

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: You Were Not Made to Burn Alone

### Devotional

There is something powerful about a fire. A single coal pulled away from the others will glow for a moment, but eventually it fades. Put it back with the others, and it burns bright again. That image captures something deeply true about our faith.

God never designed us to walk this journey alone. From the very beginning, He placed people in community. He called a family, then a nation, then a church. There is a reason Jesus promised to show up in a special way when even two or three gather in His name. His presence is not limited to our private moments with Him, as precious as those are. He also meets us together.

If you have been feeling spiritually dry lately, it is worth asking an honest question: have you been trying to keep the fire going on your own? Personal devotion matters deeply, but it was never meant to replace the warmth of community. We need each other to stay lit.

This week, let that truth encourage you. You are not a burden to your church family. You are part of what keeps the fire burning for someone else, and they are part of what keeps it burning for you.

### Bible Verse

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

In what areas of your spiritual life have you been trying to go it alone, and what might change if you invited others into that space?

### Quote

"Faith cools in isolation. Faith cools in isolation. You could have a cold, eventually turn cold if it's alone. But a coal fire burns bright when it's with others."

### Prayer

Lord, thank You for designing us for community and not for isolation. Help me to lean into the people You have placed around me and to be a source of warmth and encouragement to them. Amen.

## Day 2: More Than a Meeting

### Devotional

Think about the people you feel closest to in life. Chances are, that closeness did not come from one conversation or one shared meal. It grew over time, through repeated moments of showing up for each other.

That is exactly what the early church understood. Acts 2 describes a community that devoted themselves, not just attended. They gathered daily. They shared meals. They prayed together. They learned together. Their faith was not a weekly appointment. It was woven into the fabric of everyday life.

The result was extraordinary. Generosity flowed naturally. Joy was contagious. And thousands were drawn to faith, not just because of what was preached, but because of how these believers lived together. The Holy Spirit worked through their faithfulness to each other.

That same Spirit is at work today. When we move beyond showing up and begin truly investing in one another, something shifts. Relationships deepen. Faith grows. And the watching world takes notice.

You do not have to overhaul your schedule overnight. Start small. Reach out to someone from your church family this week outside of Sabbath. Share a meal. Ask how they are really doing. Let community become more than a meeting.

### Bible Verse

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." - Acts 2:42-47 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

If someone observed your relationships with your church family over the past month, would they see devotion or just attendance?

### Quote

"Church was not a weekly event. It was an everyday event. And these groups created much deeper relationships and spiritual growth than I think we could probably recognize."

## **Prayer**

Father, grow in me a genuine love for my church family that goes beyond Sunday. Help me to invest in others the way the early believers did, with sincerity, generosity, and joy. Amen.

## Day 3: Built Together

### Devotional

Have you ever watched a building go up? Individual bricks or beams do not make much of a statement on their own. But when they are fitted together with purpose and skill, something strong and beautiful emerges.

Paul uses that exact image in Ephesians 2 to describe the church. We are not a collection of isolated believers. We are being built together into something. Each person, with their unique story, background, and gifts, is a living stone placed by God into a structure that is meant to reflect His glory.

This means your presence in your church community is not optional or incidental. You are part of the structure. When you are missing, there is a gap. And when you show up, not just physically but fully, you contribute to something that no single person could build alone.

It also means the person sitting near you on Sabbath, the one whose background or personality might feel very different from yours, is not a challenge to navigate. They are part of the same building. God placed them there just as intentionally as He placed you.

Let that shift how you see your church family this week. You are not just attending a service. You are being built into something eternal.

### Bible Verse

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit." - Ephesians 2:19-22 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

How might seeing yourself as an essential part of a living, growing structure change the way you engage with your church community?

### Quote

"Individual worship and your faith is important, don't get me wrong, but we're also called to be part of a collective."

## **Prayer**

Jesus, thank You for making me part of something bigger than myself. Help me to show up fully, to value every person You have placed beside me, and to trust that You are building something beautiful through us together. Amen.

## Day 4: A Glimpse of What Is Coming

### Devotional

Every Sabbath, something remarkable happens. People from different generations, backgrounds, and life experiences gather in one place, united by one name: Jesus. It might feel ordinary from the inside, but step back and look at the bigger picture.

Revelation 7:9 gives us a breathtaking vision of the future: a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne of God. That is where history is headed. And every time we gather on Sabbath, we get a small, living preview of that moment.

Our differences are not obstacles. They are a reflection of how creative and intentional God was when He made humanity. The variety of voices, stories, and perspectives in your congregation is not something to merely tolerate. It is something to celebrate, because it points to the richness of God's kingdom.

When you sit beside someone whose life looks very different from yours, you are not just sharing a pew. You are practicing for eternity. Every Sabbath gathering is a foretaste of the great reunion we are all longing for, the day when Jesus returns and we are finally, fully home together.

Let that vision fill you with hope and draw you closer to the people around you today.

### Bible Verse

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." - Revelation 7:9 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

When you look around at the diversity in your church, do you see a glimpse of heaven, and what would it look like to truly embrace that perspective?

### Quote

"Every Sabbath gathering is a snapshot of that joyful reunion that we look forward to. A little taste, a little appetizer of what it will be like to live forever with Jesus."

### Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see my church family the way You see them. Fill me with a love that crosses every difference and a hope that is anchored in the reunion that is coming. Amen.

## Day 5: Show Up Ready to Give

### Devotional

Here is a question worth sitting with before you walk through the doors of your church this Sabbath: Am I coming to receive, or am I coming to serve?

Both matter. We all need to be filled, encouraged, and reminded of truth. But a community only thrives when its members also come with open hands, ready to give. A kind word to someone who looks like they are struggling. A genuine question that says, I see you. A moment of patience with someone who is different from you.

Following Jesus was never meant to be something you simply attend. It is something you become. It shapes how you walk into a room, how you listen, how you notice the person on the edges who might be feeling invisible.

We are living in a time when loneliness is widespread. Your church community is one of the most powerful answers to that loneliness, but only if its members are actively building one another up. That is not the pastor's job alone. It belongs to all of us.

You have something to offer. Your story, your presence, your encouragement. Do not hold it back. Come ready to give, and watch what God does through the simple act of showing up for someone else.

### 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

What is one specific, practical way you can shift from being a consumer of community to a contributor this week?

### Quote

"Am I here to receive a message or am I ready to serve someone?"

### Prayer

God, help me to walk into every gathering with a heart that is ready to serve. Show me who needs encouragement today, and give me the courage and compassion to offer it. Amen.