

5-Day Devotional: The Gospel That Transforms

Message by Bro. Welton Stoker

Day 1: The Power of Pentecost

Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Devotional: The Holy Spirit arrived not in whispers but with the sound of a rushing mighty wind. God never intended His power to be hidden or subtle. When the Spirit filled that house, people from every nation heard the gospel in their own language—a beautiful picture of God's inclusive love. The same Spirit that empowered those apostles dwells in believers today, not to make us speak in unknown tongues, but to empower us to serve others with compassion. When your neighbor sees your church helping the hurting, they're witnessing Pentecost power in action. The Spirit doesn't make us spectacular; He makes us servants.

Day 2: Cut to the Heart

Reading: Acts 2:22-41

Devotional: "What shall we do?" These words reveal hearts pierced by truth. Peter's audience realized their sin had nailed Jesus to the cross—and so has ours. Every lie, every selfish act, every moment of rebellion placed Him there. This isn't meant to crush us but to awaken us. True repentance begins when we understand that our personal sin required His personal sacrifice. The remedy is clear: repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Three thousand responded that day, not because the message was easy, but because it was true. Conviction without response is merely guilt. Let your heart be moved to action today.

Day 3: Buried With Christ

Reading: Romans 6:1-14

Devotional: Baptism is not merely getting wet—it's participating in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Paul asks the crucial question: shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? His answer thunders: "Certainly not!" You cannot be united with Christ in death while clinging to the life that's killing you. We bury dead people, not living ones. Many want heaven's benefits without dying to self. But resurrection life only comes after death. The old you must go under that water and stay there. What emerges is new—transformed by grace, empowered by the Spirit, and walking in newness of life. Die today so you can truly live.

Day 4: God's Outrageous Love

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Reading: Romans 5:6-21

Devotional: Before the foundation of the world, God planned to sacrifice His Son for you. Let that truth settle deep: the Creator loved you enough to script His Son's death. Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more. This isn't permission to sin carelessly—it's an invitation to live gratefully. Many struggle to serve God because they've never grasped this love. When you truly understand that nobody in the world loves you like God does, service becomes joy, not obligation. His grace is bigger than all your sin, past, present, and future. Stop trying to earn what's already been freely given. Accept it, believe it, and let it transform how you live.

Day 5: Salt and Light in Action

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16; James 2:14-26

Devotional: "That church will help you." These words should describe every congregation. Faith without works is dead, not because works save us, but because genuine faith produces action. We're not called to be church members but disciples—people who actively demonstrate God's love in practical ways. Finding furniture for those in need, offering sheets and towels, meeting people at their point of desperation—this is the gospel with hands and feet. The world is watching. They're not impressed by our doctrine or our buildings; they're moved when they see Jesus in our service. Before time runs out, get out there. Be salt. Be light. Be the church that helps.