

### **Five-Day Devotional: What you value reveals what you trust.**

This 5-day devotional is from the sermon "Priorities" based on 2 Corinthians 8-12, explores how grace reshapes what we value, exposes the gap between belief and dependence, and teaches us to trust Christ in weakness. Discover how comparison distorts priorities, how grace reorders the heart, and why God's strength is revealed most clearly when we are weak.

### **Day 1: The Gap Between Words and Actions**

#### **Devotional**

We've all been there - declaring that faith is our top priority while our calendar tells a different story. When stress hits or deadlines loom, what we truly value becomes painfully obvious. It's not that we're being dishonest; it's that we often measure our lives by what we say we believe rather than what we actually depend on. This gap isn't a character flaw - it's human nature. But recognizing it is the first step toward authentic faith. When life gets overwhelming, notice where you turn first. Is it to worry, control, or endless planning? Or do you find yourself naturally seeking God's presence and wisdom? The beautiful truth is that God isn't surprised by this disconnect. He knows our hearts better than we do, and He's patient with our journey toward alignment. Today, instead of feeling guilty about the gap, let it become a gentle invitation to examine what truly drives your decisions.

#### **Bible Verse**

'And he said to all, "If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" - Luke 9:23 (English Standard Version (ESV))

#### **Reflection Question**

What does your daily schedule and spending habits reveal about what you truly value most?

#### **Quote**

We tend to measure our lives by what we say we believe in instead of actually what we depend on.

#### **Prayer**

Lord, help me see the gap between my words and actions with grace, not condemnation. Give me courage to align my life with what I say I believe.

## **Day 2: When Life Reveals Your Heart**

### **Devotional**

Crisis has a way of stripping away pretense and revealing what's really in our hearts. Whether it's a financial setback, health scare, or relationship conflict, these moments expose what we genuinely trust when everything feels uncertain. Think about your last major challenge. Where did your mind immediately go? What was your first instinct? These automatic responses reveal more about our true values than any Sunday morning declaration ever could. But here's the encouraging truth: these revealing moments aren't meant to shame us - they're opportunities for growth. When we see where we naturally turn for security, we can begin the gentle work of redirecting our hearts toward God. It's not about perfection; it's about progress. Your life is always moving in the direction of what you value most. The question isn't whether you'll face moments that test your trust - you will. The question is whether you'll use those moments to grow closer to the One who never fails.

### **Bible Verse**

'We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed' - 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (English Standard Version (ESV))

### **Reflection Question**

What recent challenge revealed something unexpected about where you place your trust?

### **Quote**

There are moments in life where this gap becomes even more obvious, when moments expose what we really value, what we really trust in in life.

### **Prayer**

Father, use life's difficult moments to show me where my heart truly rests. Help me see these revelations as invitations to trust You more deeply.

## **Day 3: Grace Changes Everything**

### **Devotional**

Grace isn't just forgiveness for past mistakes - it's a transformative power that reorders your entire value system. When you truly understand that God's love for you isn't based on your performance, everything else begins to lose its grip on your heart. The Macedonian churches understood this. Despite facing extreme poverty and affliction, they gave generously because they had first given themselves to the Lord. Their giving wasn't about money - it was about surrender. When your heart belongs to God, material things, status, and security stop controlling your decisions. This doesn't happen overnight. Grace works gradually, gently shifting your priorities from self-protection to God-dependence. You'll notice it in small ways first - less anxiety about finances, more peace during uncertainty, greater joy in simple blessings. Grace doesn't just inform what you believe; it transforms how you live. It takes the pressure off trying to earn God's love and redirects that energy toward trusting His provision and plan for your life.

### **Bible Verse**

'And they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.' - 2 Corinthians 8:3-5 (English Standard Version (ESV))

### **Reflection Question**

How has experiencing God's grace begun to change what you value most in life?

### **Quote**

Grace reorders what you value.

### **Prayer**

Thank You, Lord, that Your grace doesn't just forgive but transforms. Help me surrender my heart fully to You so everything else can find its proper place.

## **Day 4: The Comparison Trap**

### **Devotional**

Social media makes it easier than ever to fall into the comparison trap. We see someone's highlight reel and immediately start questioning our own journey. But comparison doesn't just affect your confidence - it distorts what truly matters in your life. When you're constantly measuring yourself against others, you shift from asking "What has God called me to do?" to "How do I measure up?" This subtle change redirects your energy from fulfilling your unique purpose to chasing someone else's path. The truth is, you see what others have but rarely understand the cost. That promotion came with family sacrifices. That perfect home required crushing debt. That ministry success demanded years of unseen struggle. God has a specific plan for your life that doesn't require you to be anyone else. Your calling, your timeline, your resources are all perfectly designed for the work He's prepared for you. When you stop comparing, you can start celebrating both your journey and others' without the sting of envy.

### **Bible Verse**

'But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.' - 2 Corinthians 10:12 (English Standard Version (ESV))

### **Reflection Question**

What area of comparison most easily pulls your focus away from God's unique plan for your life?

### **Quote**

Comparison shifts our focus away from what we should be focusing on. Instead of asking, what has God called me to do? We begin asking, how do I compare?

### **Prayer**

Lord, free me from the exhausting cycle of comparison. Help me celebrate others' blessings while staying focused on the path You've set before me.

## **Day 5: Strength in Weakness**

### **Devotional**

Your weaknesses aren't obstacles to overcome - they're revelations of what you truly trust. When you're at the end of your rope, when your strength fails and your resources run dry, that's when you discover what your life is really built on. Paul learned this truth through his "thorn in the flesh." Instead of removing his weakness, God used it to reveal His strength. Paul's repeated declaration - "When I am weak, he is strong" - became more than a motto; it became his foundation. Weakness doesn't create trust in God; it reveals whether that trust already exists. When everything you normally depend on fails, what remains? When your health falters, your job disappears, or relationships crumble, where does your heart naturally turn? The beautiful paradox of faith is that our greatest weaknesses can become our strongest testimonies. They strip away self-reliance and create space for God's power to work. Your weakness isn't a disqualification - it's an invitation to experience God's strength in ways you never imagined possible.

### **Bible Verse**

'But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.' - 2 Corinthians 12:9 (English Standard Version (ESV))

### **Reflection Question**

What weakness in your life has actually become a doorway to experiencing God's strength?

### **Quote**

Weakness doesn't create trust. What it does is it reveals it to us.

### **Prayer**

Father, help me see my weaknesses not as failures but as opportunities to experience Your perfect strength. Teach me to boast in what makes me dependent on You.