

Devotions: May 18 - May 22, 2026



Monday, May 25

Numbers 11:24-29

God summoned seventy elders to the Tent of Meeting, a place marked by holy encounter and shared responsibility. Yet Eldad and Medad stayed behind in the camp, and their absence raises a question that reaches into our own lives: what keeps us from stepping toward God when He invites us close? Fear, insecurity, resentment, exhaustion, distraction, or shame can all become quiet barriers that feel sensible in the moment, even if they leave us missing what God desires to give.

Pastor Chris explains the hope-filled surprise very simply: God met them anyway. The same Spirit that fell at the tent rested on them in the camp, and they prophesied as a sign that God had chosen and equipped them, too. Our location does not limit the Spirit's reach, our confidence level, or our perceived readiness; when God calls, He also provides what is needed to participate in His purposes.

Have a great week!

Heavenly Father,

You know the quiet reasons I sometimes stay in the camp, instead of drawing near to You. Fear, insecurity, exhaustion, and distraction can keep me from stepping into what You're calling me toward. But You are merciful and patient, and You meet me even in ordinary places. Thank You, that Your Spirit is not limited by my hesitation or weakness. Help me trust that when You call me, You will also equip me. Teach me to respond with faith and willingness so my life reflects Your presence wherever I am. Amen.

Tuesday, May 26

Hebrews 10:19-22

God is holy, and Scripture does not minimize the weight of His presence. If Eldad and Medad hesitated because God felt terrifying or unsafe, they were not imagining things; God is not manageable or controllable. Yet the gospel gives us a deeper confidence: through Jesus, we are invited to draw near with sincerity, not because we are impressive, but because we have been welcomed by grace.

Drawing near is not pretending we have no fear; it is bringing fear into the light of Christ's finished work. Pastor Chris reminds us that God's Spirit is not hindered by what shakes us. When you feel hesitant, the invitation is not to self-protect in the camp, but to come honestly, cleansed and confident because Jesus opens the way.

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for opening the way for me to come closer to God through Your sacrifice. When fear and doubt rise in me, remind me that I do not come to You because I am worthy, but because I am welcomed by grace. Give me the courage to bring my honest heart before You, instead of hiding behind self-protection. Cleanse my mind from shame and fill me with confidence in Your finished work. Help me rest in the truth that Your Spirit is near, even when I feel uncertain or afraid. Amen.

Wednesday, May 27

Luke 5:8-11

Sometimes we stay back because we feel unworthy. Like Peter, we may sense the gap between God's purity and our messy history and say, in effect, "Depart from me." Shame can make obedience feel disrespectful, as if showing up in God's presence without fixing ourselves first would be offensive. Yet Jesus responds to confession not with rejection, but with calling. He meets honesty with purpose.

Pastor Chris emphasizes that those God chooses, He uses. Being "registered" among the elders meant Eldad and Medad belonged to God's plan even before their hesitation was resolved. In the same way, your past does not disqualify you from being met by the Spirit; it becomes the place where grace proves itself real, and where God trains you to magnify Christ with humility rather than self-confidence.

Gracious Savior,

Like Peter, I often become aware of my failures and feel unworthy to stand in Your presence. Thank You that You do not turn away from honest confession, but instead call and restore those You love. Remind me that my past does not disqualify me from Your purposes. Shape my heart with humility and teach me to rely on Your grace rather than my own strength. May my life magnify Christ, not because I am perfect, but because Your mercy is real and transforming. Amen.

Thursday, May 28

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Other times, the camp is not a hiding place but a hardship: caregiving demands, physical pain, mental fatigue, or the slow grind of uncertainty. When weakness becomes chronic, spiritual eagerness can feel like a luxury for other people, and apathy can look like protection. Pastor Chris's message makes room for those realities without excusing them. Eldad and Medad may have had compelling reasons, yet God's Spirit still reached them there.

God's power is not merely displayed in the strong who stride confidently to the tent; it is perfected in weakness. If you feel like you can only offer God a tired heart and limited capacity, you are not beyond His involvement—you are a candidate for His grace. The Spirit can turn the camp into a place of calling, where Christ is magnified not by your energy, but by His sustaining strength.

Faithful God,

You see the burdens I carry, the fatigue I feel, and the weaknesses that often leave me discouraged. When life feels overwhelming, remind me that Your power is made perfect in weakness. Help me not to pull away from You in weariness, but to lean more deeply into Your sustaining grace. Take my limited strength and use it for Your glory. Let Your Spirit meet me in the middle of ordinary struggles and turn even difficult seasons into places of calling and dependence on You. Amen.

Friday, May 29

Acts 2:17-18

Moses' longing: "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put His Spirit on them" points forward to the promise fulfilled in Christ. The Spirit is not reserved for a select few who feel qualified or who always make it to the "tent." God delights to pour out His Spirit on His people so that their lives and words reveal Him, whether they are in a sanctuary, at a kitchen sink, in a workplace, or in the quiet of discouragement.

This final day is an invitation to step into the sermon's central charge: wherever you are, God is meeting you so you can magnify Jesus Christ in your heart, mind, and speech. Prophetic witness may look like encouragement, truth-telling, repentance, prayer, compassion, or courageous faithfulness. The point is not a platform, but participation—being involved in God's purposes by the Spirit's power, starting right where you are.

Sunday's Coming!

Holy Spirit,

Thank You for pouring out Your presence on Your people and inviting ordinary people into Your extraordinary work. Help me remember that I can magnify Jesus wherever You've placed me—in my home, my work, my conversations, and even in discouraging moments. Give me courage to speak truth with love, to encourage others faithfully, and to live with compassion and boldness. Let my heart, mind, and speech reflect Christ so others may see Your goodness through my life. Use me right where I am for Your purposes and glory. Amen.