

# 5 Day Devotional Guide

*Willing to Endure*

## **Day 1: The Cost of Following Jesus** | Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Devotional: Jesus never promised comfort to His followers—He promised purpose. When we count the cost of discipleship, we discover that anything truly valuable requires sacrifice. The disciples understood this when they rejoiced after being beaten for preaching Christ's name. They had crossed the border of inconvenience into the territory of complete surrender. Today, examine your own boundaries. Where have you told Jesus, "I'll do anything...but not that"? Perhaps it's your time, resources, relationships, or reputation. True discipleship begins when we stop negotiating with God and start surrendering everything. The joy set before us—eternal life with Christ—far outweighs any temporary discomfort we might face.

## **Day 2: Rejoicing in Suffering** | Scripture: James 1:2-4; Acts 5:40-42

Devotional: The early church possessed a paradoxical joy that confounded their persecutors. After being flogged, the apostles left "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." This wasn't masochism—it was spiritual maturity. They understood that suffering for Christ proved they were living boldly enough to be treated like Jesus Himself. When we're comfortable, we rarely depend desperately on God. But discomfort drives us to prayer and deeper intimacy with Him. The scars of obedience become badges of honor, evidence that we're not merely following Jesus' principles but actually following Jesus. Today, instead of avoiding discomfort, step into it intentionally. Allow hardship to push you toward the God of all comfort. How can you reframe your current challenges as opportunities to experience God's comfort?

## **Day 3: Urgency Born from the Cross** | Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Luke 24:44-48

Devotional: When we truly grasp what happened at the cross—the brutality Jesus endured, the price He paid—it creates an urgency within us. The blood of Jesus is too precious to treat flippantly. The disciples couldn't stop preaching because they understood that people around them were lost and destined for hell without Christ. This wasn't religious duty; it was love compelled by gratitude. We are witnesses of the greatest rescue mission in history. Every person we encounter is someone Jesus died for, someone facing eternity without Him unless we speak up. Time is short—our next breath isn't promised. The urgency of the cross should create a burden for the lost in our hearts, compelling us to share Christ daily.

## **Day 4: Teach and Preach** | Scripture: Acts 5:42; Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:42-47

Devotional: "Daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." Notice three key words: daily, every house, did not cease. The early church made evangelism and discipleship their lifestyle, not an occasional event. Teaching means discipleship—instructing people in who Jesus is through Scripture and how to obey His commands. Preaching means evangelizing—proclaiming the good news of repentance and forgiveness. Both are essential. You don't need seminary training to share your testimony of how Jesus changed your life. You simply need to be a witness of what Christ has done. Search the Scriptures to find Jesus on every page, then share what you discover with everyone you meet. How can you incorporate daily teaching and preaching into your life?

## **Day 5: Living for Eternity** | Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional: We can see the Day approaching. Either Jesus will return in our lifetime, or we will go to Him—but none of us knows when. This reality should transform how we live today. Paul reminds us that our "light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." When we live with eternity in mind, present discomforts become bearable, even joyful. The question isn't whether following Jesus will be hard—it will be. The question is: what are you willing to endure for eternal reward? Stop living within the borders of comfort and convenience. Say yes to Jesus—whatever, wherever, whomever, whenever. Surrender completely. The joy set before you is worth every sacrifice. If today were your last day, what would you regret not doing for Jesus? How will you live differently starting now?

# Keep Moving Forward: Your Fresh Wind Commitment

*As you complete this devotional journey, consider these practical steps to position yourself for God's fresh wind:*

## Weekly Commitments:

- *Attend Sunday worship consistently (aim for 3+ services monthly)*
- *Join Wednesday prayer gatherings to seek God corporately*
- *Participate in monthly Fresh Wind evening services*
- *Be part of a Discipleship Group*

## Daily Practices:

- *Designate specific time for prayer and Scripture reading*
- *Remove one distraction that crowds out time with God*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh each morning*
- *Invite someone to join you in pursuing God's presence*

**Remember:** We don't go because people are broken, we go because we're broken for people. There must be deep humility in answering the call of Christ. Love compels us to embrace inconvenience. Discomfort pushes us to prayer. The urgency of the cross (Christ sacrifice), always creates a burden for the lost.