

I AM SECOND®

5 Day Devotional / Jonathan Cain

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. Through Jonathan's moving story, we'll explore themes of faith, perseverance, and divine guidance, drawing spiritual lessons that can inspire our walk with Jesus.

Day 1

Jeremiah 29:11

Through the story of Jonathan Cain, we see the powerful hand of God orchestrating every step of his journey. From a near-death experience in his youth to a powerful career in music, God's guiding presence is evident. This teaches us the importance of trusting in God's plan for our lives even when the path seems uncertain. Jonathan's father played a key role, reminding him to always keep faith and "don't stop believing." It's a message of hope for all of us, especially during times of doubt and fear. We often encounter trials and tribulations, much like Jonathan did. Yet, in those moments, it's crucial to remember that God is with us, guiding us to something greater. Just as Jonathan's music became a form of redemption and purpose, God has a unique plan for each of our lives. Embracing His guidance with an open heart can lead us to unimaginable heights and deeper fulfillment.

- Reflect on a time when you felt God's guiding hand in your life. How did it impact your faith ?
- In what ways can you strengthen your trust in God's plan during challenging times ?
- How can you use your talents and passions to glorify God, as Jonathan did with his music ?
- Pray for a deeper trust in God's plan for your life.
- Ask God for the courage to face challenges with faith and perseverance.

Day 2

Psalm 46:1

Jonathan's father played a pivotal role, not only as a supportive parent but as a spiritual guide who directed him towards music as a form of salvation. This is a powerful reminder of the influence that loved ones can have on our spiritual journey. His father's advice—"don't stop believing"—became a cornerstone of Jonathan's life and career, emphasizing the strength and refuge we find in faith. In moments of crisis and uncertainty, it's often the wisdom of those who care for us that provides the grounding we need. Jonathan's music became more than just a career; it became a manifestation of his faith and the call he felt from God. Each of us can find strength and direction in similar ways, leaning on faith and the support of those God places in our lives.

- Who has been a significant spiritual guide in your life? How have they influenced your faith ?
- How do you respond to God's calling in your own life and career ?
- What steps can you take to ensure that your actions and decisions align with your faith ?
- Pray for the guidance and wisdom to follow the path God has set for you.
- Ask God to place supportive and encouraging individuals in your life.

Day 3

Romans 8:28

During his lowest moments, like when Jonathan's dog was hit by a car, his faith was tested. His father's encouragement to stay the course and continue believing in his dreams was crucial. This layer of support is a testament to how God can use the people around us to reassure and strengthen our faith, especially during times of despair. Jonathan's journey is a reminder that while the road may be filled with obstacles, keeping faith is vital. The challenges faced are often stepping stones to greater things God has planned. Jonathan's perseverance through music, despite setbacks, illustrates that with faith and determination, God can bring about wondrous outcomes from our trials.

- Reflect on a challenging time in your life. How did faith help you overcome it ?
- How can you support and encourage others in their faith journey, as Jonathan's father did for him ?
- What dreams has God placed in your heart, and how can you act on them with faith ?
- Pray for resilience and faith to stay the course, even when faced with setbacks.
- Ask God to reveal the greater purpose behind your challenges and guide you through them.

Day 4

Philippians 4:13

The lyrics of "Don't Stop Believin'" were not just a hit song but a proclamation of faith born from a moment of personal crisis. Jonathan's persistence in the face of adversity and his father's pivotal advice highlight the incredible power of faith. Through belief and reliance on God's strength, Jonathan was able to achieve remarkable success and inspire millions. It's a powerful reminder that we too can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. The promises of scripture come alive when we hold onto them and trust in God's unwavering support. Jonathan's story encourages us to keep believing, even when the odds seem insurmountable.

- Consider a dream or goal that seems out of reach. How can your faith empower you to pursue it ?
- Who in your life needs the message of "don't stop believing"? How can you share it with them ?
- What are some scripture promises that you can hold onto during challenging times ?
- Pray for the strength to pursue your God-given dreams with tenacity and faith.
- Ask God to place His words and promises in your heart as a source of encouragement.

Day 5

John 14:27

In the climax of Jonathan's story, he realizes that it was always God guiding him through his father's advice. This revelation brings profound peace, knowing that God has been the source of his inspiration and success all along. It reassures us that God's peace is available to us, providing comfort and direction in our lives. Jonathan's journey back to the church and his renewed dedication to worship through music is a testament to God's ever-present love and guidance. It encourages us to remain faithful and seek His presence, understanding that He always care.

- Reflect on a time when you felt God's peace in your life. How did it change your perspective ?
- How can you cultivate a deeper awareness of God's presence in your daily life ?
- In what ways can you use your gifts and talents to serve God and others?
- Pray for a deeper sense of God's peace and presence in your life.
- Ask God to help you use your talents for His glory and to bring others closer to Him