

REVELATION 1211
MINISTRY

**WHAT A TIME
TO BE ALIVE
DEVOTIONAL**



DAY 1:
DOWN PAYMENT &
COSIGNER

All of us have decided we wanted or needed to go get a car at some time or another. We looked at our current credit, which is our history; our current job, which is how much we can afford coming forward; and our current available funds, which is how much we could pay right now.

We had to assess what it was realistically looking like when it came to getting that car. If you were lacking in one or all of those areas, you was outta gas mista' postman.

That's when the car salesman said those words we all love and hate to hear: Do you have anyone that could cosign for you? It was a person that had a better rapport in all of the categories that you didn't, that could get you approved for the car you wanted. Knowing you needed a cosigner was one thing, but let's be real... thinking about who would actually risk that much for you was always the tough part.

You could conjure up a list of all of these people that had so much more to offer than you did on paper, and yet come back without a soul in sight. Because respectfully, you probably are not a person that they want to take that kind of risk on. It would be their name, their reputation, their livelihood on the line... and the saints aint always about that life.



DAY 1:
**DOWN PAYMENT &
COSIGNER**

I want you to vividly see this picture: Salvation is just like that car that we have no credibility to afford.

Jesus Christ WILLINGLY cosigned for your life in salvation, KNOWING that you were going to get it wrong at some point. He knew that it was written that you would sin and fall short of the requirements to keep salvation. He knew that you didn't have a good enough history of righteousness for it to be "likely" that you would be able to keep up with the agreement that was made.

While he watched you lie, while he watched you have sex before marriage, while he watched you disrespect people, while he watched you drink, while he watched you be greedy, while he watched you masturbate, while he watched you sell drugs, while he watched you gossip, while he watched you practice witchcraft, while he watched you do all of that...

He still signed on the dotted line for you. KNOWING you could never afford what He was signing for you to have.



DAY 1:
**DOWN PAYMENT &
COSIGNER**

2 Corinthians 5:21 reads that He who knew no sin, put on sin, just so that you could be free. You can also read it like this, “He who knew no bad credit, got bad credit, just so that you could ride free.”

Romans 5:8 reads that even while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.

You can also read it like this, “While you were still being irresponsible with your credit, Christ cosigned for you.” When Jesus Christ cosigned (2 Corinthians 1:22) with His blood for you to get in the car of salvation, It was a seal, sort of like a signature, that was given through the figure of the Holy Spirit.

There are 4 primary truths signified by the seal of the Holy Spirit:

Security

You are secure in your eternal life, because of the truth of the seal you bear.

Authenticity

You are a new creation, created in the image of the one whose seal you bear.

Ownership

Your life is not your own, it belongs to the one whose seal you bear.

Authority

You get your authority from the one whose seal you bear.



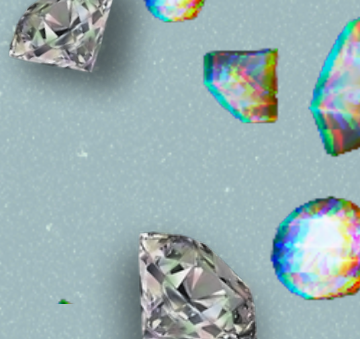
DAY 1:
DOWN PAYMENT &
COSIGNER

But wait... there's more! The Holy Spirit bears a 2-fold purpose to your life.

It is the display that shows you have been cosigned to receive the inheritance of eternal life, but it is also a down payment of the power from your inheritance of eternal life. Ephesians 1:14 CEB reads "The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance (eternal salvation), which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory."

By the time you finish this devotional, I pray that your entire mind is shifted. Shifted about how you spend your life while being cosigned with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Shifted on how you use the down payment power likened to what we will have during our eternal salvation.

Today, live your life as if Jesus Christ's seal of the Holy Spirit is the security, authenticity, ownership, and authority over you. I want you to live life like you are aware of the down payment that was made for you. Knowing that it was given to you as a taste of Heaven. Knowing that it is supposed to result in the honor of God's glory.



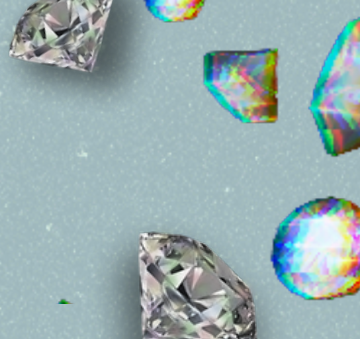
DAY 2:
**LEASIN' FROM THE
CREDITOR.**

Aiight, boom. A cosigner has vouched for you and dropped a down payment. But check this out... Even though the down payment is good, you still can't afford to pay full price for the car. So a creditor has to pay the dealership for the car. Though you get to do whatever you want with the car, the creditor owns your car until you pay it off.

Christ is our creditor. He paid for us to ride in our new life. We had a record full of bad credit. We couldn't afford the down payment. So you know for sure we couldn't afford salvation. In the same light, though we get to do what we please every day, Christ owns our lives completely. That may seem a little deep, but forreal. You should be joyous about that! Understand the beauty of being able to ride around in a car that you KNOW you can't afford.

Right now, visualize yourself driving in a 2022 Alfa Romeo. Imagine doing that, with the credit and financial status that you have right now.

That's what salvation is like! Walking around with status and access that we honestly have no background to be able to receive, yet we get it FOR FREE... while remembering that Christ owns our life. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says that your life is not your own anymore.



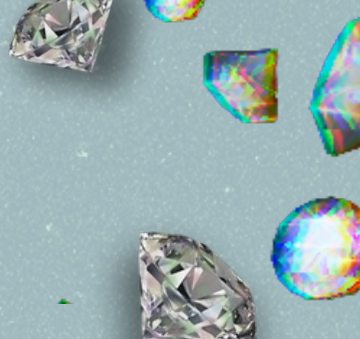
DAY 2:
**LEASIN' FROM THE
CREDITOR.**

Now, usually you would pay the creditor until your debt is settled. There is no amount of work that you can do to “pay” for salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). We could never afford it, but God knew that. He isn't asking us to pay in works until it's tallied. He is asking that we use our new life (car) properly according to the scripture (manual book in the glove box). That's it. God knows that if we take care of our lives according to the scriptures, and if we allow the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom, then we will do exactly what His will is. We will fulfill the rest of Ephesians 1:14, that we will do things that result in the honor of God's glory. This is what being a Christian is all about.

Oftentimes, we get so caught up in the day to day of what we want to do with “our” life, but we don't even own our lives anyway! The bible says it like this in James 4:13, “Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” James goes on to say that doing these kinds of things are evil, but only doing what the Lord allows is right.

... And we sometimes forget that.

Oftentimes we go and do whatever we want with “our” life because we have full control over it. Proverbs 19:21 says this “Many plans are in a person's mind, but the Lord's



DAY 2:
**LEASIN' FROM THE
CREDITOR.**

purpose will succeed.” We must sincerely consider the plan and wisdom of God for every area of our lives because He has had it planned out before we were even born (Psalm 139:16).

... And we sometimes forget that too.

Christ isn't just asking you to do things for Him just because He needs all of these minions. Naw. He loved us enough to save us from our sin and pay for our lives. He loved us enough to redeem us from the curse of sin. He owns our lives, but all He is asking in return is that we use the down payment of the Holy Spirit to bring honor and glory to God. He knows that us following in His footsteps will fulfill the ministry of reconciliation that was given to us according to 2 Corinthians 5:20-21.

Think about every area of your life today. What area have you been disobedient to the scriptures because of your own plans or desires? What area of your life is not bringing honor and glory to God? Throughout your day even be reminded that everything that you do should point back to God's glory, in order for you to help people be reconciled to Him.

If you are stumped with this question, ask the Holy Spirit to help you. I know He will.



DAY 3:
WHERE WE ALL SIT

When you get the car of salvation with the down payment of the Holy Spirit, and you know that Jesus Christ is the creditor for your new life, you can ride around in freedom from sin knowing that you have no debt to pay!

John 8:36 says “whom the son sets free, is free INDEED.”

John 5:24 says “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.”

You have been given a new life in Christ. It has been completely paid for with His blood. You have to know that from the bottom of your heart, you will not be judged for your sin.

Today we’re talking about what you will be judged for. You will be judged on what you did or did not do with the life that Christ has given you as a creditor. You will be judged on what you did or did not do with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit which was given as a down payment to you. You will be judged on how much honor and glory you did or did not bring to God’s kingdom for the purpose of reconciliation.



DAY 3:

WHERE WE ALL SIT

Once Christ returns, all Christians will be judged at the Judgement seat of Christ, or as we will be referring to it today, the Bema. This topic can get a little sticky because so many focus on the term “judgement”. Rightfully so, Judgement is the proper term. But not judgement as we would usually understand it, which results in personal shame or grief.

It’s in Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 where we see reference straight out to the “Judgment seat of Christ”, but this is just the English translation. The Apostle Paul actually uses the term “Bema seat” because of the mainstream influence of the Greek culture during the early church. We look at that word like “what is a Bema?” but early church Corinthians understood the assignment of the reference *inserts tik tok dance*. So in order to understand the assignment as well, we’re gonna step into the Greek culture of that day.

The founder and king of Corinth started something called the “Isthmian games” that were held for hundreds of years in the city of Isthmus in Corinth. It was a big deal; Comparable to our modern day Olympic games. During the Isthmian games, men would compete through a series of contests and be voted on by a panel of judges.

DAY 3:

WHERE WE ALL SIT

At the end of the games, they would bring the victors up to the Bema seat and dispense rewards based on how well each person competed.

The Bema seat at the Isthmian games was not meant for judging the losers and rendering a punishment for their failure. It was solely focused on rewarding each person according to what he had done well while competing in the games. This is what Paul wanted the early church, and us, to understand about our future experience at the judgement seat of Christ.

The judgement seat is not to dispense punishment for the sins we have committed. Hebrews 8:12 tells us that God does not remember our sins. Instead, the judgement is to dispense a measure of rewards based on how well we spent our life with the wisdom (Holy Spirit) and resources (dunamis power) that Christ gave to us. Revelation 22:12 says “Look, I (Jesus) am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.”

In Major Bible Themes: 52 Vital Doctrines of the Scripture Simplified and Explained, Lewis Sperry Chafer says it like this “It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the judgment is unrelated to the problem of sin, that it is more for the bestowing of rewards than the rejection of failure.”

The ESV uses the word “recompense” instead of reward. I actually like this word choice better. One definition of the word recompense reads “compensation or reward given for loss or harm suffered or effort made.”

DAY 3:

WHERE WE ALL SIT

The judgement seat of Christ is the place where every believer will sit one day, and be judged based on what efforts were (or were not) made with his/her life after they received salvation with the down payment of the Holy Spirit and a credited eternal life.

Lemme break it down like this. Real reaaaal reaaaaaaaal clear.

Will you be judged & given punishment for sin? No.
Will you be judged & rewarded on your good works? Yes.
Will you be judged & lose rewards based on your lack of good works? Yes.

One day we will all be sittin pretty with glorified bodies and crowns of eternal glory. Ponder Matthew 6:19-21. It reads "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal." This treasure is referring to an eternal crown or reward that you are storing Add a little bit of up in Heaven with every intentional and pure effort you make to use the life Christ has given you.

Everything you do for God (with pure intentions) is storing up treasure in heaven. When you get to the Bema seat, Christ is going to check your life by looking at that storage, then deliver heavenly rewards based on how much is in there.



DAY 3:

WHERE WE ALL SIT

That lie you told, that gossip you spoke, those drugs you ingested, won't show up in this storage. They were already wiped away at the cross. What will show up is how well you genuinely served, how seriously you took the call of God to minister reconciliation, what you did earnestly during your prayer time, where you fervently spent your energy during the days you lived here on Earth. If it didn't give God honor and glory or display your faithfulness to the faith of the Kingdom, then it won't matter. It would have been stored up here on Earth, and it would have rotted.

I spoke of receiving crowns above as rewards.

Take a look at this excerpt written by J. Hampton Keathley III titled "The Doctrine Of Rewards: The Judgement Seat (Bema) Of Christ" describing some of the crowns described in scripture:

- (1) The Crown of Thorns (Matt. 27:29; Mk. 15:17; Jn. 19:2, 5). Speaks of Christ's work on the cross and stands for His victory over sin, Satan, and death.
- (2) The Incorruptible Crown (1 Cor. 9:25). Two things: (a) This describes all the crowns. It contrasts our crowns with the temporal and temporary treasure of this life. (b) It is also a special crown given for faithfulness in running the race and exercising self-control in order to serve the Lord and finish the race.



DAY 3:

WHERE WE ALL SIT

(3) The Crown of Exultation or Rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19; Phil. 4:1). This crown is a reward given for witnessing, follow-up, and ministry to others. In one sense, the Thessalonians will be Paul's crown, and the effect at the Bema and throughout eternity will be rejoicing or exultation over their presence in heaven.

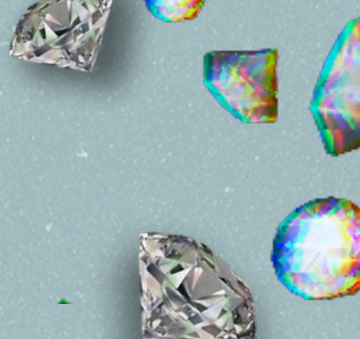
(4) The Crown of Life (Jam. 1:12; Rev. 2:10). This crown is given for enduring testings (trials) and temptation. The crown is not eternal life which is a gift through faith alone in Christ alone but a reward for enduring trials and overcoming temptation.

(5) The Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8). This crown is a reward given for faithfulness to use our gifts and opportunities in the service of the Lord and for loving His appearing. Note that these two things go together. To love His appearing is to live in the light of it.

(6) The Crown of Glory (1 Pet. 5:4). This crown is a reward promised to Elders for faithfulness in the discharge of their responsibilities in shepherding the people.

You know that you won't be judged for your sin, you will be judged for what you do with your life. And that's good news! Because we have so much opportunity to use our life for good! And this eternal reward will be well worth it!

Today, pray that Christ would enlighten you more about His rewards as you read the scriptures associated with each one.



DAY 4:
SITTIN PRETTY OR
RIDIN DIRTY

So you found out that Christ cosigned for your life and gave you the down payment of the Holy Spirit so you can use it to bring honor and glory to God that will equate to eternal rewards.

Day 3 of the devotional was really thick with theology and scripture, today I want to make it plain for you.

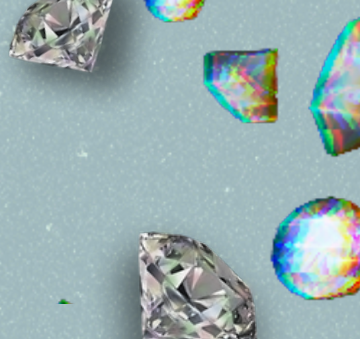
By the time you are done reading this, I want you to gauge whether you are sittin pretty with a fully blinged out crown or if you are ridin dirty with some fake jewels that wouldn't even scratch a surface?

Because remember... only what you do for God will last. Only what you do in faithfulness to the call of God will render a reward.

Humor me. I'm going to try to imitate you for a second. "Well why is this so serious? I mean, I'm saved, my sins are covered. And I do some stuff to bring people to Christ. I use my gifts when I want to for the glory of God... what's wrong with that? Everything can't just be for the church. I ain't tithing because I don't know what they doing with the money."

Lemme' tell you sumn... AHT AHT.

This is serious because what Jesus was trying to get us to realize in Matthew 6 (the way we store our treasure) is, we need to store up MORE treasure in eternity than we do on Earth. It seems like we've been on Earth for a lil minute now, but eternity is WAY longer than the 5 minutes we've been here. It's FOREVAA *Cardi B voice*.



DAY 4:
SITTIN PRETTY OR
RIDIN DIRTY

Taking the time and energy here and now to do things that we will be rewarded for during FOREVAA, is so much more important than we may be able to even wrap our little carnal minds around right now. But I'm trying... Eternity is MUY IMPORTANTE'.

Only what we do for the honor and glory of God will last.

Building businesses that don't give glory to God because we boast in our own accomplishments (even if we claim it's a Christian business); Ain't gon last.

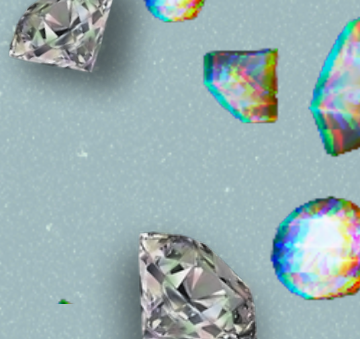
Serving at church but complaining about the way the organization is run, and never investing in anybody's salvation; Ain't gon last.

Tithing to a non profit organization, but not sowing into the Kingdom of Heaven for the Gospel to be spread; Ain't gon last.

Going to church on Sunday, and maybe hanging out with a small group, but doing whatever you want and only reading one scripture a day so you ain't filled with nothing to help propel your purpose and bring glory to God...

**AIN'T.
GON.
LAST.**

(Can y'all tell I got serious? My whole vibe changed. lol)



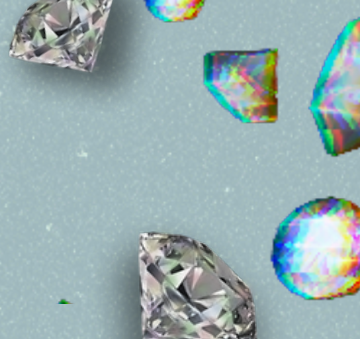
DAY 4:
SITTIN PRETTY OR
RIDIN DIRTY

This ain't a devotional for people that need Christ. This is a devotional for the person that has Christ, but is doing nothing, or is doing works with the wrong intentions. This is a wakeup call for how you spend your life on Earth, with a reminder that it will be reflected in Eternity. You will either get or lose rewards. When Christ comes back, there won't be any more time to try to get it together. What you have in your storage, is going to be it.

Let me clear something up for your mind and the devil: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). So this new information that you have, is not to have you walking around scared, condemned, and trying to keep a spiritual scorecard for your rewards. It is just to make you aware of how important Heaven is. Not just because we will get to escape the hell of Earth, but because we will be paid back for the hell we endured if we endure it the right way!

Ready for the hard part?

**If Christ came back at this very literal second of you reading this...
Would He be dispensing some recompense/reward with your name on it? Or would you be losing rewards because of your lack of attention to using every gift you have, for the Glory of God?**



DAY 4:
SITTIN PRETTY OR
RIDIN DIRTY

Would you be losing rewards because you do what you want, and do it in your own strength so God doesn't get any glory? Would you be losing rewards because you haven't invited anyone to church or invested in anyone's salvation in years, but God has given you the personality to Evangelize? Would you be losing rewards because every time someone gets on your nerves, you gossip instead of praying for them? Would you be losing rewards because you haven't genuinely tithed in years unless you knew that the church was doing something "good" with it?

Forreal forreal. Think about this stuff. Because every decision you make, you are either adding rewards or losing them.

DAY 5:

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Looking at all of the information that you have ingested...
How do you feel?
I know it's a lot. I know.

Today, I just want you to be real with yourself and really ponder what you think has been added to your heavenly storage. If Jesus cracked the sky right now, would He be bringing you rewards?

Take some quiet time and just sit with the Holy Spirit. Let Him bring back to remembrance the works that you have done that would count towards your reward in the last 30 days.

Then write them down in your notes. These notes are NOT to condemn you. These notes are not to coerce you into a culture of "works". That's not the case. These notes are to make you aware.

These notes are like routine maintenance for your soul. Sometimes you ride so hard and so fast that stuff just gets off track and out of wack. It'll get you right on track.

Now that you've done the notes.



DAY 5:
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Pray this prayer:

Holy Spirit, give me wisdom and insight on how I can be aware of opportunities to show God's glory today. Help me embrace anything that this chart has revealed to me and make me better.

In Jesus name, amen.

Walk away and live a transformed life.



DAY 6:
FUEL YOURSELF

**Yo' down payment good.
Yo' creditor got you set up with a sweet debt free
ride.**

**You lookin' at how you sittin' and decidin' to do
something about it.**

Come on here Jesus! I'm fired up!

**Now you just need to fuel yourself up and ride out!
(Til Christ comes back at least, lol)**

**I am a firm believer in everyone rightly dividing the
word of Truth themselves.**

**So the last day of this devotional is just going to be a
full list of the scriptures that involve the reference of
the judgement seat of Christ, what our rewards are,
reference to how we spend our lives, and more.**

**I want you to take today and go through as many of
these scriptures as you can and study them. See for
yourself what this whole thing is about. Holy Spirit
gave me some cute and cleverly crafted things to say
in this devotional to get your attention and give you
understanding. Yet the only way it's going to sit
deep and penetrate your heart, is if you get the
information for yourself directly from the source.**



DAY 6:

FUEL YOURSELF

Scriptures (not in order of importance or category, in order of their appearance in the bible):

Psalm 62:12

Psalm 103:10-12

Micah 7:19

Matthew 16:27

John 5:24

Romans 8:1

Romans 14:10

1 Corinthians 3:10-13

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

1 Corinthians 4:5

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

2 Corinthians 5:10

Galatians 3:13

Ephesians 6:8

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**I PRAY THIS DEVOTIONAL HAS
OPENED YOUR EYES TO HOW
YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE. I PRAY
IT HAS CONVICTED YOU ABOUT
THE THINGS YOU DO ON A
DAILY BASIS FOR CHRIST. I
PRAY IT HAS OPENED UP A
DEEP SENSE OF REVERENCE
FOR THE LIFE WE WILL LIVE IN
ETERNITY. AND LASTLY, I PRAY
THAT YOU WOULD SHARE THIS
KNOWLEDGE WITH SOMEONE
SO THAT THEY MAY MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO LIVE A LIFE
THAT WILL BE PLEASING TO
CHRIST.**

AMEN.