

Build To Last

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

Day 1: Identifying Truth Amidst a World of Lies

Reading: 2 Peter 2:1-3, John 8:31-32

Devotional: In a world where truth seems increasingly elusive, Peter's warning about false teachers is startlingly relevant. Just as in the early church, we face a barrage of voices claiming to speak for God. How do we discern truth from falsehood? Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). True freedom isn't found in following our desires or the latest spiritual trend, but in anchoring ourselves to Christ's teachings.

Today, reflect on the sources that shape your beliefs. Are they rooted in Scripture or popular opinion? Ask God for discernment to recognize His voice amidst the noise. Consider one area where you might need to realign your thinking with biblical truth.

Day 2: Standing Firm in God's Justice

Reading: 2 Peter 2:4-10, Romans 12:19-21

Devotional: Peter reminds us of God's justice throughout history – from rebellious angels to the flood of Noah's time. These examples aren't meant to frighten us, but to reassure us: God sees, God knows, and God will act. In a world that often seems unjust, we can be tempted to take matters into our own hands or lose hope altogether. But Paul encourages us, "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord" (Romans 12:19).

Today, bring before God any situations where you're longing to see justice. Release your need for vengeance and trust in His perfect timing. How might this trust free you to respond with love, even to those who wrong you?

Day 3: The Power of God's Word

Reading: 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 4:12-13

Devotional: Peter describes Scripture as "a light shining in a dark place" (2 Peter 1:19). In contrast to the "cleverly devised stories" of false teachers, God's Word is our trustworthy guide. Hebrews tells us that this Word is "alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

Today, approach Scripture not just as information, but as a means of transformation. As you read, invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate areas in your life that need His touch. What thought patterns or attitudes might God be challenging? How can you open yourself more fully to the penetrating power of His Word?

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Day 4: Freedom that Leads to Life

Reading: 2 Peter 2:17-19, Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Devotional: Peter exposes the hollow promises of false teachers – they "promise freedom, while they are slaves of depravity" (2 Peter 2:19). True freedom is not a license to indulge our desires. Still, the power to live as God intended. Paul echoes this, saying, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). But he cautions, "Do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13).

Reflect today on what freedom means to you. Are there areas where you've confused freedom with self-indulgence? How might embracing God's definition of freedom – to love and serve others – bring more fulfillment to your life?

Day 5: Growing in Spiritual Discernment

Reading: 2 Peter 1:5-8, Philippians 1:9-11

Devotional: Peter urges believers to "make every effort" to grow in faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love (2 Peter 1:5-7). This intentional growth equips us to recognize truth and stand firm. Paul prays for the Philippians that their "love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best" (Philippians 1:9-10).

As we conclude this week's readings, take a moment to reflect on your spiritual growth. In which of these qualities do you feel strongest? Where do you need more development? Ask God to increase your love, coupled with knowledge and discernment. Choose one area to focus on in the coming week, making a specific plan to nurture that quality in your life.