

I AM SECOND®

5 Day Devotional / Michael McDowell

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore themes of perseverance, trust, and faith in God's plan, as exemplified by the incredible journey shared during the sermon.

Day 1

James 1

In the midst of trials and tribulations, it's crucial to remember that our hardships have a greater purpose. As Michael shared in his sermon, the testing of our faith produces perseverance. These challenging moments refine us, shaping our character and strengthening our trust in God. Perseverance isn't formed in comfort but in the crucible of adversity. When we face difficulties, we learn to lean on God's strength and wisdom instead of our own. As we cling to His promises, we begin to see that each trial is an opportunity for growth and deeper faith.

- How have past trials shaped your faith and perseverance?
- In what areas of your life do you need to trust God's plan more fully?
- What practical steps can you take to rely on God during challenging times?
- Pray for the strength to persevere through your current trials.
- Ask for wisdom to understand God's greater purpose in your hardships.

Day 2

Philippians 4:13

Michael's journey wasn't just about endurance but also about relying on a higher power. The scripture reminds us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This verse underscores the importance of depending on Christ for strength and resilience. When we accept that our own strength is insufficient, we open ourselves up to the boundless power that comes from God. True strength is found not in our abilities but in our dependence on Him.

- In what ways have you relied on your own strength rather than God's?
- How can you practice relying more on Christ in your daily life?
- What are specific situations where you need to invite God's strength?
- Pray for a deeper dependence on Christ's strength rather than your own.
- Ask God to reveal areas of self-reliance in your life that need surrender.

Day 3

Psalm 37:5

Committing our ways to the Lord is a daily practice of faith. Michael's testimony is a powerful reminder that we must trust God's timing and His path for us, even when it doesn't make sense. Psalm 37:5 encourages us, "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Trusting God means surrendering our plans and desires to His greater wisdom. When we commit our ways to Him, we invite His guidance and provision into every aspect of our lives, knowing that He is faithful to act on our behalf.

- What are areas in your life where you need to 'commit your way to the Lord'?
- How can you practically demonstrate trust in God's plan for your life?
- When have you seen God's faithfulness after committing something to Him?
- Pray for the courage to commit all your plans to the Lord.
- Ask for a heart that trusts God's timing and His ways.

Day 4

Romans 8:28

It's often hard to see the bigger picture in the midst of our struggles. Yet, Michael's story highlights that "in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). Our difficulties are not in vain; they are orchestrated for our eventual good and growth. Understanding this truth allows us to persevere with hope. It assures us that God's hand is at work even when we cannot see it. Every trial has the potential to mold us into the image of Christ and bring us closer to Him.

- Reflect on a past struggle where God worked for your good.
- How can you maintain hope when facing current challenges?
- What does it mean to trust that God works all things for your good?
- Thank God for His faithfulness in working all things for good.
- Pray for eyes to see His hand in your current situations.

Day 5

Hebrews 12:1-2

Persistence in our spiritual journey is critical. As Michael demonstrated, the race set before us requires endurance, as mentioned in Hebrews 12:1-2. We must "throw off everything that hinders" and "run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Fixing our eyes on Jesus is the key to running this race successfully. He is our example and our strength. By focusing on Him, we can endure hardships and stay the course, knowing that He is with us every step of the way.

- What are the 'hindrances' in your life that need to be thrown off?
- How can you fix your eyes more firmly on Jesus?
- What steps can you take to run your spiritual race with perseverance?
- Ask God to reveal and help you remove any hindrances in your spiritual journey.
- Pray for an unwavering focus on Jesus, especially during difficult times.