

Devotions: June 29 - July 3, 2026



The Weight of True Words

A Five-Day Devotional from Pastor Chris

Every generation faces the same temptation: to trade a painful truth for a comfortable lie. This five-day devotional walks through the confrontation between Jeremiah and the false prophet Hananiah, exploring why God values truth over comfort, and how He meets us not by removing every hardship but by drawing near to us within it. As you reflect each day, ask God for the courage to embrace painful truth rather than settle for false hope.

Monday, June 29

The Hunger for Quick Relief

Jeremiah 28:1-4

When Hananiah stood in the temple and declared that Babylon's yoke would break within two years, he wasn't offering a neutral prediction—he was offering exactly what the exhausted, humiliated crowd longed to hear. Jeremiah's yoke around his neck was a visible, uncomfortable reminder of seventy hard years ahead, while Hananiah's words promised swift restoration, reunion, and justice. It's no wonder the people leaned toward the message that matched their desire rather than the one that matched reality.

We rarely choose a comfortable lie because we are foolish; we choose it because it speaks to a real and legitimate ache—for relief, for reunion, for things to be made right finally. The danger is not in longing for good things, but in letting that longing decide what we will believe is true. Discernment begins by admitting how much we want certain outcomes, so that desire doesn't quietly disguise itself as discernment.

Self-Reflection

Where in your life might a strong desire for relief be tempting you to believe something simply because you want it to be true?

Prayer

Lord, I confess how easily my longing for relief can shape what I want to believe. Give me the humility to examine my hopes honestly, and the courage to seek Your truth even when it isn't what I wish to hear. Amen.

Tuesday, June 30

An Honest "Amen"

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Jeremiah's response to Hananiah is striking: he doesn't scoff or scold. He says "Amen! May the Lord do so." Jeremiah genuinely wants Hananiah to be right—he wants the suffering to end quickly, the exiles to return, the king restored. Yet his agreement comes with a sober addition: time, and time alone, will reveal whose words actually come from God. Jeremiah refuses to let his own desire for a happy ending override his commitment to truth.

This is a model worth imitating. Wanting something to be true is not the same as confirming that it is true. Jeremiah shows us it's possible to hold both compassion and conviction—to long for good news alongside others, while still waiting on God's actual word rather than rushing to certainty because a message feels good. Real discernment is patient; it doesn't need an immediate verdict to feel secure.

Self-Reflection

Can you recall a time you wanted to believe something so badly that you stopped waiting for confirmation? What helped, or would have helped, you wait?

Prayer

Father, teach me to hold my hopes with open hands, longing for good outcomes without forcing my desires into the place of Your truth. Give me patience to wait for what is real rather than what merely feels good. Amen.

Wednesday, July 1

The Allure of a Dramatic Sign

Jeremiah 28:10-11

Hananiah doesn't stop at words. He physically takes the yoke from Jeremiah's neck, breaks it, and declares that God will just as easily break Babylon's hold within two years. It's a bold, theatrical gesture—the kind that stirs a crowd and feels like undeniable proof. The people, already inclined to believe him, now have a visual, dramatic sign to rally around.

This moment is a warning about how persuasive performance can be mistaken for truth. Modern-day Hananiahs are not rare—voices polished in rhetoric and confidence, able to produce strong emotion and quick agreement. A compelling delivery, a bold gesture, or a confident tone can feel like evidence, but none of these things actually verify whether a message is from God. Meanwhile, Jeremiah simply walks away—quiet, undramatic, and alone—yet he is the one who is actually right.

Self-Reflection

Have you ever been swayed more by how convincingly something was said than by whether it was actually true? What would help you slow down and test a message rather than simply respond to its delivery?

Prayer

Lord, don't let me mistake confidence or showmanship for truth. Give me discernment to evaluate substance over style, and courage to stand quietly on what is true even when it isn't applauded. Amen.

Thursday, July 2

The Seriousness of Speaking for God

Jeremiah 28:12-17

After Hananiah's dramatic display, God sends Jeremiah back with a sober verdict: Hananiah had spoken presumptuously, claiming the Lord's authority for words the Lord never gave, and he would die within the year for it. This is not a minor correction—it is a reminder that throughout Israel's history, God has repeatedly judged those who borrowed His name for their own message, from the deceiving prophet at Bethel to the hundreds of false prophets under King Ahab.

God's judgment on Hananiah wasn't only about punishing a liar—it was about protecting the people from a false hope that would eventually collapse and leave them even more disillusioned with God than before. This reframes how seriously we should treat both what we say in God's name and what we're willing to believe was said by Him. False hope feels good for a season, but it ultimately damages faith; truth, however painful, keeps us anchored to the God who is actually present.

Self-Reflection

Why do you think a comfortable lie can do more long-term damage to faith than a painful truth?

Prayer

God, help me take seriously anything I claim is from You, and give me wisdom to recognize when someone else's words may not be. Protect me from the temporary comfort of false hope, and anchor me instead in what is real. Amen.

Friday, July 3

Finding God When Comfort Fails

Jeremiah 29:11-13

The people didn't get what they wanted: quick relief, swift reunion, immediate justice. What they received instead was seventy hard years under Babylon—but within that long, unwanted season, God promised something deeper: that they would seek Him and find Him, that He had plans for their welfare even within the waiting. The painful truth Jeremiah delivered was never the whole story; it was the doorway into a longer, more durable relationship with God.

Truth worth carrying into every hard season: a false hope results in alienation from God, but a painful truth, honestly faced, can drive us to prayer, dependence, and deeper faith. God's purpose in extended hardship is rarely to punish without reason—it's often to give us an unhurried opportunity to see Him when glory fades, to depend on Him when our own strength runs out, and to know Him not as a quick fix but as the God who stays present through the whole story.

Self-Reflection

What painful truth in your own life might God be using right now to draw you closer to Him rather than to punish you?

Prayer

Lord, when comfort fails and relief doesn't come on my timeline, help me seek You rather than a quick way out. Thank You that even painful seasons have purpose in Your hands. Keep me close to You in the waiting. Amen.

Thank you for spending time with the Word this week. Sunday's Coming!