

5 Day Devotional Guide

The Right Direction

Day 1: The Right Way to Approach God (Acts 10:24-35, 2 Chronicles 7:14, James 4:8)

Devotional: Peter entered Cornelius' house and immediately gave glory to God instead of receiving praise for himself. Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends. Church family, the way we approach God determines how we treat people. If we use God, we will use people. If we love and honor God, we will love and honor people. Peter had learned not to call anyone impure or unclean. When we pursue God's glory instead of our own, we become willing to cross every barrier for the sake of the gospel. Approach God with humble reverence and watch Him open doors to those outside the family.

Day 2: Treating God Like a Tool (1 Samuel 4:1-11, Psalm 106:12-15, Jeremiah 2:13)

Devotional: Israel brought the ark of the covenant into battle thinking it would save them, but they were defeated because they treated God like a tool rather than honoring Him. Hophni and Phinehas went with the ark, yet the Lord allowed defeat. Children of God, when we want God's blessing without obedience, we treat Him like a tool to get what we want. The Israelites wanted victory without repentance. Examine your heart. Are you seeking God's gifts more than God Himself? Honor Him fully. Pursue His glory, not just His help. God reveals Himself to those who seek Him with a right heart.

Day 3: Using People When We Use God (1 Samuel 4:12-18, Matthew 23:4, Ezekiel 34:2-4)

Devotional: Eli's sons had treated the people with contempt, taking the best for themselves. Eli heard the report of the ark's capture and his sons' deaths and fell backward and died. People whom God loves, when we use God we eventually use people. Leaders who honor themselves rather than God place heavy burdens on others. Peter refused to let Cornelius worship him. He pointed everyone to God. Choose today to value people the way God values them. Love them genuinely. Get close enough to show them Jesus. Honor God, and you will honor the people He loves.

Day 4: Pursuing God's Direction (1 Samuel 4:19-22, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 37:5)

Devotional: Phinehas' wife named her son Ichabod, saying the glory has departed from Israel. She felt abandoned by God, yet it was her family who had abandoned Him. Church family, when we pursue our own desires instead of God's direction, we cannot blame Him for the results. Cornelius and Peter both sought God's direction and received it. Do not settle for your preferences. Ask God to show you what to do next. Trust His leading even when it is uncomfortable. When you pursue God's direction wholeheartedly, He reveals Himself and guides you into life and blessing.

Day 5: Honoring God and Loving People (1 Samuel 4 summary, Acts 10:24-35, 1 John 4:19-21)

Devotional: The contrast is clear. Israel used God and harmed people. Peter and Cornelius honored God and opened the door for the gospel to reach outsiders. Church family, the way we approach God shapes how we treat people. Pursue God's glory, not your own blessing. Love people genuinely because God first loved us. Get uncomfortable for the sake of those outside the family. Honor God daily. Move toward people you might normally avoid. When we honor the Lord fully, He reveals Himself and uses us to bring life to many. Choose today to honor God and love people His way.

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*