

In the busyness of life, it's easy to continue "going through the motions" and fool ourselves into thinking we're close and connected with God when really we're just asleep in our spiritual journey. Consider this week's devotional as an opportunity to wake up, meet with God and find real life in Him.

New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips for this week:

- Following Jesus is a big deal and it's easy to ask "what's enough?" or "what's right?" Instead, try asking God, where are you in this? How do I move closer to you? God, what might you want to reveal to me today?
- Sometimes when we examine our spiritual lives we can stumble into the question, "Was that really God?" That can be a hard space to sit in. If that happens, find someone you trust who can call out where they have seen God in your life. We're always seeking to grow, but that never negates that you *have* experienced God in your life.

Monday, November 12th

Ephesians 5:8-17

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

*"Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."*

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Reflect on the moments you first started following Jesus. What did darkness look like in your life? What did it look like to be in the light of the Lord? How does that compare to where you are now?

How have you found yourself slipping into old dark habits (or perhaps just shadowy, apathetic places)? What parts of your life might Jesus be calling out into the light?

Why do you think wisdom looks like "making the most of every opportunity"? What opportunities might God be inviting you into?

Tuesday, November 13th

Ezekiel 37:1-14 shows us a captivating vision of what moving from death to life could look like. Spend time reading and observing the entirety of the passage in your Bible. What sticks out to you? What is captivating about the vision?

Focus in on Ezekiel 37:1-6

¹ The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

What does it mean to you that Jesus has brought breath and life to your dry bones? Why do you think bringing dry bones to life is connected with knowing that God as LORD? How might remembrance of God as Creator help you remember God as LORD?

Wednesday, November 14th

Amos 5:21-24

*²¹ "I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.*

*²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.*

*Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.*

*²³ Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.*

*²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

Amos was a prophet sent to call out a whole group of people—their outer lives looked successful, but inner lives were decaying. They lacked justice and morality and pursued arrogance, idolatry and materialism. In verses 21-24, we learn that because they aren't living out their faith, their religious gatherings and worship are worthless to God.

What would it look like for our worship to be a reflection of our inner lives and our actions? Would it be worthless worship, or would it be glorifying and celebratory? How does your life in church on the weekend match up with the rest of the week? Is it the same or different? What makes it that way?

Thursday, November 15th

Psalm 51:10-17

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain
me.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your
ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of blood-
shed, O God, you who are God my Savior,

and my tongue will sing of your righteous-
ness.

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would
bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt
offerings.

¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

The psalmist pleads for a steadfast spirit (v.10), a willing spirit (v.12) and also gives a sacrifice of a broken spirit (v.17). How can these things restore the joy of salvation (v.12)?

Like verse 16, when do you find yourself “going through the motions”? What does that look like? How does it happen? Slowly or all at once?

What practices and habits can you build in your life so that when you feel yourself going through the motions, you can bring yourself back to the joy of salvation? What posture might your spirit need to have?

Friday, November 16th

Luke 10:22-24

²² “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

The secret to living an authentic Christian life is seeing the real Jesus—not the Jesus we think ought to be, but the real Jesus—both friend of sinners and glorified in Revelation. How has Jesus blessed you by revealing himself to you? Spend time recounting these things.

How might Jesus be inviting you to know him more deeply and holistically? What might you need to continue or stop doing? What kind of community do you need?



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