

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: Where Is Your Focus?

Reading: John 13:31-35

Peter missed Jesus' profound teachings about glorifying God and loving others because he was consumed with his own concerns. How often do we do the same? When God is speaking about His purposes, we interrupt with our immediate needs. Today, examine what captures your attention during prayer or worship. Are you truly listening to what God wants to teach you, or are you circling the block looking for your "coffee cake"? God's priorities—glorifying Him and loving others—must become our priorities. Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet your self-centered thoughts so you can hear His voice clearly. What profound truth might you be missing because you're too focused on yourself?

Day 2: The Meantime Matters

Reading: Acts 1:6-8

The disciples wanted to know about the end times, but Jesus redirected them to their present mission. You're still here on earth for a reason—God has unfinished business with you and through you. Don't become so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good. Your current circumstances, relationships, and opportunities are not accidents; they're assignments. God expects your faithfulness right now, in this season, in this place. Stop asking "When will things change?" and start asking "What is my purpose today?" The fact that you woke up this morning means God still has work for you to do. Embrace the meantime with purpose and passion.

Day 3: God Knows Your Weaknesses

Reading: Psalm 103:8-14

God remembers we are dust. He knows every weakness, every temptation, every failure before it happens—and He loves you anyway. Jesus knew Peter would deny Him three times, yet He still chose him, still invested in him, still had plans for him. Your imperfections don't disqualify you from God's service; they position you to experience His grace. Stop hiding your struggles from God as if He doesn't already know. He's not shocked by your sin or surprised by your failures. Instead of shame, bring your weaknesses to Him with honesty. His strength is perfected in your weakness. Let today be marked by radical honesty with God about who you really are.

Day 4: The Game Is Only Half Over

Reading: Luke 22:31-34; John 21:15-19

Peter's story didn't end with his denial. Jesus anticipated both the fall and the restoration. Whatever failure lies in your past—last year, last month, or this morning—doesn't have to define your future. Jesus prays for you just as He prayed for Peter, that your faith would not ultimately fail. When you've fumbled, run the wrong direction, or even scored for the other team, remember: the game is only half over. God specializes in do-overs. Your greatest failure can become your most powerful testimony. Return to Jesus with a repentant heart, and watch Him transform your mess into a message that strengthens others. Your comeback story is waiting to be written.

Day 5: From Failure to Faithfulness

Reading: 1 Peter 5:6-11

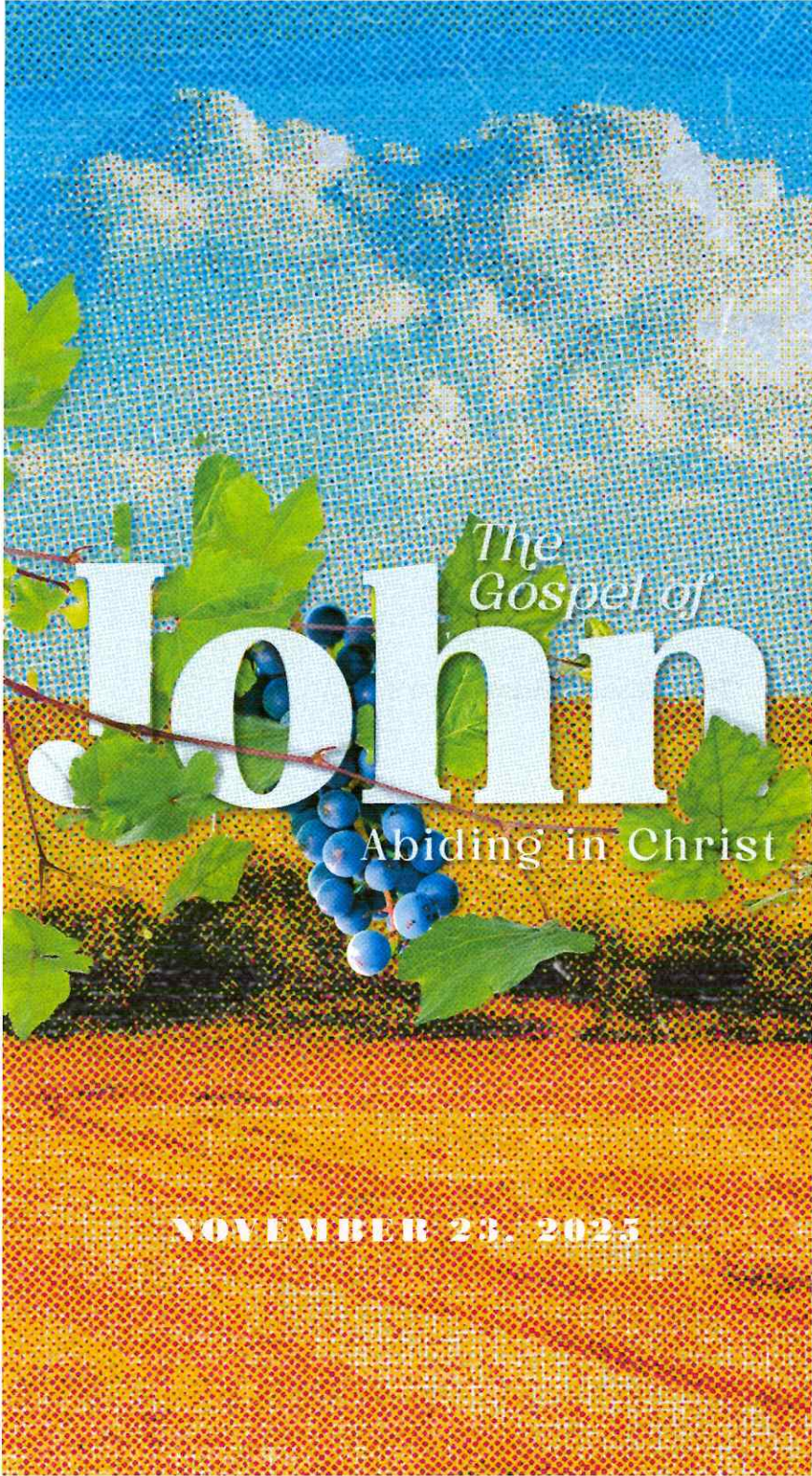
Peter, who once denied Christ, later wrote these powerful words about suffering, humility, and God's restoration. His failure became his teacher, not his undertaker. The same Satan who demanded to sift Peter like wheat still prowls around seeking to devour you. But God's grace is sufficient. Peter learned that standing strong requires humble dependence on God, not self-confident boasting. After you have suffered a little while, God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. This is His promise. Let your failures drive you deeper into God's grace rather than away from His presence. The faithful follower isn't the one who never falls; it's the one who gets back up and keeps following. Today, choose faithfulness in the present moment God has given you.

DEACONS ON CALL

David Barks and Royce Blair

WEEKLY EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Thanksgiving Break this week
- **FIRST KIDS:** Thanksgiving Break this week
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Thanksgiving Break this week



GOOD QUESTION / John 13:36-38

An old Persian Proverb reads, "It's harder to ask a sensible question than to supply a sensible answer." Many times our questions to God are reactive—based on a sort of knee-jerk reaction to painful circumstances. Peter asked Jesus two questions of this sort. The questions Peter asked are similar to ones we frequently ask.

PETER ASKS

1. Lord, _____?

JESUS ANSWERS

1. Your present faithfulness is _____.

*Don't worry about the end times, worry about the _____.

2. Your imperfection is _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): 1 Corinthians 10:12; Acts 1:6-8; Psalm 103:14; Luke 22:31-32
Referenced Works: Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott (The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge); Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters (Bob Utley); John: That You May Believe (R. Kent Hughes); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's one "Frequently Asked Question" people ask you about your life, work, or faith?
2. Read **John 13:36-38**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. In what ways do you see yourself in Peter's response to Jesus? When have you been so focused on your own immediate needs that you missed what God was trying to teach you?
4. Jesus had just spoken about glorifying God, loving one another, and being witnesses to the world. Why do you think it's so easy to skip over these profound truths when we're worried about our own situation?
5. What are the most common distractions that keep you from hearing what Jesus is really saying to you? How can we cultivate better spiritual listening skills in our daily lives?
6. Peter was convinced he would never betray Jesus. When have you been overly confident in your spiritual strength, only to stumble?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12 together. What practical steps can we take to "be careful not to fall" when we think we're standing strong?
8. Jesus told Peter, "You can't go with me now, but you will follow me later." What does this teach us about God's timing versus our timing?
9. Jesus predicted Peter's failure AND his restoration. What hope does this give you regarding your own stumbles in faith?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Complete this sentence and share with an accountability partner: "I believe God has me here right now to ..."
- Identify one area where you've been overconfident in your spiritual life. Ask God to help you depend more on His strength than your own.

*This question reveals Peter's _____.

2. Lord, _____?