



Five-Day Devotional 36
Living Letters of Grace: Evidence That Christ Is at Work in Us
September 7-11, 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Devotional Inspiration

Living Letters of Grace: Evidence That Christ Is at Work in Us

Introduction: A recommendation letter is written to tell others something about a person, their character, qualifications, accomplishments, or potential. In **2 Corinthians 3:1–3**, Paul uses a similar picture to describe the believers at Corinth. Their lives were like a letter, not written with ink on paper, but written by Christ through the Holy Spirit.

The Corinthians were far from perfect. Paul addressed divisions, immaturity, disorder, and other concerns in his letters to them. Yet, despite their imperfections, there was evidence that Christ was working in their lives. Their transformed lives served as a testimony to the ministry God had accomplished through His servants.

This devotional invites us to consider our own lives as “recommendation letters.” What are people reading when they observe our attitudes, relationships, choices, service, and response to God’s grace?

A second theme runs throughout these five days: **everything we have is received from God**. Paul asks, “What do you have that you did not receive?” (**1 Corinthians 4:7**). Grace cannot be earned; it is received. And when we truly understand the grace we have received from God, that grace should increasingly become visible in how we treat others.

Our lives may not be perfect letters, but they can still be **productive letters—evidence that Christ is at work in us**.

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.



Day 1 — You Are a Letter.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:1–3: “Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you” (2 Cor. 3:2 NLT).

Paul tells the Corinthians that they themselves were a letter. He did not point to a document written with ink. He pointed to people whose lives demonstrated the reality of Christ's work.

People read our lives every day. They read how we respond when things do not go our way. They read how we treat people who cannot benefit us. They read our patience, our integrity, our humility, our forgiveness, and our willingness to serve.

Our lives become a testimony whether we intend them to or not.

The Corinthians had problems, but their imperfections did not erase the evidence of God's work among them. This is encouraging because God does not require us to be flawless before He can use our lives as a testimony. He calls us to remain available to His transforming work.

The question is not, “**Is my life perfect?**” The better question is, “**Can people see that Christ is working in my life?**”

Application: Today, consider your life from the perspective of someone who knows you well.

- What qualities of Christ might they see in you?
- What areas of your life still need the Spirit's transforming work?
- Are your words and actions giving people an accurate picture of your relationship with Christ?

Ask God to make your life a readable letter of His grace.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing my life to testify of Your work. I know I am not perfect, but I ask You to continue transforming me. Let Your character be seen in my words, actions, attitudes, and relationships. May those who encounter me see evidence that You are working in my life.



Day 2 — Written by Christ.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:3–6: “Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. (2 Cor. 3:3 NLT)

Devotional thought: A letter has an author. Paul makes it clear that the Corinthians were not simply a letter about Paul—they were **“the epistle of Christ.”**

Paul and other servants had ministered to them, but ultimately Christ was the One doing the writing.

This distinction is important. Witnessing and ministering to others is not about making people dependent upon us. The goal is for people to become increasingly identified with Christ.

When God uses us to minister to others, we are co-laborers. We plant, water, share, encourage, correct, pray, and serve, but God produces the transformation.

This takes pressure off us. We are responsible for faithful servant sharing God’s love to others, but God is responsible for the work He accomplishes through it.

The Holy Spirit continues writing Christ's character into our lives. He helps us grow in love and out of love we discover patience where there was impatience, humility where there was pride, forgiveness where there were bitterness and indifference.

Application: Ask yourself: **“Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to write Christ's character into my life?”**

Identify one area where you need spiritual transformation. Instead of merely trying harder, surrender that area to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to change you.

If you minister to others, remember that **you are a co-laborer, not the author of their transformation.**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, write the character of Christ more deeply into my life. Transform my attitudes, motives, words, and actions. Help me to serve others faithfully without trying to take credit for what only You can accomplish. Make my life a clear letter from Christ.



Day 3 — Productive, Though Not Perfect.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:2–3; 1 Corinthians 3:6–9: “I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” — 1 Corinthians 3:6

Devotional Thought: The Corinthian church gives us an important lesson: **productive does not mean perfect.**

Paul had plenty to correct in Corinth. Yet he could still recognize that God had been working among them.

Sometimes we become discouraged because we see everything that is wrong—with ourselves, our families, our churches, or the people we serve. We can become so focused on what remains unfinished that we fail to recognize what God has already accomplished.

Paul's perspective was different. He acknowledged his part: **“I have planted.”** He acknowledged Apollos's part: **“Apollos watered.”** But he gave God the credit for the increase. Everyone needs continual spiritual growth. There may be people you serve who are still struggling. That does not mean your ministry has been fruitless.

Look for the evidence of God's work. A changed attitude may be evidence. A restored relationship may be evidence. A person taking one step closer to Christ may be evidence. A decision to forgive may be evidence.

Do not confuse **unfinished** with **unproductive**.

Application: Take time today to identify evidence of God's work:

1. What has God changed in you?
2. Who has God allowed you to influence positively?
3. What small signs of spiritual growth can you see?
4. Where do you need to trust God for the increase?

Thank God for what He has done rather than allowing yourself to become consumed by what remains undone.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for every evidence of Your work in my life and in the lives of those around me. Forgive me when I focus so much on what is incomplete that I fail to recognize what You have already accomplished. Help me to faithfully plant and water while trusting You to give the increase. Amen.



Day 4 — What Do You Have That You Did Not Receive?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:7: “What do you have that God has not given you? And if everything you have is from God...” (1 Cor. 4:7 NLT).

Devotional Thought: Paul asks a question that confronts pride at its foundation: **What do you have that you did not receive?**

Our abilities, opportunities, resources, spiritual gifts, relationships, accomplishments, and even our ability to serve God are ultimately gifts of God's grace.

We can easily begin to think that we are self-made. We can look at what God has entrusted to us and begin taking credit for it. But grace reminds us that we are recipients before we are contributors.

We received mercy. We received salvation. We received forgiveness. We received gifts. We received opportunities to serve. We received another day.

When we understand that everything is received, gratitude replaces entitlement.

This changes how we see ourselves and how we see others. We become less impressed with ourselves and more thankful for God.

Application: Make a list today of things you have received from God. Include both the obvious and the ordinary.

Then thank Him specifically for each one.

As you do, resist the temptation to take personal credit. Practice saying:

“God has entrusted this to me.” That perspective produces humility and prepares us to extend grace to others.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, everything I have ultimately comes from You. Forgive me when I take credit for what Your grace has provided. Give me a grateful and humble heart. Help me recognize Your hand in every blessing, opportunity, ability, and resource You have entrusted to me.



Day 5 — Grace Received, Grace Given.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12–13: “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.” (Eph. 4:32 NKJ).

Devotional Thought: There is a connection between **receiving grace** and **giving grace**. If we fail to recognize how much grace God has extended toward us, we can become impatient with the failures of others. We can demand from people what we ourselves have not been able to give. We can forget that we are also works in progress.

But when we remember God's grace, our posture toward others changes:

We become more patient.

We become more willing to forgive.

We become slower to judge.

We become more compassionate toward people who are still growing.

The Corinthians were imperfect, yet Paul could still see evidence of Christ's work among them. That should shape our perspective toward others. We should be able to recognize both **the problems that need addressing** and **the grace that is already producing growth**.

Our lives are recommendation letters.

If people read our lives, do they see someone who has received grace but refuses to give it? Or do they see the grace of Christ being reproduced through us?

The strongest recommendation letter may not be a perfect life. It may be a life that clearly demonstrates **what God's grace can do with an imperfect person who continually surrenders to Christ**.

Application: Think about one person who has been difficult for you to extend grace toward. Before focusing on their shortcomings, remember your own position as a recipient of God's grace.

Then ask: “**How can I practice toward this person the same grace I have received from God?**”

Choose one practical expression of grace—patience, forgiveness, encouragement, kindness, prayer, or simply refusing to respond harshly.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the grace You have continually extended to me. Teach me to receive Your grace deeply enough that it changes how I treat others. Help me to be patient with people who are still growing, forgiving toward those who have hurt me, and compassionate toward those who struggle. May my life become a recommendation letter that points people to Jesus Christ. Amen.

Closing Reflection: Over these five days, we have been reminded that our lives tell a story. **We are letters:** Christ is the Author. The Holy Spirit is doing the writing. Others are reading. Ministry is the opportunity to serve as co-laborers. And grace is the message we have received and are called to demonstrate.

The goal is not to produce a perfect letter. The goal is to become a **faithful letter**—one that allows others to see that Christ is still writing, transforming, forgiving, restoring, and working through imperfect people.

Final Question: If someone read the letter of my life today, what would they learn about Jesus and the grace of God?