

5-Day Devotional: Walking in Restoration

Day 1: The Danger of Spiritual Blindness

Reading: James 1:22-25

Devotional: Sin operates like a carnival mirror, distorting our view of ourselves. We see righteousness where there is rebellion, justification where there is sin. James reminds us that Scripture is the only perfect mirror that reveals our true condition. Without honest examination of our hearts through God's Word, we remain deceived about our spiritual state. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any blind spots in your life. Are there sins you've minimized or justified? Areas where you've compared yourself favorably to others while missing your own failings? True spiritual health begins with seeing ourselves accurately. Don't just read God's Word—let it read you. Allow Scripture to expose what you cannot see, and thank God for the grace that meets you in that honest moment.

Day 2: Restoration Over Punishment

Reading: Galatians 6:1-2

Devotional: When we see fellow believers caught in sin, our first instinct often leans toward judgment rather than restoration. Yet Paul's instruction is clear: approach with gentleness, seeking to restore, not destroy. Consider how setting a broken bone requires intentional, sometimes painful intervention—but always with healing as the goal. The same applies spiritually. Confronting sin in a brother or sister is an act of profound love, not superiority. It requires walking in the Spirit, not the flesh. Before approaching someone about their sin, examine your own heart. Are you motivated by love and restoration, or by pride and judgment? Remember that the grace you extend to others is the same grace you desperately need. True Christian community isn't avoiding difficult conversations—it's having them with gentleness and hope for healing.

Day 3: The Ministry of Burden-Bearing

Reading: Hebrews 3:12-14

Devotional: We were never meant to carry life's crushing burdens alone. The writer of Hebrews urges daily encouragement within the community of faith to prevent hearts from being hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Notice the word "daily"—this isn't occasional check-ins but consistent, intentional presence in one another's lives. Sin isolates; grace connects. When we commit to being truly known by others, we create space for accountability and restoration. Who in your life knows you at the 95% level? Who can speak truth into your blind spots? Conversely, who are you walking alongside with that level of investment? Burden-bearing isn't weakness—it's the design of Christian community. Like Samwise

carrying Frodo up the mountain, we may not be able to remove someone's struggle, but we can help them carry it toward freedom. Today, reach out to someone who may be struggling silently.

Day 4: Gentle Confrontation as Christ's Example

Reading: John 1:14-18

Devotional: The incarnation itself was an act of gentle confrontation. Jesus came "full of grace and truth"—not grace without truth, nor truth without grace. He entered our broken world to confront us with the reality of our sin while simultaneously offering the path to restoration. This Christmas season, as we celebrate Christ's coming, remember that He came not just to bring comfort but to call us to repentance. His gentleness didn't minimize sin's seriousness; it made confrontation bearable. When we approach others about sin, we must embody both grace and truth. Truth alone crushes; grace alone enables. Together, they restore. Consider how Jesus has gently confronted areas of your life. How did His perfect balance of grace and truth lead you to repentance? Let His example shape how you approach others, always remembering that restoration, not punishment, is the goal.

Day 5: Guarding Against Temptation

Reading: Galatians 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:12

Devotional: Paul's warning is sobering: "Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted." The moment we think we're above certain sins is precisely when we're most vulnerable. Pride blinds us to our own capacity for the very sins we condemn in others. Every believer carries both the potential for Spirit-filled living and the pull of the flesh. This dual reality should keep us humble when addressing sin in others and vigilant about our own hearts. We compare our best moments with others' worst, creating a false sense of spiritual superiority. Today, test your own work before God. Are there areas where you've grown complacent? Sins you've dismissed as "not that bad"? Remember, small sins lead to big sins. Each of us must carry our own load while helping others with burdens too heavy to bear alone. Stay humble, stay watchful, and remember that the grace you need is the same grace you're called to extend.