to examine our motivational perspective. Why do we engage in spiritual disciplines? Are we seeking public acknowledgment, or are we genuinely pursuing a deeper relationship with God? Today is an opportunity to reassess our spiritual journeys and ensure that they are rooted in sincerity, authenticity, and love for our Savior.

- How can you ensure your spiritual practices come from a place of genuine love for God?
- What internal factors might be hindering your spiritual growth right now?
- How can you encourage others to embrace authentic expressions of their faith?

- Ask God to help you focus on the heart of worship rather than performative actions.
- Pray for authenticity in your spiritual practices as you seek Him.

Notes:

Day 5

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has[a] come!

The concluding scripture of our devotional invites us to reflect on the transformative power of Christ. As believers, we are made new creations through our faith in Him. This passage beautifully illustrates how accepting Jesus into our lives results in profound changes that reshape our identities and purpose. We are no longer defined by our past or old ways, but by our relationship with Him.

As we wrap up this devotional, it's essential to remind ourselves that renewal is not a one-time event; it's a continuous journey of transformation. Embracing this truth means letting go of the past and fully stepping into the newness of life offered by Jesus. What areas of your life is He asking you to surrender in order to experience His renewal?

- What old patterns are you ready to release to embrace your new identity in Christ?
- How can you live out your new creation status in your daily life?
- What does it look like to trust Jesus for your ongoing transformation?
- Thank God for making you a new creation in Christ.
- Pray for strength to walk in the newness of life daily.

Notes:
