

# Built to Last: Cultivating Enduring Faith

*Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide*

## Day 1: Empowered by Grace

Reading: 2 Peter 1:3-4

**Devotional:** God's grace is not just a concept—it's a power that transforms us. Today's passage reminds us that through Christ, we have been given "everything we need for a godly life." Take a moment to let that sink in. You are not lacking. You are not waiting for some future spiritual upgrade. Right now, in this moment, you have access to divine power through your relationship with Jesus.

**Reflect** on areas of your life where you feel inadequate or ill-equipped. How might your perspective shift if you genuinely believed you already have everything you need in Christ? Consider writing down one area where you need to trust God's empowering grace more fully.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to grasp the fullness of Your grace. May I walk in the confidence that You have already equipped me for the life You've called me to live.

## Day 2: Building on Faith

Reading: 2 Peter 1:5-7

**Devotional:** Faith is the foundation, but it's not meant to stand alone. Peter provides us with a blueprint for spiritual growth—a staircase of virtues that build upon one another. Notice how it begins with faith and culminates in love. This is the trajectory of the Christian life: from belief to Christlike character.

**Reflect** on which of these virtues feels most challenging for you right now? Perhaps it's self-control in the face of temptation, or perseverance in the face of life's hardships. Remember, you're not striving to earn God's favor—you're cooperating with His Spirit to become more like Jesus.

**Choose** one virtue from this list to focus on today. How might intentionally practicing this quality change your interactions and decisions?

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, cultivate these virtues in my heart. Help me participate actively in the growth you desire for me.

## Day 3: The Power of Knowing Christ

Reading: *Philippians* 3:7-11

**Devotional:** Paul counted everything as loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ. This isn't just head knowledge—it's an intimate, transformative relationship. Our sermon emphasized that we have "everything we need" through our knowledge of Him who called us.

How well do you know Jesus? Not just facts about Him, but His heart, His character, His presence in your daily life? Knowledge of Christ isn't academic—it's relational and experiential.

Take time today to be with Jesus. Read a Gospel passage slowly, imagining yourself in the scene. Or take a walk and talk to Him as you would a close friend. Let knowing Him be your highest aim.

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**Prayer:** Jesus, I want to know You more deeply. Reveal Yourself to me in fresh ways today.

## Day 4: Cultivating Lasting Faith

*Reading: Colossians 2:6-7*

**Devotional:** The Christian life isn't a sprint—it's a marathon. Paul uses the imagery of being "rooted and built up" in Christ. This echoes Peter's call to add to our faith, building a life that lasts.

Roots grow slowly, often unseen. They require consistent nourishment and a stable environment. What practices or habits help you stay rooted in Christ? Is there an area where you've become shallow or unstable in your faith?

Consider establishing (or recommitting to) a daily practice that deepens your roots—perhaps morning prayer, Scripture memorization, or regular fellowship with other believers.

**Prayer:** Father, help me to sink my roots deep into Your love and truth. May my life be built on the unshakeable foundation of Christ.

## Day 5: Love as the Ultimate Goal

*Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

**Devotional:** Peter's list of virtues culminates in love. Paul tells us that without love, even the most impressive spiritual gifts are meaningless. Love is not just one virtue among many—it's the pinnacle, the goal, the very essence of Christlikeness.

**Reflect** on your motivations. Are you growing in knowledge, exercising self-control, or persevering in faith primarily to become more loving? Or have you lost sight of love as your goal?

Choose one person or situation today where you can intentionally practice selfless, Christ-like love. Remember, we love not to earn anything, but because God has first loved us.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, fill me with Your love—for You, for others, even for those who are difficult to love. May everything I do be motivated by and infused with Your perfect love.