



a 21-day devotional journey

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MT.  LIVE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Love God | Love People | Prove It

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DAY 1 – Chosen to Be

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Have you ever been picked *last*—for a team, a group project, or an opportunity?
That moment has a way of whispering lies: *You’re not enough. You don’t belong.*

Peter writes to believers who felt exactly that way—marginalized, scattered, and pressured by culture to forget who they were. Before addressing what they should *do*, he reminds them of who they *are*.

Christian faith does not begin with behavior.
It begins with **being**.

◆ Background & Exposition

Peter is writing to believers living as **exiles**—social outsiders in a hostile world. In verse 9, he stacks identity upon identity:

- **Chosen generation** – God initiated the relationship
- **Royal priesthood** – We represent God to people and people to God
- **Holy nation** – Set apart, not isolated
- **His own special people** – Possession with purpose

This echoes **Exodus 19**, where Israel was called before they were commanded. God always declares *identity* before issuing *instruction*.

The purpose clause matters:

“That you may proclaim the praises...”

We are not chosen **instead of** others—we are chosen **for** others.

◆ Application

Before you ask:

- *What should I do this year?*
Ask:
- *Who has God called me to be?*

Our 2026 vision begins here:

believe—not merely in ideas about Jesus, but in what God says about *you*.

When identity is secure, obedience becomes joyful instead of burdensome.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Where have you allowed culture or circumstance to define you instead of Scripture?
2. Which phrase in 1 Peter 2:9 speaks most deeply to your current season?
3. How would your daily life change if you truly believed you were chosen and called?

◆ Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me out of darkness into Your marvelous light.

Help me to believe what You say about me, even when my feelings disagree.

Anchor my identity in Christ and teach me to live from who I am—not for who I’m trying to be.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2 – Belief That Gives Birth

Sub-Theme: BELIEVE

Scripture: John 1:12–13 (NKJV)

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Most people inherit their last name automatically. You don’t earn it—you’re born into it. But there are moments when a name is **legally changed**: adoption, marriage, or restoration after a broken past.

In those moments, paperwork may formalize it, but identity follows something deeper: *belonging*.

John reminds us that believing in Jesus is not merely agreeing with who He is—it is being **reborn into a new family**, with a new name, new rights, and a new future.

Christian belief doesn’t just inform your thinking.
It **reforms your identity**.

◆ Background & Exposition

John writes his Gospel with one clear purpose:

“That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31)

In John 1, Jesus is introduced as the eternal Word—Creator, Light, and Life. Yet verse 11 says:

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”

Then comes the grace-filled contrast of verse 12:

“But as many as received Him...”

Belief here is **relational**, not merely intellectual.

To *receive* Christ is to welcome Him with trust, surrender, and allegiance.

John then clarifies what belief does:

- It gives us the **right** (authority, privilege)
- To **become** children of God

And he removes all confusion about the source:

- Not blood (heritage)
- Not flesh (effort)
- Not man (human systems)

Salvation is **of God alone**.

Belief births a new reality.

◆ Application

Many people believe *about* Jesus without believing *into* Jesus.

There is a difference between:

- Knowing church language
- And knowing you are God's child

When belief is authentic, it produces:

- Assurance instead of anxiety
- Identity instead of insecurity
- Freedom instead of fear

As we move into 2026, the call is not to *try harder* to live Christian—but to **believe deeper** that we already belong to God.

You don't behave your way into sonship.
You believe your way into it.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever confused belief with familiarity or tradition?
 2. In what ways do you still live as though your identity is self-made rather than God-given?
 3. What does it mean for you personally to be called a "child of God"?
-

◆ Prayer

**Father, thank You for receiving me when I received Christ.
Help me to believe not just with my words, but with my whole life.
Root my identity in Your love, not my performance.
Teach me to live as Your child—secure, confident, and free.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DAY 3 – Confession That Forms Conviction

Sub-Theme: BELIEVE

Scripture: Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV)

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...”

◆ Illustrative Story

There’s a difference between something you *know* privately and something you’re willing to say publicly.

People will whisper what they’re unsure of—but they **declare** what they’re convinced of.

Paul tells us that authentic belief doesn’t stay silent.
It finds its way to the mouth.

Because what truly grips the heart eventually governs the tongue.

◆ Background & Exposition

Romans is Paul’s most comprehensive explanation of the Gospel. By chapter 10, he is addressing Israel’s struggle—not a lack of passion, but a lack of **proper belief**.

Paul outlines the simplicity of salvation:

- **Confess** with your mouth
- **Believe** in your heart

This isn’t a formula—it’s alignment.

To confess “Jesus is Lord” was a radical statement in Roman culture. It meant rejecting Caesar as ultimate authority and pledging allegiance to Christ alone.

Belief in the resurrection affirms:

- Jesus’ victory over sin
- Jesus’ authority over death
- Jesus’ right to rule our lives

Paul concludes with a promise:

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Salvation is accessible—but never casual.

◆ Application

We live in a culture where faith is often treated as a **private preference** rather than a public confession.

But biblical belief:

- Shapes our speech
- Anchors our decisions
- Clarifies our loyalties

To believe is not just to accept facts about Jesus—it is to surrender authority to Him.

As we begin this journey of *be.*, God is calling us to:

- Believe boldly
- Speak clearly
- Live unashamed

Faith that stays hidden rarely stays strong.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. What does your speech reveal about what you truly believe?
 2. Are there places where you’ve hesitated to confess Christ openly?
 3. How does believing in the resurrection shape how you face fear, loss, or uncertainty?
-

◆ Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess You as Lord of my life.

Strengthen my belief so that it shapes my words and my walk.

Give me courage to live and speak in alignment with my faith.

Let my confession be clear, my conviction be deep, and my life be faithful.

In Your name, Amen.

DAY 4 – Faith That Pleases God

Sub-Theme: BELIEVE

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1, 6 (NKJV)

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Most of life requires faith long before results show up.

You plant seeds in the ground believing something will grow—though for weeks, all you see is dirt. You accept a job trusting the offer will be honored. You board a plane believing the pilot knows the way.

Faith, by nature, is **forward-looking trust**.

Hebrews reminds us that faith isn't wishful thinking—it's confidence rooted in who God *is*, not what we see.

◆ Background & Exposition

Hebrews was written to believers tempted to abandon their faith under pressure. Chapter 11 interrupts theological teaching with testimony—showing what belief looks like when it's lived out.

Faith is defined as:

- **Substance** – the underlying confidence that gives hope weight
- **Evidence** – proof that shapes our decisions even when outcomes are unseen

Verse 6 reveals the heart of belief:

1. We must believe **that God exists**
2. We must believe **that God responds**

Faith is not impressed by God's power alone—it trusts God's **character**.

To please God is not to perform perfectly, but to trust Him consistently.

◆ Application

Many believers struggle not because they doubt God's ability—but because they doubt His goodness.

To believe God is to trust:

- His timing when answers delay
- His wisdom when paths confuse
- His faithfulness when outcomes disappoint

As we pursue *be.*, God invites us to believe not just that He *can*, but that He *will* do what is best.

Faith isn't blind optimism.

It's anchored confidence.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Where is God calling you to trust Him without visible evidence?
 2. Do you believe God is a rewarder—or merely a ruler?
 3. How does your faith shape your daily decisions?
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◆ Prayer

God, help me to trust You beyond what I can see.

Strengthen my faith when doubt creeps in.

Teach me to seek You with confidence, believing that You are good and faithful.

May my life please You—not through perfection, but through trust.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 5 – The Gospel We Received

Sub-Theme: BELIEVE

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand...”

◆ Illustrative Story

Over time, familiarity can dull appreciation.

We can repeat lyrics without listening, recite prayers without reflecting, and even hear the Gospel so often that we forget its power.

Paul writes to the Corinthians not to introduce new truth—but to **remind them of what they already received**.

Sometimes growth requires returning to the foundation.

◆ Background & Exposition

The Corinthian church was gifted—but divided, distracted, and drifting. Paul centers them by restating the Gospel:

- **Christ died for our sins**
- **He was buried**
- **He rose again**

This wasn't opinion—it was eyewitness testimony “according to the Scriptures.”

Paul emphasizes three responses:

- Received – accepted personally
- Standing – grounded securely
- Saved – continually shaped

Belief in the Gospel is not a moment—it's a **lifelong posture**.

◆ Application

We never graduate from the Gospel.

Every season of life—success, failure, growth, grief—requires us to return to the truth that:

- Jesus died for us
- Jesus rose for us
- Jesus lives for us

If belief is ever reduced to moral improvement or religious routine, the Gospel has been replaced.

To *be* Christian is to stand daily in the grace we first received.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. How has familiarity affected your response to the Gospel?
2. In what ways have you added to or drifted from the simplicity of the Gospel?
3. How does the resurrection shape how you face today?

◆ Prayer

Lord, thank You for the Gospel that saved me and sustains me.

Keep my heart tender toward the truth of the cross and resurrection.

Help me to live anchored in grace, not achievement.

May I never move beyond what You have already done for me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 6 – Saved by Grace, Shaped for Purpose

Sub-Theme: BELIEVE

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...”

◆ Illustrative Story

Gifts lose their meaning when we try to earn them.

Imagine someone handing you a gift, only for you to insist on paying for it. The moment money is exchanged, the gift becomes a transaction.

Paul makes it clear: salvation is not a reward—it’s a **gift**.

And gifts are received, not achieved.

◆ Background & Exposition

Ephesians 2 begins by describing humanity’s condition—dead in sin, driven by selfish desire, separated from God.

Then grace interrupts:

“But God, who is rich in mercy...”

Salvation is:

- **By grace** – God’s initiative
- **Through faith** – our response
- **Not by works** – no room for boasting

Yet verse 10 completes the picture:

We are saved **for** good works—not **by** them.

Belief leads to purpose.

◆ Application

Many believers struggle with either:

- Guilt-driven performance
- Or grace-abusing passivity

Paul holds the balance:

We are saved freely—but never aimlessly.

As we step into 2026, belief must mature into understanding:

- I am saved intentionally
- I am shaped purposefully
- I am sent faithfully

Grace doesn't excuse inactivity—it empowers obedience.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Do you struggle more with earning God's approval or neglecting your purpose?
 2. How does knowing you are God's workmanship affect your self-worth?
 3. What good works might God be preparing you to walk in this year?
-

◆ Prayer

Father, thank You for saving me by grace.

Help me to rest in what You've done and walk boldly in what You're calling me to do.

Shape my belief so that it produces obedience rooted in love.

Use my life for Your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 7 – One Body, Shared Life

Sub-Theme: BELONG

Scripture: Romans 12:4–5 (NKJV)

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

◆ Illustrative Story

No body part survives on its own.

A hand disconnected from the body cannot function, feel, or live. It may still *look* like a hand—but it no longer has life.

Paul uses the human body to confront a dangerous assumption: that faith can flourish in isolation.

Christianity was never designed to be *me and Jesus*.
It was always meant to be **we in Christ**.

◆ Background & Exposition

Romans 12 marks a transition from belief to behavior. After eleven chapters of Gospel truth, Paul begins chapter 12 with:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren...”

The “therefore” connects belief to belonging.

Paul teaches that:

- We are **one body** – unified in Christ
- We are **many members** – diverse in function
- We are **members of one another** – mutually responsible

Belonging is not about similarity—it’s about **shared submission to Christ**.

◆ Application

Many people attend church but resist belonging.

Belonging requires:

- Vulnerability
- Commitment
- Interdependence

To belong means:

- Your joy affects me
- Your pain matters to me
- Your growth strengthens us

As we step into *be.*, God is calling us to move from **spectatorship** to **shared life**.

You don't just belong *to* the church.

You belong *with* the church.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. In what ways have you treated church as a place rather than a body?
 2. What fears keep you from deeper connection?
 3. How might your presence strengthen the body of Christ?
-

◆ Prayer

Lord, thank You for placing me in Your body.

Teach me to value community as You do.

Help me to love, serve, and belong—not partially, but fully.

Make us one in Christ for Your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 8 – The Rhythm of Belonging

Sub-Theme: BELONG

Scripture: Acts 2:42–47 (NKJV)

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers...”

◆ Illustrative Story

Healthy relationships are built on rhythm.

Families grow closer not through occasional events, but through consistent practices—meals, conversations, shared experiences.

The early church didn’t grow because of programs.
It grew because of **patterns**.

Belonging flourishes where rhythms are intentional.

◆ Background & Exposition

Acts 2 describes the church immediately after Pentecost. What followed wasn’t chaos—it was commitment.

Luke highlights four practices:

1. **Doctrine** – shared truth
2. **Fellowship** – shared life
3. **Breaking of bread** – shared tables
4. **Prayer** – shared dependence

Their unity wasn’t forced—it was **formed**.

Belonging was lived daily, not limited to gatherings.

◆ Application

Modern believers often want the results of Acts 2 without the rhythm of Acts 2.

True belonging requires:

- Time
- Consistency
- Intentional presence

As we move into this season, the call is not simply to *attend more*, but to **engage deeper**.

Community doesn't happen accidentally—it happens faithfully.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Which rhythm of the early church is weakest in your life?
2. How might your schedule need to shift to prioritize belonging?
3. Who has God placed around you for shared spiritual growth?

◆ Prayer

God, help me to commit to the rhythms that build true community.

Draw me into deeper fellowship with Your people.

Teach us to walk together in truth, prayer, and love.

Let our lives reflect the beauty of belonging.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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DAY 9 – No Longer Strangers

Sub-Theme: BELONG

Scripture: Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...”

◆ Illustrative Story

There’s a difference between being **invited** and being **at home**.

You act differently when you know you belong—when you don’t have to earn your place or explain your presence.

Paul reminds believers that the Gospel didn’t just reconcile us to God—it reconciled us **to one another**.

◆ Background & Exposition

Ephesians 2 addresses division—specifically between Jews and Gentiles. Christ didn’t simply bridge a gap; He **removed the wall**.

Paul uses three images:

- **Citizens** – shared identity
- **Family** – shared intimacy
- **Building** – shared purpose

Belonging is not emotional comfort alone—it is **covenant inclusion**.

◆ Application

Many believers live spiritually homeless—saved but unsettled, connected but uncommitted.

But Christ declares:

- You belong (Ephesians 2:19)
- You are needed (1 Cor 12:18)

DAY 10 – Necessary, Not Optional

Sub-Theme: BELONG

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 (NKJV)

“But now indeed there are many members, yet one body... But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Injuries reveal importance.

You rarely think about your toe—until you stub it. Suddenly, your entire body responds to something small but essential.

Paul uses this imagery to confront a subtle lie in the church:
Some people matter more than others.

In God’s body, there are no disposable parts.

◆ Background & Exposition

The Corinthian church struggled with pride and comparison—especially around spiritual gifts. Paul corrects them by emphasizing **God’s design**.

Key truths:

- Unity does not eliminate diversity
- Diversity does not negate unity
- Every member is placed **by God**

Paul says something profound:

“The body does not consist of one member but of many.”

Belonging means you are:

- **Valued**
- **Necessary**
- **Interconnected**

No gift is accidental. No person is excess.

◆ Application

Many believers minimize their role:

- “I’m not important.”
- “They don’t need me.”
- “Someone else will do it.”

But Scripture declares (1 Cor 12:26):

- If one suffers, all suffer
- If one is honored, all rejoice

Belonging requires recognizing that **your presence matters**.

You don’t belong because you’re impressive.

You belong because God placed you.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Where have you undervalued your role in the body of Christ?
 2. Have comparison or insecurity kept you from deeper engagement?
 3. How might the body be stronger if you fully embraced your place?
-

◆ Prayer

God, thank You for making me a necessary part of Your body.

Free me from comparison and insecurity.

Help me to serve faithfully, knowing You have placed me with purpose.

Teach us to honor one another as You do.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 11 – Bearing One Another

Sub-Theme: BELONG

Scripture: Galatians 6:1–2 (NKJV)

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Some loads are too heavy to carry alone.

You may manage groceries by yourself—but moving furniture requires help. Wisdom knows the difference between what *can* be carried alone and what *shouldn’t* be.

Paul teaches that Christian community is revealed most clearly in **how we respond to weakness**.

◆ Background & Exposition

Galatians was written to confront legalism—people trying to live by rules rather than grace.

In chapter 6, Paul shows what grace-filled belonging looks like:

- Restoring gently
- Carrying burdens collectively
- Watching ourselves humbly

The “law of Christ” is not rigid regulation—it is **love expressed through responsibility**.

Belonging means:

- You don’t suffer alone
 - You don’t fail in isolation
 - You don’t heal without help
-

◆ Application

Our culture celebrates independence—but Scripture honors **interdependence**.

Belonging requires:

- Humility to ask for help
- Compassion to offer support
- Wisdom to know when to step in

We fulfill Christ's law not by avoiding people's struggles—but by stepping into them with grace.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Do you struggle more with asking for help or offering it?
2. Who has God placed in your life to help carry your burdens?
3. How might you intentionally support someone this week?

◆ Prayer

Lord, give me a heart that reflects Yours.

Teach me to carry the burdens of others with compassion and humility.

Help me to receive help when I need it and offer help when I can.

May our community reflect Your love in action.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 12 – Stirring One Another

Sub-Theme: BELONG

Scripture: Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

◆ Illustrative Story

Fire burns brightest when logs are close together.

Separate them, and the flame fades. Together, they generate heat, light, and endurance.

Belonging is not about convenience—it’s about **consistency**.

◆ Background & Exposition

Hebrews was written to believers growing weary and tempted to withdraw.

The writer issues a communal call:

- *Consider one another* – intentional awareness
- *Stir up love and good works* – active encouragement
- *Do not forsake assembling* – committed presence

Belonging is proactive—not reactive.

Encouragement isn’t optional; it’s essential.

◆ Application

Many believers underestimate the power of their presence.

Showing up:

- Strengthens faith
- Fuels perseverance
- Builds accountability

As we complete the BELONG section, the call is clear:
We gather not just for ourselves—but for one another.

1. How intentional are you about encouraging others?
2. Have you allowed discouragement to distance you from community?
3. Who might need your presence more than you realize?

**Father, help me to be intentional in encouraging others.
Remind me that my presence matters more than I know.
Strengthen our commitment to gather, grow, and serve together.
Let our community reflect Your love and faithfulness.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

DAY 13 – Renewed to Be Transformed

Sub-Theme: BECOME

Scripture: Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

◆ Illustrative Story

Transformation is rarely instant—it's often gradual.

Think about physical training. No one becomes stronger after a single workout. Strength comes from repeated discipline over time.

Paul reminds us that spiritual transformation works the same way. God changes us **from the inside out**, beginning with how we think.

Becoming requires renewal.

◆ Background & Exposition

Romans 12 follows eleven chapters of Gospel truth. Paul doesn't demand transformation—he **appeals** for it.

Key movements in the text:

- **Present your bodies** – surrender of the whole self
- **Do not be conformed** – resist external pressure
- **Be transformed** – internal change
- **Renewing of the mind** – reshaped thinking

The word “transformed” (metamorphoo) implies ongoing change—not a moment, but a process.

Belief leads to belonging.

Belonging leads to becoming.

◆ Application

Many believers want changed behavior without renewed thinking.

But transformation requires:

- New patterns
- New priorities
- New perspectives

As we step into *be.*, God invites us to:

- Release old ways of thinking
- Submit daily habits
- Allow truth to reshape desire

You don't become Christlike by accident—you become Christlike through surrender.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. What patterns of thinking does God want to renew in you?
 2. Where have you allowed culture to shape you more than Scripture?
 3. What does surrender look like in your daily life?
-

◆ Prayer

Lord, renew my mind by Your truth.

Help me to surrender every part of my life to You.

Transform me from the inside out so that my life reflects Your will.

Teach me to become who You've called me to be.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 14 – Made New

Sub-Theme: BECOME

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Renovation doesn't always change the address—but it changes the experience.

The same structure becomes something new when what's broken is repaired and what's outdated is removed.

Paul tells us salvation doesn't just forgive the past—it **redefines the present**.

Becoming begins with identity.

◆ Background & Exposition

Second Corinthians is deeply personal. Paul defends his ministry while explaining the reconciling work of Christ.

To be “in Christ” means:

- Union with Him
- Participation in His life
- Identification with His death and resurrection

The phrase “new creation” echoes Genesis—God is doing **creative work again**.

Becoming is not self-improvement.

It's divine recreation.

◆ Application

Too many believers live saved—but unchanged.

They believe the old has passed—but still rehearse it.

They affirm the new—but rarely walk in it.

Becoming requires:

- Letting go of former identities
- Embracing God's declaration
- Walking forward in freedom

You are not who you were.

You are who God is making you.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Which “old things” does God want you to release?
 2. Do you live from your past or from God's promise?
 3. What would it look like to walk fully in your new identity?
-

◆ Prayer

Father, thank You for making me new in Christ.

Help me to let go of what no longer defines me.

Teach me to walk in the freedom of who I am becoming.

Renew my identity daily through Your grace.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 15 – Crucified Yet Alive

Sub-Theme: BECOME

Scripture: Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...”

◆ Illustrative Story

Surrender is often misunderstood as loss—but it is actually **exchange**.

When we release control, God replaces it with purpose. When we die to self, we receive new life.

Paul describes becoming not as improvement—but as **identification with Christ**.

◆ Background & Exposition

Galatians confronts the danger of trying to live by grace but mature by effort.

Paul declares that transformation happens through:

- Union with Christ's death
- Dependence on Christ's life
- Faith in Christ's love

Crucifixion ends self-rule.

Resurrection begins Christ-rule.

◆ Application

Many believers struggle with control—trying to manage outcomes while claiming faith.

But becoming requires:

- Daily surrender
- Faith-filled dependence
- Trust in Christ's life within us

“What is Christ doing in me?”

1. Where do you struggle most with surrender?
2. What does it mean for Christ to live through you?
3. How might your life change if you trusted Christ's life more than your effort?

**Jesus, thank You for living in me.
Help me to surrender my will and trust Your work.
Teach me to live by faith, not by control.
Let my life reflect Your life within me.
In Your name, Amen.**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

DAY 16 – God Finishes What He Starts

Sub-Theme: BECOME

Scripture: Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Most unfinished projects don’t fail because they were started poorly—they fail because they were **abandoned**.

Paint half a room and stop. Lay a foundation and walk away. The problem isn’t potential; it’s perseverance.

Paul reminds believers that while we may abandon ourselves at times, **God never abandons His work**.

Becoming is sustained by God’s faithfulness, not our consistency.

◆ Background & Exposition

Paul writes Philippians from prison—not comfort. Yet his tone is joyful and confident.

Why?

Because transformation is not dependent on circumstances but on **God’s commitment**.

Key truths in this verse:

- God **initiates** the work
- God **sustains** the process
- God **completes** the outcome

The phrase “good work” includes:

- Salvation
- Sanctification
- Spiritual maturity

Becoming is not rushed—but it is guaranteed.

◆ Application

Many believers get discouraged when growth feels slow.

But God is not finished:

- With your healing
- With your discipline
- With your calling

Spiritual growth is not about perfection—it's about **progress under grace**.

You may feel unfinished—but you are not forgotten.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. Where have you grown impatient with yourself?
2. Do you trust God's timing in your transformation?
3. How does God's faithfulness encourage you to keep going?

◆ Prayer

Father, thank You for being faithful to finish what You started in me.

Help me to trust Your process even when progress feels slow.

Strengthen my faith to keep growing, knowing You are at work.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

[illegible]

DAY 17 – Putting Off and Putting On

Sub-Theme: BECOME

Scripture: Colossians 3:1–10 (NKJV)

“Put to death your members which are on the earth... and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Changing clothes requires intention.

You don’t accidentally remove old garments or unintentionally put on new ones. Transformation requires **deliberate action**.

Paul teaches that becoming Christlike involves both **removal** and **replacement**.

You can’t wear the new while clinging to the old.

◆ Background & Exposition

Colossians emphasizes Christ’s supremacy—and our response to it.

Because believers are “raised with Christ,” Paul urges them to:

- **Put to death** sinful patterns
- **Put off** destructive habits
- **Put on** renewed character

This is not behavior modification—it’s identity alignment.

The “new man” reflects:

- Christ’s character
- Christ’s priorities
- Christ’s image

Becoming requires daily decisions.

◆ Application

Many believers ask God to remove things they refuse to release.

Becoming requires:

- Honest self-examination
- Willing obedience
- Intentional replacement

God removes what destroys us—but He also replaces it with what reflects Him.

Transformation is cooperative.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. What habits or attitudes does God want you to put off?
2. What Christlike qualities is He calling you to put on?
3. How can you practice intentional obedience this week?

◆ Prayer

Lord, help me to put off what no longer honors You.

Renew my heart and mind so that I reflect Your image.

Teach me to live intentionally, walking in newness of life.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 18 – Becoming Fruitful

Sub-Theme: BECOME

Scripture: John 15:1–8 (NKJV)

“He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Fruit doesn’t grow by effort—it grows by **connection**.

Branches don’t strain to produce fruit; they simply remain attached to the vine.

Jesus teaches that spiritual fruitfulness flows from **abiding**, not striving.

◆ Background & Exposition

In John 15, Jesus prepares His disciples for life after His resurrection.

He establishes a clear truth:

- He is the vine
- We are the branches
- Fruitfulness depends on abiding

Pruning, though painful, is purposeful—it removes what hinders growth.

Becoming fruitful means staying close to the source.

◆ Application

Many believers equate fruitfulness with activity.

But Jesus emphasizes:

- Relationship before results
- Connection before productivity
- Abiding before bearing

As we conclude **BECOME**, the call is simple:
Stay connected to Christ.

Growth flows from intimacy.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. What does abiding in Christ look like in your daily life?
2. Where might God be pruning you for greater fruitfulness?
3. How can you deepen your connection with Christ this season?

◆ Prayer

Jesus, help me to abide in You daily.

Teach me to trust Your pruning and remain connected to Your life.

May my life bear fruit that glorifies the Father.

In Your name, Amen.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

DAY 19 – On Earth as It Is in Heaven

Sub-Theme: BEHOLD

Scripture: Matthew 6:9–10 (NKJV)

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Most people think of heaven as a *destination* rather than a **demonstration**.

We pray about going to heaven one day—but Jesus taught us to pray about heaven **coming here**.

The Lord’s Prayer is not escapism.
It is **alignment**.

To behold the Kingdom is to live with heaven’s values shaping earthly realities.

◆ Background & Exposition

Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray—not with empty repetition, but with intentional focus.

This prayer establishes:

- God’s **authority** (“Our Father in heaven”)
- God’s **holiness** (“Hallowed be Your name”)
- God’s **agenda** (“Your kingdom come”)

The Kingdom of God is not merely future—it is **breaking into the present** wherever God’s will is obeyed.

Beholding the Kingdom means seeing life through heaven’s lens.

◆ Application

To pray “Your kingdom come” is to invite:

- God's justice where there is injustice
- God's peace where there is chaos
- God's love where there is division

As we step into *be.*, we are called not to wait for heaven—but to **reflect heaven.**

The Kingdom becomes visible when believers live submitted lives.

◆ Reflection Questions

1. How does your life reflect heaven's values?
2. Where is God calling you to bring Kingdom influence?
3. How might your prayers change if you focused on alignment rather than outcomes?

◆ Prayer

Father, let Your Kingdom come in my life.

Align my will with Yours.

Use me to reflect heaven's justice, peace, and love on earth.

May my life honor Your name.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 20 – Beholding His Glory

Sub-Theme: BEHOLD

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:17–18 (NKJV)

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image...”

◆ Illustrative Story

We become like what we behold.

Spend time around bitterness, and cynicism grows.
Fix your eyes on beauty, and hope increases.

Paul teaches that transformation continues—not by striving, but by **sustained focus on Christ**.

Beholding is formative.

◆ Background & Exposition

Paul contrasts the old covenant—marked by veils and distance—with the new covenant—marked by access and freedom.

Key truths:

- Where the Spirit is, there is **freedom**
- Beholding leads to **becoming**
- Transformation is progressive (“from glory to glory”)

We are shaped not merely by discipline—but by devotion.

◆ Application

Many believers try to change without changing what they focus on.

But Scripture teaches:

- Fix your eyes on Christ

- What you behold consistently, you eventually reflect.

1. What currently captures most of your attention?
2. How does beholding Christ reshape your priorities?
3. What practices help you stay focused on God's glory?

**Lord, help me to fix my eyes on You.
Remove distractions that pull my focus away.
Transform me as I behold Your glory.
Let my life reflect the beauty of Your presence.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

DAY 21 – A New Heaven, A New Earth

Sub-Theme: BEHOLD

Scripture: Revelation 21:1–5 (NKJV)

“Behold, I make all things new.”

◆ Illustrative Story

Every renovation project begins with vision.

Before walls are rebuilt, someone imagines what *could be*. God ends Scripture the same way He began it—with creation renewed and restored.

Revelation does not close with escape—it closes with **hope**.

◆ Background & Exposition

John’s vision reveals God’s ultimate plan:

- Restoration of creation
- Removal of pain
- Renewal of all things

God does not abandon the world—He **redeems it**.

The word “Behold” is an invitation to look carefully, expectantly, and faithfully.

Hope shapes how we live now.

◆ Application

As we conclude *be.*, we are reminded:

- God is not finished
- Renewal is coming
- Our labor is not in vain

We live today with tomorrow’s hope.

◆ Reflection Questions

- ## ◆ Prayer

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FASTING IN SCRIPTURE (A BRIEF WORD)

Biblically, fasting most often involved abstaining from food (Matthew 4:1–2; Acts 13:2–3). We affirm and encourage food-based fasts where they are appropriate, prayerfully chosen, and physically safe.

At the same time, we recognize that in our modern context, abstaining from food alone is not always the most meaningful sacrifice. True fasting always involves **giving something up that normally has access to us**, so that God has greater access to our hearts.

PRACTICAL FASTING OPTIONS (PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER)

Rather than prescribing one rigid fast, we invite you to choose a fast that is **intentional, sacrificial, and transformative**.

You may consider fasting from:

Food

- One meal a day
- A specific food category
- One full day per week (with medical wisdom)

Media & Technology

- Social media
- Streaming platforms
- News consumption
- Non-essential screen time

Comfort & Convenience

- Eating out
- Online shopping
- Background noise (music, podcasts, TV)

Behavioral Patterns

- Complaining
- Overworking
- Procrastination
- Reacting instead of responding

Time

- Replace entertainment time with prayer
- Begin or end each day with Scripture instead of scrolling

The goal is not simply to stop something—but to **replace it with God**.

HOW TO MAKE THIS FAST LIFE-CHANGING

For fasting to be meaningful, it must be paired with **intentional prayer and reflection**.

As you fast:

- Use the time you would normally spend eating, scrolling, or consuming to **pray and reflect**

- Journal what God reveals to you
- Pay attention to what surfaces when the distraction is removed
- Ask God:
 - *What are You saying to me?*
 - *What needs to change in me?*
 - *Where are You leading me next?*

Fasting exposes what controls us so that God can **reorder our desires**.

THE DANIEL FAST (BRIEF SCRIPTURAL GUIDELINE)

The “Daniel Fast” is drawn from the life and practices of the prophet Daniel. While Scripture presents Daniel’s approach primarily as a **dietary discipline and spiritual lifestyle**, many believers adopt it during seasons of focused prayer as a form of consecration.

“Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.”
— Daniel 1:12 (NKJV)

“I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth...”
— Daniel 10:3 (NKJV)

Daniel’s example emphasizes **simplicity, restraint, and devotion to God**, not religious performance. Those who follow this guideline today typically consume fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and water while dedicating intentional time to prayer and reflection.

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.”
— Daniel 1:8 (NKJV)

MEDICAL & PASTORAL DISCLAIMER

Fasting and dietary changes should be approached with wisdom and care. Individuals with medical conditions, dietary restrictions, or those who are pregnant, nursing, or under medical supervision should consult a healthcare professional before beginning any food-based fast.

Participants are encouraged to choose a fasting approach that is **safe, prayerfully considered, and appropriate for their physical health**. God honors faithfulness of heart, not physical harm or neglect of wisdom.

FASTING COMPARISON GUIDE

(Choose the fast that best creates space for prayer, discernment, and obedience)

Type of Fast	Description	Spiritual Emphasis	Best For
Traditional Food Fast	Abstaining from food for a set period (meal-based or day-based)	Dependence, humility, seeking God earnestly	Those able to safely abstain from food
Daniel Fast (Dietary Discipline)	Simple plant-based eating (fruits, vegetables, whole grains, water)	Consecration, clarity, sustained focus	Those seeking structure without total abstinence
Media / Technology Fast	Abstaining from social media, streaming, news, or non-essential screen time	Removing distractions, sharpening spiritual awareness	Those whose attention is heavily divided
Behavioral Fast	Abstaining from harmful or habitual behaviors (complaining, overspending, etc.)	Repentance, character formation	Those seeking heart and habit transformation
Time-Based Fast	Replacing entertainment or leisure time with prayer and Scripture	Reordering priorities, spiritual discipline	Those with demanding schedules

FASTING & THE *be.* VISION

Let your fasting align with the movement of this devotional journey:

- **BELIEVE** – Fast from doubt and self-reliance; lean into trust
- **BELONG** – Fast from isolation; lean into community and reconciliation
- **BECOME** – Fast from old habits; lean into transformation
- **BEHOLD** – Fast from distraction; lean into God’s Kingdom vision

As we believe rightly, belong deeply, and become steadily, God opens our eyes to behold what He is calling us to advance—both in us and through us.

A PRAYER FOR THE FAST

Lord, we come to You with open hearts.
We desire You more than comfort, routine, or distraction.
As we fast, quiet our spirits and sharpen our hearing.
Reveal Your will for our lives.
Transform our habits, reshape our desires,
and make us into who You have called us to be,
so that we may behold and advance what You have called us to do.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Approach this fast with humility and grace. Start where you are. Be honest. Be intentional. And trust that God honors hearts that seek Him sincerely.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”
— Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

Lastly, the effectiveness of fasting is not found in the method, but in the **intentional turning of the heart toward God**. Whatever fast is chosen should create space to listen, obey, and be transformed.

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”
— James 4:8 (NKJV)

APPENDIX

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS

*The Biblical Framework of the 21-Day Devotional: **be.***

PURPOSE OF THIS APPENDIX

This appendix provides the **primary biblical foundations** that support the theological statements, pastoral summaries, and vision language used throughout the *be.* devotional journey.

While each day centers on a specific Scripture passage, many truths expressed in the devotionals reflect the **broader witness of Scripture**. This appendix is designed to:

- Strengthen **biblical confidence** for those leading/reading the devotionals
 - Provide **clear references** for further study
 - Demonstrate theological faithfulness and integrity
-

I. BELIEVE — *Grounded in the Gospel*

Core Truths:

- Identity precedes instruction
- Faith is relational trust, not mere intellectual agreement
- Salvation is by grace through faith
- The Gospel is foundational and ongoing

Key Scripture Foundations:

- **1 Peter 2:9** – Chosen identity and purpose
 - **Exodus 19:4–6** – Identity before command
 - **John 1:12–13** – New birth and adoption
 - **Romans 10:9–13** – Confession and belief
 - **Hebrews 11:1, 6** – Faith that pleases God
 - **1 Corinthians 15:1–4** – The Gospel received and lived
 - **Ephesians 2:8–10** – Saved by grace, shaped for purpose
 - **Romans 8:15–17** – Adoption and assurance
-

II. BELONG — *Formed in Community*

Core Truths:

- Christianity is communal, not individualistic
- Belonging involves responsibility, not just attendance
- Every believer has value, function, and placement
- Shared suffering and shared joy mark true community

Key Scripture Foundations:

- **Romans 12:4–5** – One body, many members
 - **Acts 2:42–47** – The rhythms of early Christian community
 - **Ephesians 2:19–22** – Members of God’s household
 - **1 Corinthians 12:12–27** – Necessary members of the body
 - **1 Corinthians 12:18, 22, 26** – God’s placement and shared experience
 - **Galatians 6:1–2** – Bearing one another’s burdens
 - **Hebrews 10:24–25** – Encouragement through gathering
 - **Romans 12:15** – Rejoicing and weeping together
-

III. BECOME — *Transformed by the Spirit*

Core Truths:

- Spiritual formation is ongoing, not instant
- Transformation begins in the mind and heart
- New identity requires new practices
- Growth is God-initiated and God-sustained

Key Scripture Foundations:

- **Romans 12:1–2** – Renewed minds and transformed lives
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** – New creation identity
 - **Galatians 2:20** – Christ living in the believer
 - **Philippians 1:6** – God completing His work
 - **Colossians 3:1–10** – Putting off the old, putting on the new
 - **John 15:1–8** – Abiding and fruitfulness
 - **Luke 6:45** – Inner life shaping outward living
 - **Jude 24** – God’s preserving power
-

IV. BEHOLD — *Living the Kingdom*

Core Truths:

- The Kingdom of God is both present and future
- What we behold shapes who we become
- The Church reflects heaven's reality on earth
- Hope in renewal shapes faithful living now

Key Scripture Foundations:

- **Matthew 6:9–10** – God's Kingdom on earth
 - **Luke 17:20–21** – The Kingdom in our midst
 - **Matthew 12:28** – The Kingdom breaking in
 - **2 Corinthians 3:17–18** – Beholding and becoming
 - **Psalms 115:8** – Becoming like what we worship
 - **Revelation 21:1–5** – God making all things new
 - **Romans 8:18–25** – Hope rooted in future renewal
-

V. SUMMARY DECLARATIONS GROUNDED IN SCRIPTURE

“You belong. You are needed. You have a place.”

- Ephesians 2:19–22
- 1 Corinthians 12:18–22
- 1 Peter 2:5

“If one suffers, all suffer. If one is honored, all rejoice.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:26
- Romans 12:15

“We become like what we behold.”

- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Psalm 115:8

FINAL AFFIRMATION

The *be.* devotional journey is rooted in the conviction that **Scripture forms identity, shapes community, produces transformation, and reveals God's Kingdom.** Every theme, declaration, and application is anchored in the consistent witness of the Word of God.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

— 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)