

5-Day Devotional: The Problem of Peer Pressure

AM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – October 18, 2026

Theme: Standing Firm Against the Pressures of This World

Day 1: The Enemy Never Rests

Reading: 1 Peter 5:6-11

Devotional: The apostle Peter warns that our adversary the devil moves with purpose and persistence, prowling like a hungry lion in search of prey. He does not take days off, and he does not grow weary. After Jesus resisted temptation in the wilderness, Scripture tells us that Satan departed only for a season -- not forever. That truth should sober us. The question is not whether pressure will come, but whether we will be ready when it does. Staying alert requires daily discipline, daily prayer, and daily surrender to God. Do not assume yesterday's faithfulness is enough for today.

Reflection: In what areas of your life have you lowered your guard, assuming the battle was already won?

Day 2: The Danger of the Wrong Crowd

Reading: Proverbs 1:8-19

Devotional: The writer of Proverbs understood something that every generation must learn anew: sinners will entice you, and their invitation will sound reasonable. Peer pressure is not merely a problem for the young. Peter, an apostle who had walked with Jesus, denied the Lord three times while standing among a hostile crowd. In Galatia, even the faithful and encouraging Barnabas was swept into hypocrisy by the influence of others around him. The company we keep shapes the choices we make. This is not a warning to become isolated, but it is a call to be deeply intentional about who holds influence over your decisions.

Reflection: Who or what currently holds the most influence over your everyday choices? Does that influence draw you closer to Christ or further away?

Day 3: Chosen to Be Different

Reading: Romans 12:1-2 and 1 Peter 4:1-5

Devotional: Paul's appeal in Romans 12 is urgent and personal -- do not be conformed to this world. One translator rendered it plainly: do not allow the world to squeeze you into its mold. Christians are called to look different, speak differently, think differently, and live differently than those around them. Peter acknowledges that this difference will draw criticism. Those still

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living for the world will find your refusal to join them strange, and they will say so. But strangeness in the eyes of the world is not something to be ashamed of. It is evidence that the renewing of your mind is taking hold.

Reflection: In what specific ways does your daily life reflect a mind being renewed by God rather than shaped by the surrounding culture?

Day 4: Choosing Christ Above All

Reading: Matthew 10:34-39 and Galatians 1:6-10

Devotional: Jesus did not promise that following him would make life comfortable or keep all relationships intact. He promised the opposite. There will be moments when faithfulness to Christ creates tension with the people we love most. Paul understood this tension and resolved it clearly: he was not seeking the approval of men, because seeking the approval of men and serving Christ cannot occupy the same throne. This is not a call to be harsh or unloving toward family and friends. It is a call to settle the question of allegiance before the pressure arrives, so that when the moment comes, the answer is already decided.

Reflection: Is there a relationship or social expectation in your life that is quietly competing with your full commitment to Christ?

Day 5: The Decision Already Made

Reading: Joshua 24:14-15 and Colossians 3:1-4

Devotional: Joshua did not wait to see what the crowd would decide before announcing where he stood. His declaration was made before the votes were counted. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. That kind of resolve is not arrogance -- it is the fruit of a settled heart. Paul echoes this in Colossians, calling believers to set their minds on things above, not on the things of the earth. When our minds are fixed on Christ, peer pressure loses much of its power because the decision has already been made long before the moment of testing arrives. Settle it today.

Reflection: Have you truly made the decision to follow Christ in advance of life's pressures, or do you find yourself deciding moment by moment based on who is watching?