



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: The Closed Door

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 8/9/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: The Oil In Your Lamp

Devotional: Imagine waiting for someone you love. You know they are coming. You have prepared, at least partly. But when the moment finally arrives, you realize you are not as ready as you thought. That is the heart of the Parable of the Ten Virgins. All ten knew the bridegroom was coming. All ten had lamps. But only five had enough oil to last through the wait. The difference was not knowledge. It was preparation. The oil in this parable represents something deeply personal: a living, cultivated relationship with God. Not just knowing about Him, but truly knowing Him. That kind of relationship does not happen by accident. It is built day by day, through prayer, through His Word, through quiet moments of communion with the Holy Spirit. Here is the encouraging truth: you do not have to be perfect to start. You just have to start. Every small step toward God matters. Every morning you open your Bible, every honest prayer you whisper, every moment you choose Him over distraction, you are adding oil to your lamp. God is not looking for a flawless performance. He is looking for a heart that keeps turning toward Him. That is what readiness looks like.

Bible Verse: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." - Isaiah 40:31

Reflection Question: If your relationship with God were a lamp, how much oil would honestly be in it right now?

Quote: "The oil in this parable, we believe, represents that true faith, that righteousness in the abiding, the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit."

Prayer: Lord, I want to know You, not just know about You. Help me to build a daily, genuine connection with You starting today. Amen.





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Day 2: Keep the Fire Burning

Devotional: A fire does not go out all at once. It fades slowly, quietly, almost without you noticing. One missed morning in the Word. A few days without prayer. Gradually, what once burned brightly begins to flicker. Spiritual life works the same way. The warmth and passion you once felt for God does not disappear overnight. It dims over time when it is not fed. And the dangerous part is that you can still look like you are carrying a lamp, even when the flame inside is nearly gone. Jesus understood the discipline of staying connected. He rose early to pray. He pulled away from the crowds to spend time with the Father. Even in the middle of a demanding ministry, He protected that communion. He did not let the busyness of doing good things crowd out the most important thing. You are invited into that same rhythm. Not as a religious obligation, but as a lifeline. The fire in your soul needs fuel. It needs the consistent, intentional practice of seeking God. The good news is that a dimming flame can be rekindled. Today is a fresh opportunity to add fuel. To pray. To open His Word.

Bible Verse: "Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion." - Psalms 103:2-4

Reflection Question: What habits or distractions have been slowly pulling your attention away from God, and what would it look like to reclaim that time for Him?

Quote: "When we neglect it, whenever we ignore it, whenever it's not priority, that fire will go out and we'll become cold and we'll become indifferent and we'll become where we're a callous to the things of God, where it's not a priority anymore, that we put other things before Him."

Prayer: God, help me to keep the fire of faith burning in my soul. Renew my passion for You and remind me daily that I need You more than anything else. Amen.





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Day 3: Look to Your Own Lamp

Devotional: It is remarkably easy to become an expert on everyone else's spiritual life while quietly neglecting your own. We notice when others seem distant from God. We observe who is consistent and who is not. And somewhere in all that observation, we can forget to look inward. In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, not one of the five wise virgins could share her oil with the others. It was not selfishness. It was simply the nature of what oil represents. A personal, cultivated relationship with God cannot be borrowed. It cannot be inherited from a parent, transferred from a spouse, or borrowed from a friend. It must be your own. This is both a challenge and a freedom. A challenge because it means no one else can do the spiritual work for you. A freedom because it means your relationship with God is entirely between you and Him. No comparison required. No competition. Just you and your Father. Focus on your own lamp today. Not with anxiety, but with honest, loving attention. Ask yourself: Am I truly seeking God, or am I coasting on familiarity? Am I cultivating this relationship, or assuming it will maintain itself? God meets you right where you are. He just wants you to show up.

Bible Verse: "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish." - Matthew 25:1-2

Reflection Question: In what ways might you be measuring your spiritual health by comparing yourself to others rather than honestly examining your own walk with God?

Quote: "It's not about what other people are doing or what they're not doing. It's really easy to make a living, so to speak, to spend our time examining other people and what they're doing and what they're not doing and be an expert in their affairs and not attending to our own."

Prayer: Father, help me to focus on my own relationship with You rather than looking around at others. Show me where I need to grow and give me the courage to act on what You reveal. Amen.

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850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org



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Day 4: No Excuse Will Open the Door

Devotional: We are all good at explaining why we are not where we want to be spiritually. Life got busy. Someone hurt us. The circumstances were hard. These things are real, and God sees every one of them. He is compassionate and full of grace. But grace has a window. And the parable of the ten virgins makes something unmistakably clear: when the door closes, it closes. The five unprepared virgins knocked. They called out. They had reasons. And the answer was still the same: I do not know you. This is not meant to frighten you. It is meant to wake you up with love. Because right now, the door is open. Today is a day of grace. Today is the day to take a step, to return, to renew, to say yes to what God has been placing on your heart. Think of Adam and Eve. They had excuses too. But the consequences of their choices still came. Excuses, no matter how understandable, do not change outcomes. Action does. You do not need to have everything figured out. You just need to walk through the open door in front of you today. God is waiting, and He is welcoming. Do not let today pass without responding to His invitation.

Bible Verse: "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us! But he answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." - Matthew 25:10-13

Reflection Question: Is there something God has been calling you to do or surrender that you have been putting off, and what excuse have you been using to delay?

Quote: "No excuse will open the door. God, you just don't know how much I was hurt. Maybe you'll. No, the door will be shut."

Prayer: Lord, I do not want to wait until it is too late. Today I choose to respond to Your invitation. Help me to walk through the open door with a willing and humble heart. Amen.

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Day 5: Today Is the Day

Devotional: There is something powerful about today. Not tomorrow. Not when things settle down. Not after the next season of life passes. Today. We do not know the day or the hour of Christ's return. That is not a reason for fear. It is a reason for readiness. It is an invitation to live fully awake, with your lamp full and your heart turned toward Him. The five wise virgins were not praised because they were perfect. They were ready because they had been faithful in the small, daily act of keeping their lamps filled. Readiness is not a single dramatic moment. It is the result of many quiet, consistent choices made over time. You have the opportunity right now to be that kind of person. To cultivate your relationship with God. To keep the fire burning. To live with an awareness that today could be the day everything changes. This is not a heavy burden. It is actually a beautiful way to live. When your heart is genuinely connected to God, anticipating His return becomes a source of joy, not dread. You are not scrambling to get ready. You are already walking with Him. Let today be the day you renew that fire. Let today be the day you say, Lord, I need You more than ever. He is ready to meet you right where you are.

Bible Verse: "Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous person will be remembered forever." - Matthew 24:36

Reflection Question: If today were the day Christ returned, would you feel the joy of someone who has been walking closely with Him, or would you feel the panic of someone who kept meaning to get ready?

Quote: "Today is the day of salvation. Today is the day to do what God has put in our heart. Today is the day to take a step. Today is the day is to renew that fire that we have in our soul."

Prayer: God, help me to be on fire for You fresh and anew today. I choose to seek You with my whole heart, and I trust You to meet me as I do. Amen.

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