

5-Day Devotional: An Abundant Life

PM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – August 23, 2026

Based on "The Abundant Life" — John 10:1-18

Day 1: The Voice You Can Trust

Reading: John 10:1-6

Devotional: There is a difference between a voice that calls you toward life and one that leads you toward ruin. Jesus described sheep who recognize their shepherd's voice and refuse to follow a stranger. This is not accidental instinct — it is the result of a cultivated relationship. The sheep know the shepherd because they have spent time near him. In the same way, a Christian who regularly dwells in Scripture, prayer, and worship develops a sensitivity to Christ's voice. The world is loud with competing voices. The question worth sitting with today is simple: whose voice are you following?

Personal Reflection: What voices in your daily life compete most loudly with the voice of Christ? What disciplines help you distinguish his voice from the rest?

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes today in silence. Read John 10:1-6 slowly, twice. Ask God to sharpen your spiritual hearing and to help you identify one area where you may be following the wrong voice.

Day 2: The Door That Changes Everything

Reading: John 10:7-10

Devotional: Jesus declared himself the door — the singular, sufficient point of entry into life, safety, and spiritual nourishment. He did not say he was one door among many options. He said he was the door. This exclusivity is not arrogance; it is grace. Because there is one door, no one has to wonder which entrance leads to life. Anyone who enters through Christ finds salvation and sustenance. The thief, by contrast, comes only to destroy what is good. As the sermon reminds us, Christ's coming was entirely selfless and only served to benefit his followers. That truth deserves daily remembrance and daily gratitude.

Personal Reflection: Have you fully entered through the door Christ offers, or are you still standing at the threshold, weighing other options the world presents?

Practical Application: Write down three specific ways your life has been enriched since coming to Christ. Thank God for each one specifically. If you have not yet come to Christ, consider what is keeping you from the door today.

Day 3: The Good Shepherd Laid Down His Life

Reading: John 10:11-18; 1 Peter 2:24-25

Devotional: A hireling runs when danger arrives because the sheep are not his own. The good shepherd stays because the sheep are everything to him. Jesus did not merely face danger for his sheep — he absorbed death itself on their behalf. First Peter 2:24-25 describes people who had wandered like lost sheep but were brought back to the shepherd and overseer of their souls. That return is made possible only because the shepherd refused to flee. He bore what we deserved so

5-Day Devotional: An Abundant Life

that we could receive what we never earned. The cross is not a symbol of defeat — it is the ultimate act of a shepherd who owns his sheep completely.

Personal Reflection: In what ways have you wandered from the shepherd recently? What drew you back, or what is keeping you from returning?

Practical Application: Meditate on the image of Christ as your shepherd today. Journal a prayer of gratitude specifically for one moment in your life when Christ protected or restored you when you had strayed.

Day 4: The Security and Responsibility of the Sheep

Reading: John 10:27-29; Hebrews 6:4-6

Devotional: The security Christ offers his sheep is real, but it is not unconditional in the sense that it removes personal responsibility. As the sermon clearly states, as long as Christians follow Jesus faithfully, the soul is secure. The sheep remain in the shepherd's protective hand as long as they are following him. Hebrews 6 soberly reminds us that it is possible to have genuinely tasted the grace of God and still turn away. This is not cause for fear but for faithfulness. The comfort of salvation is not a license to wander — it is a motivation to stay close. Following Christ is both a privilege and a daily decision.

Personal Reflection: Are you actively following Christ today, or have you allowed distance to grow between you and the shepherd? What does faithful following look like in your current season of life?

Practical Application: Identify one concrete habit or commitment you can strengthen this week that keeps you walking closely with Christ. Share that commitment with another believer who can encourage your faithfulness.

Day 5: Abounding in Everything Good

Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Devotional: The abundant life Christ came to give is not measured in possessions or comfort. It abounds in grace, in brotherly love, in hope, in knowledge, in comfort, in thanksgiving, and in the work of the Lord. Second Corinthians 8:9 captures the entire story: though Christ was rich, he became poor so that through his poverty we might become rich. He gave everything so that we could have everything that truly matters. Because of that gift, Paul urges believers in 1 Corinthians 15:58 to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that such labor is never wasted. Abundance in Christ is not something we wait to receive — it is something we are called to live out every single day.

Personal Reflection: In which of the qualities listed — grace, love, hope, knowledge, comfort, thanksgiving, or service — do you most need to grow? What would it look like to abound in that area this week?

Practical Application: Choose one person in your life who needs to experience the abundant life Christ offers. Pray for them by name each day this week, and look for one practical way to demonstrate to them what it means to follow the good shepherd.