

# 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

## Union with Christ: Suffering, Hope, and Glory

**Day 1: The Spirit Who Leads Us Through the Wilderness** Reading: Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 8:12-14

Devotional: Being led by the Spirit does not guarantee a path free of hardship. Christ himself was led by the Spirit directly into a place of testing and trial. This is not a contradiction of God's goodness -- it is an expression of it. The Spirit leads us not around suffering but through it, just as He led Christ. If you find yourself in a difficult season, do not assume God has abandoned you. Ask instead whether He is leading you. Holiness is often forged in the wilderness, not in comfort.

**Day 2: Sons, Not Slaves** Reading: Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-7

Devotional: The gospel does not merely improve your standing before God -- it transforms your identity entirely. You are no longer defined by your failures, your past, or the weight of sin's condemnation. Through adoption, you have been brought into the family of God. You have a Father who does not abandon you, a righteousness that is not your own, and a future secured in Christ. Yet Paul reminds us that this sonship includes suffering. The child of God is not exempt from pain -- he is equipped to endure it with a Father who hears every cry.

**Day 3: The Weight of Glory** Reading: Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional: Paul does not dismiss suffering -- he weighs it. And when he places present suffering on one side of the scale and coming glory on the other, the suffering does not register by comparison. This is not wishful thinking. It is a deliberate, reasoned act of faith. Paul says he considers this to be true. The glory that awaits the children of God is not a vague comfort -- it is an unveiled, eternal reality that makes every present trial temporary by definition. Train your mind to weigh your suffering against eternity, and let that weight produce endurance.

**Day 4: Creation's Longing and the Hope of Restoration** Reading: Romans 8:19-22; Genesis 3:17-19; Revelation 21:1-5

Devotional: The pain woven into the fabric of this world is not evidence that God is absent or indifferent. It is the consequence of sin entering creation through human rebellion. Yet God subjected creation to this futility in hope -- not as a final verdict, but as a temporary condition awaiting a glorious reversal. All of creation groans for the day when the sons of God are revealed

and all things are made new. That longing is not meaningless -- it is a compass pointing toward the restoration only Christ can accomplish. Let creation's groaning remind you of what is coming.

**Day 5: No More Futility -- Come to Christ** Reading: Romans 8:20-25; John 3:16-17; Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: Christ humbled himself, suffered, died, and was exalted. That pattern -- suffering before glory -- is the pattern of the gospel, and it is the pattern of the Christian life. Without union with Christ, life is an exercise in futility, effort without ultimate meaning, striving without lasting gain. But in Christ, nothing is wasted. Every trial, every act of obedience, every moment of endurance is being woven into something eternal. The hope of the gospel is not that suffering disappears, but that it is redeemed. If you have not come to Christ, come now. There is no other foundation that holds.