



Five-Day Devotional 29
We Don't Know Everything, But We Know Something
July 20-24, 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Devotional Inspiration

We Don't Know Everything, But We Know Something

Introduction: There are seasons in life when uncertainty seems to outweigh certainty. Questions arise faster than answers, circumstances change without warning, and the future appears hidden from view. In those moments, it is tempting to focus on everything we do not understand. Yet Scripture continually redirects our hearts from the unknown to the unchanging character of God.

This devotional reminds us that faith is not built upon having every answer but upon trusting the One who does. While our knowledge is limited, God's wisdom is infinite, His promises are dependable, and His presence is constant. The truths He has revealed are sufficient to strengthen us, guide us, and sustain us through every season.

Over these five days, we will reflect on the confidence believers can have in what God has already made known through His Word. Although we do not know every detail of His plan, we know enough to trust Him, obey Him, and walk forward in hope. May these daily reflections encourage you to anchor your heart in the certainty of God's truth rather than the uncertainty of life's circumstances.

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 — Joy begins with what we know.

Scripture: *James 1:2–3*: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." –NIV.

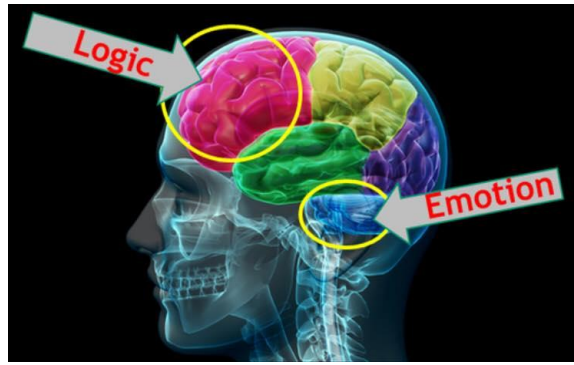
Devotional: Life often confronts us with questions that have no immediate answers. We wonder why hardship has come, how long it will last, or what God is accomplishing through it. James does not answer every "why," but he directs our attention to something far more important—what we know.

The command to "consider it all joy" is not based on pleasant circumstances but on revealed truth. Joy is rooted in knowledge rather than emotions. We may not know everything about our situation, but we know something about our God. We know He is faithful. We know He is working. We know He wastes nothing that He allows into the lives of His children.

Christian joy is not pretending pain doesn't exist. It is confidence that God's purpose is greater than our present discomfort.

Application: When uncertainty tempts you to question God, remind yourself of what He has already revealed. Allow His promises—not your circumstances—to shape your perspective.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, when I cannot understand what You are doing, help me trust what I know about who You are. Anchor my heart in Your faithfulness rather than my circumstances. Teach me to see every trial through the lens of Your promises.



Day 2 — Lead your mind before your emotions follow.

Scripture: *James 1:2*: "Consider it all joy..."

Devotional: The Greek word translated "consider" means "to regard," "to evaluate," or "to lead the mind to a conclusion." James is not commanding believers to manufacture happy feelings. He is calling them to make a deliberate, faith-filled evaluation.

Before emotions change, the mind must be guided by truth.

Our natural response to suffering is to focus on what hurts. James teaches us instead to focus on what God is accomplishing. Joy begins when faith leads our thinking rather than our feelings.

This same word appears elsewhere in Scripture. Paul "counted" all things as loss for Christ (Philippians 3:7–8). Moses "considered" reproach greater wealth than Egypt's treasures (Hebrews 11:26). In each case, joy was the result of a deliberate spiritual evaluation.

Faith leads the mind. The mind influences the heart. The heart strengthens endurance.

Application: Before reacting emotionally to today's difficulties, pause and ask, "What does God say about this situation?" Let Scripture shape your thinking before your emotions shape your conclusions.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, train my mind to think according to Your truth. Help me evaluate every circumstance through the promises of Your Word. Give me wisdom to lead my thoughts by faith so that my heart remains steadfast.



Day 3 — God is always producing something.

Scripture: *James 1:3*: "Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

Devotional: Trials are never random in the life of a believer.

James says the testing of faith produces patience/endurance. The word "produces" reminds us that God is always at work. Pressure is not pointless; it is productive. Every trial becomes an instrument in the hands of a sovereign God who is shaping His people.

God is in production mode.

The pressure may be intense, but it is never purposeless. What appears to be interruption is often God's invitation to transformation. He is producing perseverance, steadfastness, and unwavering trust.

The enemy seeks to use pressure to discourage us. God uses that same pressure to develop us.

Application: Instead of asking, "Why is this happening?" ask, "What is God producing in me through this experience?" Allow your trials to become classrooms of spiritual growth.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You that no trial is wasted in Your hands. Produce within me endurance, steadfast faith, and deeper trust. Help me cooperate with Your work instead of resisting it. Shape me into the person You desire me to become.



Day 4 — Endurance/patience has a purpose.

Scripture: *James 1:4* “But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect (mature) and complete, lacking nothing.”

Devotional: God's goal is never simply to help us survive hardship. His desire is to mature us through it. Endurance is not the destination; maturity is.

James tells believers to "let endurance/patience have its full effect." Spiritual growth cannot be rushed. Character develops over time as we continue trusting God through seasons of testing.

Many pray only for deliverance. James encourages us also to pray for development.

God is far more interested in who we are becoming than in how comfortable we are today. Every trial becomes another opportunity for Christlike maturity.

Application: View today's challenges as opportunities for spiritual maturity rather than interruptions to your plans. Ask God to complete His work in you.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, do not allow me to settle for temporary comfort when You desire lasting maturity. Give me patience to remain faithful until Your work is complete. Form Christ's character within me through every season of life.



Day 5 — We know enough to trust God.

Scripture: *James 1:2–4*: “Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”—NLT.

- This is not instant; it grows through repeated testing.
- **Perfect and complete** — “Perfect” here means *mature*, not sinless. “Complete” means whole, fully formed, with no missing moral or spiritual qualities.
- **Needing nothing** — This does **not** refer to material prosperity. It means spiritual sufficiency: having the maturity to endure faithfully regardless of circumstances.

Devotional: James closes this thought by reminding us that joy is anchored in confidence, not complete explanations.

We do not know everything.

We do not know why every hardship comes.

We do not know when every burden will end.

We do not know every detail of God's plan.

But we know enough.

We know God is good.

We know He is faithful.

We know He is present.

We know He is producing endurance.

We know He is shaping maturity.

We know His purposes are always good.

Our confidence rests not in complete understanding but in complete trust.

What we know about God outweighs what we do not know about our circumstances.

That is why believers can face uncertain circumstances with settled confidence.

Scriptures for meditation

- James 1:2–4
- Deuteronomy 29:29
- Romans 8:28–39
- Lamentations 3:21–26

Application: Replace anxious questions with confident declarations of God's truth. Let every uncertainty become another opportunity to trust the character of God.

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, thank You that I do not have to know everything because I know You. Help me trust Your wisdom when I cannot trace Your hand. Fill my heart with steadfast joy, unwavering faith, and confident hope as I rest in Your perfect purposes.

Closing reflection: James reminds believers that Christian joy is not rooted in having all the answers but in knowing the One who does. The command to "consider it all joy" rests on revealed truth, not changing circumstances. God never wastes a trial. Every season of testing is producing endurance, every act of endurance is shaping maturity, and every step of maturity is evidence of God's faithful work in His children.

We may not know everything, but we know enough. We know God, and because we know Him, we can trust Him.