

## THE GOSPEL - DEVOTIONAL

### INTRODUCTION

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Paul said in Romans 1 that the Gospel not only has the power to save unbelievers from sin, death and hell, but also the power to bear fruit in those who already believe. The Gospel has the power to change us so that we bear good fruit from a transformed heart. The following devotions will help you to bear good fruit that can only come from the transforming power of the Gospel. In each devotional, there will be a meditation section to help you think through how the Gospel applies to you. There will also be a prayer section because it's only the Holy Spirit, through the Gospel, who can transform our hearts. There will also be a Reach Out section, because the power of the Gospel in us should impact the world around us. Lastly, there will be a final thought, because we are human, and sometimes need things in nutshells to grab on to.

### DAY 1 - THE GOSPEL IN ANXIETY

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Reading: Romans 8:28-32

Our greatest need is not money, relationships or good health. Our greatest need was that we were born into sin, and we were under the wrath of God and destined for hell. But God, in His great mercy, saved us, by sending His only begotten Son to die on the cross. God made provision for the greatest need we've ever had by giving the most valuable treasure of all, His Son.

It can be unpleasant to think about our own sin and the reality of hell. But in order for us to fully understand the gift of salvation that was given to us, we must understand the depth of our sin and the incredible horrors of hell that we were saved from. If the wages of sin is eternal death (Romans 3:23), than our need for forgiveness and salvation infinitely outweighs every other need we have in our lives.

### MEDITATION

Think about the weight of your sin in the face of an infinitely holy God and how God generously and graciously provided for that eternal need. Now think about the things that bring fear and anxiety in your life compared to your need for salvation. If God provided for your eternal need through the cross, how will He not also provide everything that you need? (Romans 8:32)

### PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how great your sin was to God, and how He loved you and cared for you so much that He gave His son. Now cast your cares on Him, tell Him what you need, and trust that He will, along with His Son, give you all things that you truly need.

### REACH OUT

Think about someone in your life who is struggling with anxiety and worry. If they are a Christian, what can you say to them to encourage them today?

If they aren't, how can you share with them their greatest eternal need and how God has already lavishly provided.

### FINAL THOUGHT

God knows your needs. If God provided for your greatest need with His only begotten Son, God will surely provide for lesser things.

## DAY 2 - THE GOSPEL IN LOVE

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Reading: Ephesians 5:1-2

The reading for today instructs us to love others as Christ loved us. It's amazing how the love of God can transform an unloving, uncaring person, into someone who loves deeply and sacrificially. When we understand the depths of God's love for us in Christ, we then have the power to love others in the same way.

### MEDITATION

Take a moment and think about the different characteristics of Christ's love for you. Bask in the wonders of His love for you and let it stir your affections. If you can't think of any, that's okay, here's a short list.

Christ's love is sacrificial and self-less  
Christ loved His enemies  
Christ's love is unconditional  
Christ laid His life down for His friends  
Christ's love is sincere and genuine, not fake  
Christ's love is faithful and devoted  
Christ's love is passionate  
Christ's heart is stirred with affection for us

### PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how deep God's love is for you. Ask Him to stir the affections of your heart to reciprocate that love back to Him and to others. Ask God to give you the power to love others like Christ has loved us.

### REACH OUT

Sincere love for others can only come out of our knowledge of Christ's love for us. Otherwise, it's a fake 'Christian' love born out of religious duty. In your heart, love people with genuine brotherly love. Then find opportunities to express it to them.

### FINAL THOUGHT

*With sweet love and devotion  
Deeply touching my emotion  
How sweet it is to be loved by You*  
-James Taylor

## DAY 3 - THE GOSPEL IN FORGIVENESS

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Reading: Ephesians 4:30-32

Many times, the things that we struggle with reveal what's truly in our hearts. Forgiveness can be one of these things. When someone wrongs us, we should acknowledge that there has been an injustice. But the Gospel compels us to forgive,

knowing that we have wronged God infinitely more than we've ever been wronged. The greatest injustice that the world has ever known was when Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us. And in the midst of His great injustice, Jesus looked down on those who pierced Him and said, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

When we struggle with forgiving someone, it's not that we don't have enough willpower to forgive a great wrong, but it's that in our heart, we truly don't understand the depths of how we've been forgiven by God.

### **MEDITATION**

Are there any people that you struggle to forgive?

What does that say about your heart and how you view yourself?

### **PRAYER**

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how much God has forgiven you. If there is someone you haven't forgiven, ask God to help you see your own need for forgiveness and the grace to forgive them.

### **REACH OUT**

Is there someone in your life who is harbouring bitterness and unforgiveness? If he is a Christian, ask God to open the eyes of their heart to see the depth of His forgiveness for them. Find an opportunity to share the Gospel with them that can free them from the bondage of unforgiveness.

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

God has been so, so gracious with us. As we bask in that, let's be gracious toward others by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **DAY 4 - THE GOSPEL IN GENEROSITY**

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Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

There are many good reasons people have to give to God. Many people give because they know from Scriptures that God will give back to those who trust Him with their giving. Others give because they see the value of Kingdom work and they want to take part through giving finances. And others give because they are moved with compassion for the poor. All of these are valid and Biblical reasons for giving.

In today's reading, Paul tells us that he doesn't want to command us to give, although he has the apostolic authority to give such commands to the church. He wants the believer's hearts to be compelled primarily by the Gospel to give, that though Jesus had the riches of heaven, He became poor so we might take part in the same heavenly riches.

### **MEDITATION**

Think about how rich Jesus was in heaven before He came to earth. Think about how much Jesus had to give to be poor so we would be saved through Him.

### **PRAYER**

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how much you've been given, both earthly and heavenly blessings. Thank Him for all your blessings, including your family, friends, health, material provision, your church, your worship pastor and most of all your

salvation. Paul said the Macedonian churches first gave themselves to the Lord. Give yourself to the Lord and ask Him how you can give so others may be blessed like you've been blessed.

### **REACH OUT**

Find an opportunity to be generous to someone in need. Share with them that you are giving to them, because Christ freely gave to you. Also, out of a deep well of gratitude, not out of compulsion, give to something that is spreading the Gospel to others so they can receive salvation, the greatest gift of all.

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

God will give back to you what you give to Him, but don't forget, He's already given you a lot. Sometimes it's good to give, just because we're grateful.

## **DAY 5 - THE GOSPEL IN MARRIAGE (FOR HUSBANDS)**

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Reading: Ephesians 5:25-33

In today's reading, Paul gives us marriage advice. But to Paul, marriage is such a picture of Jesus' relationship with the church that he almost gets lost in the Gospel and off track as he tries to instruct the church on having a good marriage. In this divinely inspired bunny trail, God shows us that marriages aren't primarily about being happy, but about re-enacting the Gospel of grace and of the cross to the world.

### **MEDITATION**

Think about how Christ loved the church and laid down His life for you. Think about all the romantic movies and stories where the hero selflessly sacrifices himself for the love of his maiden. How much more is Christ's love for the church? Think about how He woos us and passionately pursues our hearts.

### **PRAYER**

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how Christ loves the church and the He sacrificially laid down His life for her. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the ability to love your wife like Christ loves the church.

### **REACH OUT**

Love your wife like Christ loved the church. If someone you know is having marriage problems, share with them how you loving your wife like Christ loved the church has impacted your marriage.

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

Let the marriage books, conferences, and sermons give you tools to love your wife as Christ pours His love into your heart.