

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: What Drives Your Life?

### Devotional

Every morning when you wake up, what's the first thought that crosses your mind? What occupies your daydreams throughout the day? These questions reveal what truly drives your life. The apostle Paul, writing from a prison cell, had crystal clarity about his life's purpose. Despite his circumstances, he wasn't driven by personal comfort, success, or even freedom. His driving force was the spiritual well-being of others—people he had never even met. Paul's life demonstrates that our deepest fulfillment comes not from pursuing our own interests, but from investing in the eternal growth of others. When Christ becomes our center, our motivations shift from self-focused ambitions to kingdom-focused purposes. This doesn't mean we become doormats or neglect our responsibilities, but rather that we view everything through the lens of how we can encourage others in their faith journey. Consider how different your days would look if your primary motivation was to be an instrument of God's encouragement in someone else's life. What if your work, relationships, and even leisure time were filtered through the question: 'How can I reflect Christ's love today?'

### Bible Verse

'My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.' - Colossians 2:2 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

If someone observed your daily routines and priorities for a week, what would they conclude drives your life?

### Quote

What drives you? What's that focus, that purpose of your life to help you out? What do you daydream about? Or what is the first thought that comes to your mind when you wake up in the morning, oh, no, another day. Or when you go to sleep at night?

### Prayer

Lord, help me examine my heart and align my motivations with Your purposes. May my life be driven by a desire to encourage others and reflect Your love in all I do.

# Day 2: The Power of Encouragement

## Devotional

In our fast-paced world, genuine encouragement has become a rare gift. Yet Paul understood that encouragement isn't just a nice gesture—it's essential for spiritual health and growth. When we take time to notice someone's efforts and speak life into their situation, we participate in God's work of building up His people. Encouragement doesn't require grand gestures or eloquent speeches. Sometimes it's as simple as a handwritten note, a text message, or taking a moment to acknowledge someone's service. The beauty of encouragement is that it costs us nothing but can transform someone's entire day or even their perspective on life. Mother Teresa's challenge rings true: 'Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.' This isn't about false positivity or ignoring real struggles, but about being intentional in how we interact with others. When we encourage someone, we're reflecting God's heart toward them. We're reminding them that they're seen, valued, and not alone in their journey. In a world full of criticism and negativity, believers have the opportunity to be oases of hope and affirmation.

## Bible Verse

'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.' - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (New International Version (NIV))

## Reflection Question

Who in your life could use a word of encouragement today, and what specific step will you take to provide it?

## Quote

How important encouragement is in the local church. I hinted at it last week, but I encourage you to encourage one another. If you see somebody doing something, give them a note or speak to them, encourage them. It's so important.

## Prayer

Father, open my eyes to see opportunities to encourage others. Give me words that build up and actions that reflect Your love and care.

## Day 3: Unity in Diversity

### Devotional

True Christian unity isn't about everyone thinking exactly alike or having identical opinions on every matter. Rather, it's about being bound together by our common love for Christ, even when we disagree on secondary issues. Like redwood trees that stand tall through storms because their roots are intertwined, believers find strength through connection with one another. These magnificent trees don't survive because they're identical, but because they support each other through their interconnected root systems. In the same way, the church thrives when we recognize that our differences in personality, background, and even some theological perspectives can actually strengthen the whole body. Unity requires humility—the willingness to yield our own opinions when necessary for the sake of peace and love. This doesn't mean compromising core biblical truths, but rather holding our preferences and secondary convictions with open hands. When we prioritize our relationship with Christ and with each other over being right about every detail, we create an environment where everyone can grow and flourish. The world desperately needs to see this kind of unity—not uniformity, but genuine love that transcends differences.

### Bible Verse

'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.' - Ephesians 4:3 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

In what areas of your life do you need to choose unity over being right, and how can you take a step toward that today?

### Quote

This is not uniformity. Please understand. We all have different ideas about certain things out there, but our common unity is Christ and Christ alone.

### Prayer

Lord, help me value unity in Your body above my own preferences. Teach me when to speak and when to listen, when to stand firm and when to yield in love.

## Day 4: Rooted and Built Up

### Devotional

Spiritual growth isn't a one-time event but a continuous process of being rooted deeper in Christ and built up in faith. Just as a tree needs both strong roots and ongoing nourishment to thrive, our spiritual lives require both a firm foundation and constant growth. Being 'rooted' in Christ means our identity, security, and purpose are anchored in Him rather than in our circumstances, achievements, or others' opinions. This rootedness provides stability when life's storms come. Being 'built up' suggests ongoing construction—we're always under development, always learning, always growing in our understanding of God's love and truth. The danger comes when we stop growing and become spiritually stagnant. Growth requires intentionality: regular time in God's Word, prayer, fellowship with other believers, and stepping out in faith. When we're truly rooted in Christ and committed to growth, our lives naturally overflow with thanksgiving. We begin to see God's hand in both the joys and challenges of life. This isn't about perfection but about direction—consistently moving toward greater Christlikeness and deeper trust in God's goodness.

### Bible Verse

'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.' - Colossians 2:6-7 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

What specific practices or habits could you implement to ensure you're continuing to grow spiritually rather than becoming stagnant?

### Quote

Continue to grow, otherwise you'll fall asleep.

### Prayer

God, help me stay rooted in You and committed to growth. May my life overflow with thankfulness as I experience Your faithfulness day by day.

# Day 5: Complete in Christ

## Devotional

The greatest truth we can grasp is that we are completely accepted, fully forgiven, and eternally secure in Christ. When Jesus declared 'It is finished' on the cross, He used a perfect tense that encompasses all time—past, present, and future. This means every sin you've ever committed, every mistake you're currently struggling with, and every failure you'll face in the future has already been paid for. You don't need to earn God's love or prove your worth through performance. You are accepted because of Christ and Christ alone. This reality should fill us with overwhelming gratitude that becomes a way of life. When we truly understand what Christ has done for us, thanksgiving isn't just something we do—it becomes who we are. We're alive because of Jesus, protected by His love, and secure in His promises. This gratitude transforms how we treat others, how we handle difficulties, and how we view our purpose in life. We become people who naturally encourage others because we've been so deeply encouraged by God's grace. We pursue unity because we've experienced the ultimate reconciliation with our Creator. We shine His light in dark places because we've been rescued from darkness ourselves.

## Bible Verse

'When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.' - Colossians 2:13 (New International Version (NIV))

## Reflection Question

How does knowing you are completely accepted in Christ change the way you approach your relationships and daily challenges?

## Quote

Remember, you are accepted because of Christ and Christ alone.

## Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for Your complete work on the cross. Help me live from the security of Your love rather than striving to earn what You've already given me.