

NOVACHURCHPHX

20 DAY DEVOTIONAL

THROUGH THE LETTERS

of Paul

*A Journey of Freedom,
Formation, Joy, and Mission*

20 Days Through the Letters of Paul

A Journey of Freedom, Formation, Joy, and Mission

By Dustin Blatnik

The Journey at a Glance

This 20-day devotional walks through four of Paul's most powerful letters — each revealing a unique part of the Christian journey. Together, they show what it means to be free, formed, filled with joy, and living on mission.

Galatians — Freedom in Christ

Days 1 to 6

Paul reminds us that salvation is by grace alone. In these chapters, we learn to live free — no longer bound by performance, but by faith working through love.

Ephesians — Formation in Christ

Days 7 to 12

This letter reveals who we are as God's people and how we grow together as His Church. It's about being shaped from the inside out — walking in unity, maturity, and strength.

Philippians — Joy in Christ

Days 13 to 16

Written from prison, this letter overflows with joy that circumstances can't steal. It teaches us how to rejoice in every season and find peace in God's presence.

Colossians — The Supremacy of Christ

Days 17 to 20

Paul centers everything back on Jesus. Jesus is not part of our life — He is our life. In Him we find fullness, strength, and purpose to live sent into the world.

Introduction

These four letters — **Galatians**, **Ephesians**, **Philippians**, and **Colossians** — were written to *real churches* full of *real people* trying to follow Jesus in the middle of *real life*.

That sounds a lot like us.

Over the next 20 days, you'll walk chapter by chapter through all four of these letters — one chapter a day. Together, these four letters trace a spiritual journey that every follower of Jesus is invited to walk.

It's a journey that leads you to a deeper relationship with Jesus — a journey of *being* set free by grace, *being* shaped in community, *being* strengthened by joy in every season, and *being* sent by God's plan and purpose for your life to reflect the love of Jesus to the world.

Galatians – Freedom in Christ

Ephesians – Formation in Christ

Philippians – Joy in Christ

Colossians – The Supremacy of Christ

Each letter points to one truth: **Jesus is everything**.

He **is** our freedom. He **is** our foundation. He **is** our joy. And He **is** our mission.

How to Use This Devotional

This is a 20-day devotional.

Every day focuses on one chapter and one challenge.

You'll plan to read one chapter three times a day: **morning**, **midday**, and **evening**, as you let God's Word move from your head — to your heart — to your habits.

Each day will have the same daily rhythm:

1. **Morning** — Read

Read the chapter slowly and ask, "What truth is God speaking to me today?"

2. **Midday** — Respond

Revisit the key verse and ask yourself, "How can I live this truth right now?"

3. **Evening** — Reflect

Pray to God and ask yourself, "What changed in me today because of what I read?"

If you'll give God these 20 days — *morning, midday, and evening* — you'll find your faith deepen and your purpose in Jesus Christ refreshed. Each day will include the following:

1. Theme or Chapter Focus — The day's reading (e.g., *Galatians 1*).
2. Key Verse — The anchor thought.
3. Reflection — A devotional with one strong takeaway.
4. Challenge — What truth do I need to apply before the day ends?
5. Daily Rhythm — Morning, midday, and evening.
6. Prayer — Let the truth move from your head to your heart as you walk with God.

Each book builds on the last:

- **Galatians → Freedom in Christ**

The foundation of the gospel.

- **Ephesians → Formation in Christ**

Who we are and how we live.

- **Philippians → Joy in Christ**

The attitude that sustains us.

- **Colossians → Supremacy of Christ**

The focus that keeps us steady.

These letters were written to people just like us — ordinary believers in busy and diverse cities — learning how to live out extraordinary faith in Jesus.

The people of Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae had many things in common:

1. They were real places with real people.
2. They were all part of the early Christian movement.
3. They were all influenced by Roman culture and power.
4. They were centers of trade, ideas, and diversity.
5. They were filled with both opportunity and opposition.

And yet, through all of that, God was shaping His Church.

Each letter reveals a different aspect of the same story — how ordinary people encountered an extraordinary Savior.

Together these letters tell the story of what it means to be in Christ: **free, formed, filled, and faithful.**

An Encouragement

The same Holy Spirit who breathed life into these letters is still breathing life into us today.

These aren't ancient words on a page, they're living words meant to shape your heart right now.

So start here:

- Open your Bible.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to speak.
- And then listen.
- Take notes.
- Journal your thoughts.
- Talk with a friend or your church group about what God is showing you.
- Don't rush — let every day form something in you.

And take the next 20 days to walk through some of the Bible — as you rediscover the Jesus who is still transforming lives today.

Sincerely,

Dustin Blatnik

Galatians — Freedom in Christ

Day 1 — Galatians 1

The True Gospel

Theme

Guard the Gospel. Don't trade grace for performance.

Key Verse

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel." (Galatians 1:6)

Reflection

Paul opens his letter with urgency. The Galatians had started to drift from the simplicity of God's grace. They were adding rules and performance where there should've been trust, rest, and faith.

That's not just their story — it's ours too. Isn't it? Every time we try to prove we're good enough, or act like God's love must be maintained by our efforts, we are literally preaching a different gospel to ourselves. Paul says, "If anyone preaches a different gospel... let them be accursed." Strong words. But he's reminding us that the moment you add anything to Jesus — you lose Jesus. Grace doesn't need your help; it needs your trust. And the gospel isn't "Jesus plus..." The gospel is Jesus **only**.

Jesus plus nothing changes everything.

If you think that salvation is Jesus plus something, the something always becomes the point of division, legalism, judgementalism, etc... The "something" makes Jesus less than everything.

Many believers start their faith journey resting in grace, but eventually find themselves drifting into striving or performance. They start as sons and daughters, and somewhere along the way, begin to act like employees trying not to get fired. But the real gospel says: You were loved before you lifted a finger. You were called by name before you could perform a single act of obedience. And that truth — if you let it — will set you free from performing, pretending, and comparing yourself to others, so that you can be who God has called you to be.

Challenge

The greatest danger to your faith isn't losing your zeal — it's losing your focus. Today, make it your mission to stay centered on the ***gospel of grace***. When shame whispers “do more,” and pride whispers “you’re doing great,” silence both with truth: “Jesus is all grace, all the time.”

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Galatians 1 slowly. Ask God to show you any “different gospels” you’ve been believing.
- Midday — Pause and remind yourself: “I am loved by grace, not by performance.”
- Evening — Thank God for saving you, not because of what you’ve done, but because of who He is.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that the gospel is enough — that You are enough. Help me recognize the subtle lies that tell me I must earn Your love. Teach me to rest in Your grace and reflect Your truth in how I live.

Amen.

Day 2 — Galatians 2

Crucified with Christ

Theme

Die to performance. Live from presence.

Key Verse

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20)

Reflection

Galatians 2 takes us to the heart of the Christian life — union with Christ.

Paul doesn't just say we believe in Jesus; he says our old life was nailed to the cross with Him. That means your identity, your record, your striving — it's all been crucified. You don't need to keep trying to prove yourself before God. The pressure is off, because Jesus already carried the weight. The gospel is not about self improvement; it's about self denial and a beautiful exchange — His life for yours.

When you forget that, it's easy to drift back into performance. You start measuring your worth by how spiritual you feel or how well you behave. But Paul says, “I do not set aside the grace of God.”

God's grace doesn't just save you — God's grace sustains you.

If you're trying to live the Christian life **for** Jesus, you'll burn out. But if you learn to live the Christian life **from** Jesus — Christ in you — you'll burn bright!! That is a small shift in our thinking and doing that makes a massive impact on our life in Christ.

Challenge

The cross wasn't just Jesus' death — it was yours too. You can't cling to control and carry your cross at the same time. Today, surrender the "old you" — the one that needs to be liked, to succeed, or to look perfect — and let Jesus live **through** you. The more you die to self, the freer you'll be to truly live.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Galatians 2 slowly and emphasize verse 20 aloud.
- Midday — Pray: "Jesus, live Your life through me today."
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I see Jesus' life show up in mine today?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for me and living Your life in me. Teach me to stop performing for approval and start living from Your presence. Let my life be a reflection of Yours — crucified to self and alive to grace. Amen.

Day 3 — Galatians 3

Faith Over Law

Theme

Don't trade faith for formulas.

Key Verse

"After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?"

(Galatians 3:3)

Reflection

Paul's words in this chapter cut right through religious pride. He's not talking to unbelievers — he's talking to believers who started in grace and slowly slipped back into self-effort. They began by trusting God, but somewhere along the way, they started trusting themselves again. It's a subtle drift. It doesn't usually look like overt rebellion, but it becomes a reliance on the wrong source. Then, we end up praying less and planning more. We start measuring our worth by **activity** instead of **intimacy**. We talk about faith but live like it all depends on us.

Paul reminds us that the Spirit's work in your life didn't begin because you earned it — it began because you believed. The same faith that saved you is the faith that sustains you. Remember that rules can't change a heart, but faith in Jesus can.

You don't grow in Christ by tightening your grip; you grow by opening your hands. God doesn't want your performance — He wants a relationship with you.

Challenge

Don't let what started as surrender turn into self-reliance. Every time you depend on your own strength, you're stepping out of the Spirit's flow. Today's challenge is to trade your formulas that make you feel good for faith in God. Stop trying to "manage" your spiritual growth and start believing and trusting that God Himself is forming Christ in you by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Galatians 3 and ask, "Where am I still trying to earn what's already been given?"
- Midday — Pray: "Holy Spirit, finish in me what You started."
- Evening — Thank God for every area of your life where faith has replaced fear or performance.

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for the times I've trusted my own effort more than Your grace. I don't want to live a life of formulas — I want to live by faith. Help me stay soft, dependent, and full of Your Spirit today. Amen.

Day 4 — Galatians 4

Sons and Heirs

Theme

You're not a slave — you're family.

Key Verse

“So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.” (Galatians 4:7)

Reflection

Paul draws a powerful contrast in this chapter between **slavery** and **sonship**.

A slave obeys out of **fear**. A son obeys out of **love**. You cannot have both, only one or the other.

One performs to be accepted. The other lives accepted, and therefore serves with joy. Many believers live like God tolerates them instead of treasures them. We believe in grace but still walk with the posture of spiritual orphans — afraid to mess up and unsure if we belong. But Paul says clearly: you are a child of God, not by effort, but by adoption.

When Jesus entered your life, you didn't just get forgiveness — you got family. And that changes everything. Now, when you pray, you're not begging a distant deity — you're talking to your Father. When you stumble, you're not condemned, you're corrected with love.

You're not earning your way home — you are home.

The Spirit inside you cries “Abba, Father!” — that’s your identity. So stop living like a servant trying to please the Master. Live like a son who’s already delighted his Father.

Challenge

Stop asking, “Does God still love me?” Start reminding yourself, “I am His child — loved, chosen, and secure.” Your challenge today: live like you belong. Speak to God as your Father. Serve others as a son or daughter of grace — not an employee of religion.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Galatians 4 and thank God for adopting you into His family.
- Midday — Pause and pray: “Father, I belong to You.”
- Evening — Reflect: Where did you live today as a child of God instead of a slave to fear?

Prayer

Father, thank You that I am Yours — fully, freely, forever. Help me rest in my identity as Your child, not as a performer trying to earn love. Teach me to walk with confidence, grace, and gratitude as Your heir. Amen.

Day 5 — Galatians 5

Freedom & Fruit

Theme

Freedom isn't doing whatever you want — it's becoming who you're meant to be.

Key Verse

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

Reflection

This chapter is one of Paul's most passionate calls to the Church — stand firm in your freedom.

Because freedom is fragile when we forget what it's for.

The world says freedom means no boundaries. But Paul says true freedom is being released from sin's control so that you can finally walk in love. Freedom isn't the absence of restraint — it's the presence of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit leads, He doesn't just change your habits, He transforms your heart. The "fruit of the Spirit" isn't a list to achieve; it's the evidence of a life surrendered to Jesus.

You can't manufacture love, joy, peace, or patience by trying harder.

They grow as you stay connected to Jesus.

The flesh produces frustration, but the Holy Spirit produces fruit.

The more you try to force growth, the more frustrated you'll become; but, the more you walk with Him, the more freedom becomes your natural way of living.

Challenge

Freedom isn't found in rebellion — it's found in surrender. Ask yourself today: what keeps trying to pull me back into old patterns? Then stand firm. Don't go back to what Jesus already freed you from. Walk in step with the Spirit — not out of guilt, but out of gratitude.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Galatians 5 and highlight every fruit of the Spirit. Pray for one to grow stronger in your life.
- Midday — Say aloud, "I'm free to follow the Spirit."
- Evening — Reflect: Where did you sense the Spirit's fruit showing up in your words, attitude, or reactions today?

Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank You for leading me into real freedom — not a life of rules, but a life of relationship. Grow Your fruit in me — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Help me walk in step with You today and every day. Amen.

Day 6 — Galatians 6

Sowing & Reaping

Theme

What you plant today shapes who you become tomorrow.

Key Verse

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Galatians 6:7)

Reflection

Paul closes his letter with one final truth: freedom isn't aimless — freedom has a purpose. Grace doesn't cancel responsibility — grace empowers it.

Every choice you make is a seed. Every thought, every word, every habit — they all fall into the soil of your soul. The question isn't if you're sowing... it's what you're sowing.

If you plant selfishness, you'll reap emptiness. If you plant generosity, you'll reap joy. If you plant time in God's presence, you'll reap peace. God's principle of sowing and reaping isn't punishment — it's invitation. It's the rhythm of grace: what you invest into your walk with Him will always come back multiplied.

And Paul adds a word of encouragement for weary hearts: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

That means your faithfulness matters, even when no one sees it, especially when no one sees it.

Every prayer, every act of kindness, every seed of love — none of it is wasted.

Challenge

You're planting something with every decision you make. So today, sow with eternity in mind. Sow kindness into conflict. Sow peace into chaos. Sow faith when you feel fear. You may not see the harvest yet — but heaven does. Keep going. Don't give up. The harvest is coming.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Galatians 6 and write down three “seeds” you want to plant today.
- Midday — Pray: “Lord, give me endurance to keep sowing good seed.”
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I choose to sow into the Spirit instead of the flesh today?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the reminder that every choice plants a seed. Help me live intentionally — sowing love, peace, and faith into every moment. Strengthen me to keep doing good even when I don't see results yet. I trust You with the harvest. Amen.

Ephesians — Formation in Christ

Day 7 — Ephesians 1

Chosen in Christ

Theme

You're not trying to earn blessing — you're already living from it.

Key Verse

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

(Ephesians 1:4)

Reflection

Paul opens this letter like he's standing under a waterfall of grace. He pours out truth after truth — that you're blessed, chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, sealed, and loved — all in Christ. Ephesians 1 is not a list of things you have to do, ***it's a declaration of who you already are.***

Before you ever performed a good deed, prayed a prayer, or showed up to church — God chose you. He didn't pick you reluctantly or accidentally. He chose you with purpose, on purpose, before the foundation of the world.

You're not on a mission chasing God's favor — you're supposed to walk in it.

The gospel isn't about trying to get God to bless you; it's realizing He already has, and learning to live out of that truth. When you start your day knowing you're chosen, everything changes. You stop comparing yourself to others. You stop striving for attention. You stop doubting your value. Because the cross already settled it — you belong.

Challenge

You're not trying to earn your place in God's story — you're invited to live from it. Today's challenge: Walk like you're chosen. Speak like you're loved. Pray like someone who's already been accepted, not like someone trying to be noticed.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Ephesians 1 and highlight every “in Christ” phrase.
- Midday — Whisper this truth over yourself: “I am chosen. I am His.”
- Evening — Reflect: How did knowing I'm chosen change how I interacted with others today?

Prayer

Father, thank You for choosing me long before I ever chose You. Help me live in the freedom of knowing I'm fully loved and deeply accepted. Teach me to see myself the way You see me — holy, blameless, and blessed in Christ. Amen.

Day 8 — Ephesians 2

Grace Through Faith

Theme

You're not a better version of who you were — you're a brand-new creation.

Key Verse

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

Reflection

Ephesians 2 is one of those chapters that redefines everything. It begins with the bad news — you were dead in your sins. Not weak. Not wounded. Dead. But then comes the most hope-filled phrase in Scripture: “**But God.**”

But God, who is rich in mercy, didn't leave you there. He raised you up with Christ and seated you in heavenly places — not because you earned it, but because He loves you.

Grace means God moved first.

Before you could fix yourself, He forgave you. Before you could prove yourself, He accepted you. You don't climb your way to God — He came down to you. Faith is how you receive what grace provides. It's not a reward for effort; it's a response to mercy. And when grace grabs hold of your heart, it changes how you see everyone else too. You stop dividing people into “worthy” and “unworthy” and start remembering that we were all saved the same way — by grace through faith.

Challenge

Don't try to earn what's already been gifted. You're not working for acceptance, you're living from it. Today, let gratitude replace guilt. Every time you're tempted to perform for God, pause and say, "By grace, through faith."

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Ephesians 2 aloud and circle the phrase "but God." Let that truth sink in.
- Midday — Thank God for at least one area of your life that grace has completely changed.
- Evening — Reflect: Did I live today like someone saved by grace or striving by effort?

Prayer

Father, thank You for saving me when I couldn't save myself. Remind me that grace is not my reward — it's Your gift. Help me live from gratitude, not guilt, and extend that same grace to others. Amen.

Day 9 — Ephesians 3

Strength in the Inner Being

Theme

Deep roots grow in unseen places.

Key Verse

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.” (Ephesians 3:16)

Reflection

Paul ends the first half of Ephesians with a prayer. Not a command, but prayer. He doesn't ask God to make life easier — he asks Him to make believers stronger. Not stronger on the outside... but in the inner being. That's where faith becomes real — deep in the unseen places where no one else is looking.

The strength Paul describes isn't willpower; it's Holy Spirit power.

It's what holds you steady when circumstances shake. It's what helps you forgive when you'd rather hold a grudge. It's what keeps you grounded in love when life feels unstable.

Paul says this kind of strength grows when Christ dwells in your heart through faith — not just visiting on Sundays, but filling every room of your life. And when that happens, you become “rooted and established in love.” You stop living from emotion and start living from truth. You stop chasing surface-level spirituality and start growing spiritual depth. You won't make it through life's storms by standing tall — you'll make it by being rooted deep, in His strength.

Challenge

Don't pray for an easier life; pray for a stronger spirit. You can't control your circumstances, but you can choose your roots. Today's challenge: ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner life — your thoughts, your faith, your love — so that you can stand firm no matter what comes.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Ephesians 3 and personalize Paul's prayer (verses 16–19) — pray it out loud for yourself.
- Midday — Pause and say: "Jesus, make Your home in my heart."
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I notice spiritual strength growing within me today?

Prayer

Lord, I don't just want to look strong — I want to be strong in You. Strengthen me in my inner being through Your Holy Spirit. Let Your love take root deep in my heart until it becomes my foundation. Fill me to the fullness of God. Amen.

Day 10 — Ephesians 4

Unity & Maturity

Theme

Growth happens when we walk together.

Key Verse

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)

Reflection

In Ephesians 4, Paul turns a corner — from revelation to transformation. He’s shown us who we are in Christ; now he shows us how to live in Christ. And his first instruction isn’t about strategy, it’s about unity. “Make every effort,” Paul says. Because unity doesn’t happen naturally — it requires humility, patience, and love. It means valuing people over preference, relationships over rights.

The Church is a family, not a factory.

We’re not a crowd of consumers; we’re a body of believers — each with a part to play. When every person does their part, the body grows healthy, strong, and full of love. But when comparison or pride creep in, the body weakens.

Spiritual maturity isn’t about how much you know — it’s about how well you love.

Growth happens when grace flows both ways. So if you want to mature in Christ, stay connected to His people. Because God doesn’t just grow you personally — He grows you relationally. And we only reach that blessed place of grace when we are in unity as a body, the Church, the Body of Christ.

Challenge

Unity doesn't mean we're all the same — it means we're all surrendered to the same Spirit. Today's challenge: be a unifier, not a divider. Guard your heart from gossip. Speak peace instead of preference. Ask, "How can I build up the body today instead of tearing it down?"

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Ephesians 4 and underline every phrase about "one body," "one Spirit," "one faith."
- Midday — Pray: "Lord, help me bring peace, not pressure, into every conversation."
- Evening — Reflect: Did I contribute to unity today, or to division?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for calling me into Your body — the Church. Help me walk humbly, love deeply, and serve faithfully. Grow me into maturity as I stay connected to others. Make me an instrument of unity wherever I go. Amen.

Day 11 — Ephesians 5

Walk in Love

Theme

Love isn't a feeling — it's a reality that we must choose to walk in daily.

Key Verse

“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.” (Ephesians 5:1–2)

Reflection

Ephesians 5 begins with a simple but life-altering command: “Walk in the way of love.”

That’s not only poetic language — it’s a lifestyle for every believer and follower of Jesus.

Paul reminds us that love isn't an occasional act, it's the way we move through the world as believers and followers of Jesus. Our love for God is revealed in how we treat people, how we handle temptation, and how we reflect Jesus when no one's watching.

Jesus modeled this best — Jesus didn't just feel love — He gave love. He loved by surrendering, by serving, by sacrificing. And that's what Paul is reminding us of and calling us to do — to live a life that smells like the love of Christ, not the compromise of culture.

We live in a world that confuses love with tolerance, and holiness with judgment. But true love tells the truth and lays itself down.

Love forgives. Love honors. And love refuses to settle for sin. That's what walking in love looks like — following Jesus into a life of purity and sacrifice.

Challenge

You can't walk in love and stay in darkness. If you want to reflect Jesus, you have to walk where He walks. Today's challenge: choose love that costs you something — forgiveness, patience, humility, or compassion. Let your love be the evidence of your faith.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Ephesians 5 and ask God to show you one person you can actively love today.
- Midday — Pray: “Jesus, help me love like You — not in words, but in actions.”
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I walk in love today? Where do I need to grow tomorrow?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for loving me first and showing me how to walk in love. Teach me to love people the way You do — with truth, grace, and humility. Let my life reflect Your light and Your heart in every step I take. Amen.

Day 12 — Ephesians 6

Spiritual Armor

Theme

God is equipping you for battle.

Key Verse

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

(Ephesians 6:11)

Reflection

After five chapters of grace, unity, and love, Paul ends with a battle cry as he tells us, “Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” Because the moment you start walking with God, you also start walking into opposition.

The Christian life isn’t a playground — it’s a battleground.

But here’s the good news: you’re not fighting **for** victory; you’re fighting **from** victory.

Christ already won the war. And you’re just learning how to stand firm in what He’s already finished.

Paul tells us to “put on” the armor of God — truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word.

Notice: every piece points back to Jesus Himself.

He is your truth, your righteousness, your peace, your salvation, your shield, and your sword.

The enemy's greatest tactic isn't always destruction — it's often distraction. If he can get you to forget who you are and what you have in Christ, he doesn't need to take you out; you'll take yourself out!!

So armor up — not in fear, but in faith. You're equipped for this. You're covered. You're ready.

Challenge

Don't go into today unarmed. Put on truth before you scroll. Clothe yourself in righteousness before you react. Pick up peace before you step into the pressure of the day. Your challenge today: before anything else, ***pray on the armor of God***. Don't leave your spirit unguarded.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Ephesians 6:10–20. Pray through each piece of armor as you get ready for your day.
- Midday — Whisper this reminder: “I am standing firm in Christ's victory.”
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I see God's protection and strength at work in me today?

Prayer

Lord, thank You that You've already won the battle. Help me stand strong in Your strength, not my own. Remind me to put on the full armor of God every day — truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and Your Word. Keep me alert, steadfast, and full of courage. Amen.

Philippians — Joy in Christ

Day 13 — Philippians 1

Joy in the Journey

Theme

Even in chains, you can still choose joy.

Key Verse

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.” (Philippians 1:12)

Reflection

Paul writes this letter not from a mountaintop but from a prison cell. And yet, every paragraph overflows with joy. How? Because his joy wasn't built on comfort — it was built on Christ.

Paul could've seen his imprisonment as a setback, but instead he saw it as an opportunity. The gospel was still advancing — even in chains. That's what joy does. It reframes pain into purpose.

Joy doesn't ignore hard things, it simply refuses to let hard things define you.

Most people chase happiness — it rises and falls with circumstance. But joy runs deeper. It's the settled confidence that God is still working, even when nothing seems to be working out. If Paul could find joy in a prison cell, you can find it in your daily struggles.

Joy isn't something you wait for — it's something you walk in.

And the secret to that joy is simple: stay close to Jesus. He's not just your destination; He's your companion on the journey.

Challenge

You can't always choose your situation, but you can always choose your spirit. Today's challenge: look for God's purpose where you've been tempted to complain. Turn your frustration into fuel for gratitude.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Philippians 1. Write down one thing that would change if you started viewing your situation through joy.
- Midday — Pray: "Jesus, help me see purpose where I'm tempted to lose patience."
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I find reasons for joy today, even in difficulty?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that your joy isn't based on what's around me, but who's within me. Teach me to see every circumstance as an opportunity to reveal Your goodness. Fill my heart with joy that no situation or circumstance can steal and no trial can take away. Amen.

Day 14 — Philippians 2

The Mind of Christ

Theme

Humility is the mindset of the mature.

Key Verse

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)

Reflection

Paul’s words here cut straight to the heart of what it means to follow Jesus. He doesn’t just tell us to believe in Christ — he tells us to think like Him.

The culture around us says, “Look out for yourself.” Yet, Jesus says, “Lay yourself down.” The world says, “Climb higher.” And, Jesus says, “Humble yourself — and let the Father lift you up.”

The humility of Jesus is breathtaking.

Though He was God, He didn’t cling to His rights. He became a servant, obedient even to death on a cross. That’s what love looks like when it puts on flesh — surrender for the sake of others. And that’s the invitation that Jesus gives for all of us.

Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself — it’s thinking of yourself less.

Humility is choosing to serve when you could be seen. It’s lifting up others when you could lift up yourself. And, humility is finding joy — not in recognition — but when people see Jesus in you.

Challenge

You can't have the joy of Christ without embracing the humility of Christ. Today's challenge: serve someone quietly — no spotlight, no announcement. Don't do it to be noticed, but do it to become more like Jesus.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Philippians 2:1–11 and reflect on how Jesus modeled humility.
- Midday — Pray: “Lord, give me Your mindset today — humble, gentle, and others-focused.”
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I choose humility over pride today?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for showing me that true greatness isn't about status, but about serving. Teach me to walk humbly, serve joyfully, and love selflessly. May my heart, my words, and my actions begin to reflect the character of Christ more each day. Amen.

Day 15 — Philippians 3

Pressing On

Theme

Run with purpose — your reward is in Christ.

Key Verse

“But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13–14)

Reflection

Paul had an impressive résumé — education, reputation, achievements — but he called all of it “garbage compared to knowing Christ.” That’s what happens when grace changes your values. You stop living to build your own name and start living to glorify His.

Part of that revelation that we are all called to, is learning to lean into the call that Jesus has for our lives — a call to be part of His body on earth and to fulfill His purpose for our lives.

You can’t run forward while constantly looking backward.

Regret will chain you to your past, and pride will blind you to your future. So Paul says, “Forget what’s behind.” That doesn’t mean ignore it — it means don’t live there anymore.

The past can teach you, but it can’t define you. Every step of faith is an act of moving forward — pressing on, pushing through, keeping your eyes on Jesus. The goal isn’t perfection, it’s pursuit. The win isn’t arriving, it’s refusing to quit. The prize isn’t comfort, it’s Jesus Himself.

So keep running. Keep growing. Keep pressing on. Because what God has ahead of you is far greater than what's behind you.

Challenge

You can't change your past, but you can choose your direction. Today's challenge: stop rehearsing what you wish had gone differently and start focusing on who God's calling you to become.

Keep your eyes on the prize — Jesus.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Philippians 3 and ask God, "What's one thing I need to leave behind so I can move forward?"
- Midday — Pray: "Lord, help me press on when I feel tired or distracted."
- Evening — Reflect: Did I run today's race with focus or with regret?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for calling me forward into new life. Help me let go of the past — both the pain and the pride — so I can chase after You with everything I am. Strengthen me to press on, keep running, and finish well. Amen.

Day 16 — Philippians 4

Peace Beyond Understanding

Theme

Gratitude guards the heart that trusts God.

Key Verse

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

Reflection

Paul’s words here hit right where most of us live — in the tension between worry and worship.

He doesn’t say anxiety will never come. He says, when it does, bring it to God.

The path to peace isn’t found in controlling life — it’s found in surrendering it.

Prayer is where we trade our panic for God’s perspective. It’s where fear loosens its grip, and gratitude takes its place. When you thank God in the middle of what you don’t understand, you’re declaring your trust in Him before the outcome ever arrives. That’s faith. And Paul says when you do that, “the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

It’s not peace that makes sense — it’s peace that stands guard.

Paul lived this truth. He wrote these words while he was chained to a prison guard — yet he says God’s peace guards him. Isn’t that interesting? That’s the kind of peace only Jesus can give — it’s not the absence of problems, it’s the presence of His power and perspective in the middle of our problems.

Challenge

Worry multiplies when you hold onto what you were meant to hand over. Today’s challenge: turn every anxious thought into a prayer. Every time worry knocks, answer with worship.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Philippians 4:4–9 and list what’s causing you stress. Pray over each one with thanksgiving.
- Midday — Pause and say aloud, “God, I trust You with this.”
- Evening — Reflect: Did I invite peace to guard my heart today or let worry take the lead?

Prayer

Lord, thank You that Your peace isn’t fragile — it’s strong enough to guard my heart. Teach me to bring every concern to You with gratitude, knowing You care for me. Help me rest in the truth that You are near, You are good, and You are in control. Amen.

Colossians — The Supremacy of Christ

Day 17 — Colossians 1

Christ Supreme

Theme

Jesus isn't just part of your life — He is your life.

Key Verse

“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:17)

Reflection

Paul begins with a breathtaking vision of Jesus. This chapter is a reminder that our faith isn't built on philosophy, self-help, or performance. Our faith is built on a Person — Jesus Christ.

Jesus isn't just a teacher of truth — He is Truth.

He isn't just part of creation — He's the One who holds creation together. And Jesus doesn't just save your soul — He sustains your very life. If you ever start to lose perspective, come back to Colossians 1.

Everything begins and ends with Jesus.

When you keep Him at the center, everything else finds its proper place — everything. Your priorities, your relationships, your identity, your purpose — everything.

Paul says God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Christ. That means there's no higher truth to reach for, no deeper secret to uncover. You don't ever graduate from Jesus — you grow deeper into Him — He is always the center.

Challenge

If Jesus is truly Lord of all, He deserves first place in every part of your life. Today's challenge: take inventory. Is Jesus at the center of your life — or is He just included when you want or need Him? Are you letting Jesus lead your decisions, your schedule, your conversations, your goals. Because, when He's first, everything else falls into proper alignment.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Colossians 1 and thank Jesus for holding your life together.
- Midday — Pause and whisper, "You're first, Jesus — in all things."
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I give Christ first place today? Where did I crowd Him out?

Prayer

Jesus, You are above all and before all. Forgive me for the moments I treat You as a part of life instead of the center of it. I want you to be my focus, my foundation, and my fullness today. Hold me together when life feels scattered, and let everything that I do point to You. Amen.

Day 18 — Colossians 2

Rooted & Built Up

Theme

You don't need more than Jesus — just more of Him.

Key Verse

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

(Colossians 2:6–7)

Reflection

Paul knew the danger of spiritual drift — not necessarily turning away from Jesus, but how we can sometimes slowly move away from Him. The Colossians were being pressured by voices that promised “something more” — deeper knowledge, stricter rules, mystical experiences.

But Paul says clearly: you already have everything you need in Christ. Do you believe that?

Spiritual growth doesn't come from adding to Jesus, but from abiding in Him.

Just like a tree doesn't need to move locations to grow stronger — a tree grows stronger with deeper roots. And, the same is true for your faith. Like a tree, when your roots go deep in Christ, you become unshakable.

The storms will come, and the storms may even bend you, but when your roots are deep, the storms

won't break you. And gratitude — Paul says — is the overflow of a deeply rooted life in Christ. And, the more you realize how secure you are in Christ, the more thankful you become.

Don't let anyone convince you that you need something besides Jesus to be complete.

He's not the starting point of your faith — He's the source, the strength, and the ultimate goal. And you don't have to do anything to "get" Him... you simply receive Him... through grace by faith.

Challenge

You don't need a new revelation — you need a deeper relationship. Today's challenge: stay rooted.

Before reaching for what's "next," return to what's true — Jesus. Read the Bible, pray, and worship... and you will grow closer to Him.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Colossians 2:6–10 and thank God that you are complete in Christ.
- Midday — Pray: "Jesus, deepen my roots in You today."
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I feel grounded in truth instead of swayed by emotion today?

Prayer

Jesus, keep me rooted and built up in You. Guard my heart from distractions that promise more than they deliver, and strengthen my faith until gratitude becomes my normal response. Let every part of my life draw its strength and stability from You alone. Amen.

Day 19 — Colossians 3

The New Self

Theme

The gospel doesn't make you better — the gospel makes you new.

Key Verse

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (Colossians 3:1)

Reflection

Paul's language here is bold — he says you have been raised with Christ. He doesn't say you're trying to be better, or you're slowly improving. Nope. He says you've been resurrected into a new life and a new way of living.

But here's the challenge: many believers live like Jesus only saved their souls, not their habits.

We say we're **new** but we struggle by continuing to wear the **old** self — filled with bitterness, lust, greed, pride, anger, comparison. And Paul says clearly: take it off!! That old nature doesn't fit anymore.

Then he says, **put on the new self** — with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love.

That's not behavior modification — that's identity transformation.

Think about it. You don't “try harder” to be new. You just need to remember and understand who you already are in Christ. When Jesus becomes your life, the things that used to control you begin to lose

their power. You start to desire what He desires. You start to love what He loves. And your life becomes a living reflection of His grace.

Challenge

You can't live a new life wearing old habits. Today's challenge: identify one "old self" pattern to take off, and one "new self" characteristic to put on. Don't just stop sinning — start shining!!

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Colossians 3 and ask the Holy Spirit, "What part of the old me are You asking me to lay down?"
- Midday — Pray: "Lord, clothe me with Your compassion and love today."
- Evening — Reflect: Where did I live out my new identity today?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for raising me to new life. Help me lay aside everything that doesn't reflect who I am in You. Fill me with Your character — kindness, patience, humility, and love. Let my life look more like Yours with every passing day. Amen.

Day 20 — Colossians 4

Living Sent

Theme

Your “ordinary moments” are **your** mission field.

Key Verse

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt.” (Colossians 4:5–6)

Reflection

Paul ends this letter — and this journey — with a vision for how faith looks when it leaves the page and walks into real life.

Following Jesus isn’t just about believing the gospel — it’s about embodying it.

Your words, your attitude, your interactions — they all preach something about who you belong to.

Paul’s reminder is simple but powerful: make the most of **every** opportunity.

Every conversation is a chance to reflect grace.

Every workplace, home, and neighborhood is a platform for the gospel. You don’t need a microphone or a title to live sent — just awareness of God’s grace and obedience to share it with others. Grace should season your speech like salt — making truth more flavorful for others. Love should mark your presence — bringing light, not judgment.

When people encounter you, they should catch a glimpse of Jesus.

Your mission starts right where you are — in the small, daily, unnoticed moments that God uses to change the world one person at a time. My hope, my prayer, is that you would let Him use you!!

Challenge

You are the message someone needs to see today. Today's challenge: live intentionally. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you aware of divine opportunities — moments to speak life, show kindness, serve others, or simply listen well. Your ordinary faithfulness is extraordinary in God's hands.

Daily Rhythm

- Morning — Read Colossians 4:2–6 and ask God to open your eyes to opportunities today.
- Midday — Pray: “Lord, make me alert, gracious, and bold in every interaction.”
- Evening — Reflect: How did I represent Jesus in my words, actions, and attitude today?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for calling me to represent You, in this world. Teach me to live sent. Help me to be alert, loving, and full of grace. Use my everyday life as a reflection of Your goodness and glory.

May people encounter Jesus through my words, through my work, and through my walk. Amen.

Congratulations!!

That's the end of the 20-Day journey through the letters of Paul, but it's still only the beginning of a healthy practice of reading and meditating on God's Word — day and night.

This devotional is meant to walk us *from believing to becoming to living* sent.

Freedom in Christ — Galatians

Formation in Christ — Ephesians

Joy in Christ — Philippians

The Supremacy of Christ — Colossians

Don't rush past what God has started in you, keep the pace of grace — *mornings in the Word, middays in obedience, and evenings in gratitude.*

Let the Holy Spirit keep shaping you through the small, faithful choices no one else sees. Those hidden moments matter — they're where character is formed and Christ is made visible in you. And as He continues His work, don't keep it to yourself. Share the stories. Tell the testimonies. Because Jesus is still writing His story — through your life, one faithful choice at a time.

May you continue to draw closer and closer to Jesus.

Sincerely,

Dustin Blatnik