

5-Day Devotional: Boasting Only in the Cross

Day 1: The Danger of False Gospels

Reading: Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

Devotional: Paul's astonishment at how quickly the Galatians turned from the true gospel reminds us that spiritual drift can happen to anyone. False gospels are subtle—they often look like Christianity with just one small addition: Jesus plus your good works, Jesus plus religious performance, Jesus plus prosperity. But any addition to Christ's finished work on the cross diminishes its power. Today, examine your own heart: Are you trusting in Christ alone, or have you unknowingly added something to the equation of your salvation? The enemy doesn't always attack with obvious lies; sometimes he simply whispers, "Yes, Jesus... but also this." Guard your heart against the "but also" and return to the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Day 2: Boasting Only in the Cross

Reading: Galatians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Devotional: Paul declares with the strongest possible language that he will never boast in anything except the cross of Christ. This wasn't empty rhetoric—Paul had an impressive religious pedigree, remarkable ministry success, and extraordinary suffering for Christ. He could have boasted in many things, yet he chose only the cross. When people compliment your marriage, your children, your career, or your character, where do you direct the glory? Do you subtly take credit, or do you genuinely attribute everything good to the cross of Christ? Today, practice intentional humility by acknowledging that every blessing, every achievement, and every good thing flows from what Jesus accomplished on Calvary. Let your confidence rest not in what you've done, but in what He has done.

Day 3: Dead to the World, Alive in Christ

Reading: Galatians 6:14b; Romans 6:1-14

Devotional: Paul declares that through the cross, the world has been crucified to him and he to the world. This is more than theological language—it's a call to radical reorientation of our desires and pursuits. We look at Old Testament believers worshiping frogs and golden calves and think them foolish, yet we bow before our own idols: comfort, success, approval, money, romance. These modern idols are just as pathetic when we see Jesus for who He truly is. Because Christ died, you died to the world's empty promises. The treasures this world offers are dust compared to knowing Christ. Today, identify one "treasure" you've been pursuing that belongs to your old life. Confess it as the dying thing it is, and consciously choose to treasure Christ instead.

Day 4: A New Creation

Reading: Galatians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Devotional: External rituals mean nothing; what matters is being made into a new creation. The Christian life isn't about climbing a religious ladder or performing spiritual disciplines to earn God's favor. It's about transformation—the old has passed away, the new has come. This should fill us with joy and relief! Yet how often do we live as though we're still trying to prove ourselves worthy? God isn't asking you to be a better version of your old self; He's made you entirely new. Today, reflect on this question: Are you pursuing the things of your new creation, or are you still chasing after the patterns of your old life? Walk in the freedom of your new identity. Follow the standard of Scripture, where peace and mercy are found, not in the dying pursuits of a world you've been freed from.

Day 5: Passionate for What Matters

Reading: Galatians 6:17-18; Philippians 3:7-14

Devotional: Paul bore on his body the marks of Jesus—physical scars from persecution he endured for preaching the gospel. He wasn't afraid of the cost of following Christ because he knew the surpassing worth of knowing Him. Here's a challenging question: What are you most passionate about? If someone observed your life, your conversations, your calendar, and your bank account, what would they conclude stirs your heart most deeply? Is it a sports team, a career goal, financial security, or a hobby? These aren't necessarily bad, but would it be tragic if the most passionate thing about your life was something so temporary? Paul grabbed the pen to write in large letters because he wanted the Galatians to feel his passion for the cross. Today, ask God to ignite fresh passion in your heart for Jesus and His gospel. Live this day with intentional fervor for the only thing that will last forever.