



Five—Day Devotional #1
The Immeasurable Effect: Measuring Eternal Impact in a Temporal World
January 5-9, 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Devotional Inspiration

The Immeasurable Effect: Measuring Eternal Impact in a Temporal World

Introduction: Having just completed our five-week Christmas journey devotional, we now step into 2026 with hearts freshly prepared. In Week Five, we were invited to pause and recognize something profound: **the Christmas event is both fulfillment and foundation.**

Christmas was the fulfillment of ancient prophecy—God's long-promised "shall be" coming to pass. Yet it also stands as the foundation for every promise not yet fully seen—the divine "not yet" still unfolding in our lives.

The birth of Christ reminds us that **God measures differently than we do.**

He fulfills His promises in ways that often begin quietly, grow slowly, and manifest eternally. Bethlehem itself teaches us that God's greatest works start in hidden places, develop in obscurity, and bear fruit across generations. When we understand this, we begin to see our earthly challenges and afflictions through a different lens:

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

— 2 Corinthians 4:17–18

This is why our transition into the first devotional of the new year is not merely chronological—it is **deeply spiritual**. Christmas does not end when the calendar turns. Christmas establishes the standard for how we interpret God's work throughout the year. It prepared our hearts for this unshakable truth:

If God fulfilled the greatest promise in the fullness of His own time, then the ongoing work He is accomplishing in us—though unseen, unmeasured, or incomplete—is just as certain, intentional, and powerful.

Christmas revealed the eternal entering the temporal.

Now we learn to live with our eyes trained on the eternal, even as we walk through the limits, pressures, and timelines of an earthly world.

What God began in Bethlehem continues in us.

What He fulfilled then becomes the pattern for how He fulfills His promises now.

And what we cannot measure today will one day reveal its full glory in eternity.

With this foundation, we now step into **Devotional #1 of the new year: *The Immeasurable Effect: Measuring Eternal Impact in a Temporal World.***

Blessings,

Pastor Fryar

Note to reader: This five-day devotional is designed to encourage and reaffirm that when you pray, you are deepening your walk with God. This is highlighted through use of scripture references from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

— 2 Corinthians 4:17–18



Day 1 – Measuring too soon in a temporal world.

Scripture segment: *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment...”* — 2 Corinthians 4:17.

Thought: If you try to measure things that have eternal effect too soon in a temporal world, you may become frustrated or disappointed.

Reflection: Paul reminds us that what we face now is “but for a moment.” When we judge spiritual progress by what appears in the moment, we misread the situation. Eternal results cannot be measured in temporary frames.

It’s like planting a seed and expecting fruit the next morning. The process has started, but time hasn’t had the chance to do its work. When we measure prematurely, we mistake process for failure.

God’s timing is not our timing. His unseen work often develops quietly, beneath the surface, beyond our immediate understanding.

Application: Don’t judge the value of your obedience, service, or ministry by how things appear right now. Trust the unseen work of God; eternal fruit requires eternal timing.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me trust Your timing. Keep me from measuring too soon and teach me to rest in the unseen work You are doing.



Day 2 – Time is God’s servant in the process.

Scripture segment: “...worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” — 2 Corinthians 4:17.

Thought: Time is essential for eternal formation. God often hides growth until it’s ready for revealing.

Reflection: Paul teaches that our present moments — even hardships — are *working* for us something eternal. Every seed carries a future, but it must stay buried long enough for life to emerge. Mentoring, ministry, and discipleship may show immediate responses, but their full fruit unfolds over years, sometimes generations.

Time is not wasted; it is God’s tool to refine, deepen, and strengthen what He’s producing in you. “In due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9).

The delay is not denial; it’s divine development.

Application: Be patient with the process. Time is not your enemy — it’s God’s servant preparing eternal fruit. Keep sowing, mentoring, and trusting.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, remind me that time serves Your purpose. Strengthen my patience and help me remain faithful in the process.



Day 3 – The hidden work: diamonds and pearls.

Scripture Segment: “...while we look not at the things which are seen...” — 2 Corinthians 4:18.

Thought: God’s most beautiful works are formed under pressure and in hidden places.

Reflection: Paul directs our focus away from the visible, because the visible rarely tells the whole story. Diamonds form beneath the earth under intense pressure over many years. Pearls form invisibly inside a shell, layer by layer, transforming irritation into beauty.

God works the same way in His people. Pressure, hiddenness, and waiting are not signs of abandonment but of formation. Eternal character is shaped in places others cannot see.

Application: When you feel hidden, pressured, or overlooked, remember: God is forming something precious and enduring within you. The delay is part of the design.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, even in hidden places, shape me for Your glory. Use the pressure and waiting to form something beautiful within me.



Day 4 – Eternal work cannot be measured by temporary scales.

Scripture segment: “...for the things which are seen are temporary...” — 2 Corinthians 4:18.

Thought: Much of what God does in and through us cannot be accurately assessed by visible results.

Reflection: Paul reminds us that visible things are temporary. The most meaningful spiritual work happens where no one sees: prayers whispered, burdens carried, encouragement given, mentoring moments that seem forgotten. Heaven measures differently.

If we judge eternal work by what is immediately visible, we will mislabel hidden success as failure. In God’s kingdom, faithfulness — not visible fruit — is success.

Application: Measure your life by obedience, not outcomes. Heaven’s scales weigh differently than earth’s.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me value what is eternal over what is visible. Let me walk in faithfulness, trusting Your unseen scales.



Day 5 – Trusting God with the unseen effect.

Scripture segment: “...but the things which are not seen are eternal.” — 2 Corinthians 4:18.

Thought: Eternal impact is God’s to measure; our part is to trust, obey, and endure.

Reflection: Paul calls us to focus on what is unseen, because that is where the eternal work of God happens. Seeds grow underground. Diamonds form in darkness. Pearls develop out of sight. And in the same way, God builds eternal impact through unseen faithfulness.

You may never observe the full effect of your sacrifices, prayers, or influence here — but God sees. And eternity will one day reveal all that time concealed.

“Your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” — 1 Corinthians 15:58

Application: Release the need to see everything now. Trust that what God begins, He completes — even if eternity is the only place the full result is revealed.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I entrust the unseen results to You. Complete the work You’ve begun in me and keep me faithful until the end.

Closing reflection: Eternal effects cannot be measured by temporary means. Time, pressure, hiddenness, and faithfulness are God’s tools for forming what will last forever. Like seeds, diamonds, and pearls — what God is forming in you may be hidden for a season, but it will one day reveal His glory in future eternity.