

5-Day Devotional: Inheriting Faith with Wisdom and Insight

Day 1: Receiving a Complex Inheritance

Reading: Ephesians 1:11-14

Devotional: Paul speaks of our inheritance in Christ—redemption, forgiveness, and grace received "with all wisdom and insight." This phrase matters deeply because inheritance is never simple. Like sorting through a loved one's belongings, we find treasures alongside troubling things. The faith passed down to us comes through imperfect vessels—people who saw God truly yet saw dimly in other ways. Today, ask God for wisdom to discern what to treasure and what to transform in your spiritual inheritance. What gifts of faith have you received? What harmful patterns need breaking? God's grace is sufficient to redeem both the beauty and brokenness we've inherited, making us part of something larger than ourselves.

Day 2: Saints Who See Through a Glass Darkly

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:9-12

Devotional: "We know only in part, and we prophesy only in part." Paul's honest assessment applies to every saint who has gone before us—and to us. The disciples argued about greatness while walking with Jesus. Peter denied him. Augustine gave us profound theology about grace while embedding shame into Christian tradition. Martin Luther rediscovered the gospel while writing venomous words about Jewish people. This reality humbles us: even our heroes were deeply flawed. Yet God worked through them anyway. Today, reflect on someone whose faith shaped yours. Can you hold both gratitude for their light and honesty about their shadows? This practice prepares us to receive correction from future generations who will see our own blind spots.

Day 3: Singing New Words to Old Melodies

Reading: Psalm 96:1-6

Devotional: "Sing to the Lord a new song"—yet we sing it with ancient melodies. This is the rhythm of faithful inheritance: carrying forward what endures while transforming what must change. Our ancestors sang of God's love even as they participated in injustice. They proclaimed salvation while limiting who could receive it. We don't abandon their hymnal; we write new verses. The deep rhythm of faith, hope, and love remains true, but each generation must find words that speak truth in its own time. What "new song" is God calling you to sing? Where do you need to honor tradition while courageously speaking new words of liberation, welcome, and justice? The melody of God's faithfulness carries us forward even as we reimagine the lyrics.

Day 4: The Body Remembering Itself

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Devotional: Paul calls the church "Christ's body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." When we remember the saints, we're not just recalling them—we're re-membering them, putting the body back together. This body includes parts that were severed: enslaved Christians whose faith sustained them while white Christians quoted Scripture to justify their chains; women who preached in the Spirit while councils debated whether they had souls; LGBTQ believers who clung to God while churches cast them out. True remembrance requires acknowledging whose stories were silenced, whose gifts were rejected, whose presence was denied. Today, whose voice in the body of Christ have you failed to hear? How might listening to marginalized saints reshape your understanding of faith?

Day 5: Moving Toward Redemption

Reading: Philippians 3:12-16

Devotional: "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal." Paul's humility reminds us that our inheritance points us *toward* redemption—we're still moving forward. The saints before us were moving forward. Our children after us will still be moving forward. None of us has completely figured out this walk with God. This truth should simultaneously humble and encourage us. We will leave both treasures and obstacles for those who come after us, just as we received both from those before. Someday our grandchildren will light candles for us, grateful for some things we taught them, needing to transform others. What legacy are you creating? What blind spots might you be passing on? Ask God for the humility to hold your convictions with open hands, always pressing forward toward God's kingdom that is both here and not yet.