



5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Romans 10:5-8 | Pastor Josh Smith

Day 1: The Law Was Never the Destination

****Reading:**** Leviticus 1-7 (survey); Romans 10:5

Moses described a righteousness tied to doing — following God's commands as a pathway to life. In Leviticus, the sacrificial system required constant effort, constant appeasement. Yet none of it could produce righteousness. It could only point toward something greater. The law was never the destination; it was the road sign. Many people today still live as though religious performance earns God's approval — attending services, completing rituals, collecting spiritual gold stars. But God designed the law to expose our inability, not celebrate our effort. Examine your heart today. Are you working for God or trusting Him?

****Reflection:**** Where in your life are you substituting religious duty for genuine devotion to God?

****Practical Application:**** Identify one area where you have been performing for people rather than walking in faith before God. Surrender that area to Him in prayer today.

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Day 2: Faith Speaks a Different Language

****Reading:**** Romans 10:6-8; Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Paul draws from Moses himself to make a stunning point — the word of faith is not distant or unreachable. You do not need to ascend to heaven to retrieve Christ, nor descend into the depths to raise Him. He has already come. He has already risen. The gospel is not a complicated religious system requiring extraordinary human achievement. It is near. It is in your mouth and in your heart. Faith speaks a language that religion cannot — it says the work is finished, the price is paid, and the only response required is trust. Stop straining for what has already been given.

****Reflection:**** In what ways have you treated the gospel as something you must earn rather than something you must receive?

****Practical Application:**** Spend time today meditating on the nearness of God. Write down one truth about the finished work of Christ and speak it aloud as an act of faith.

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Day 3: The Problem With Pride

****Reading:**** Proverbs 16:18; Romans 10:3; Philippians 3:7-9

Israel's great failure was not ignorance — it was pride. They believed they could keep the law, pay the price, and stand righteous before God on their own terms. Pride always tells you that you can do it yourself. It tells you that your way is better, that your assessment is correct, that your grievances are justified, and that your departure is warranted. Pastor Smith identified this clearly — the root of sin is a lack of trust in God, a rebellion rooted in pride. Righteousness that comes from God requires the death of self-reliance. You cannot hold onto your pride and receive His grace at the same time.

****Reflection:**** Where is pride currently preventing you from trusting God fully or reconciling with someone He has placed in your life?

****Practical Application:**** Confess one area of pride to God today. Ask Him specifically for the humility to trust His way over your own instincts and emotions.

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Day 4: The Hard Work of Forgiveness

****Reading:**** Matthew 18:15-18; Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:26-27

Jesus did not suggest reconciliation — He commanded it. The process He outlines in Matthew 18 is uncomfortable precisely because it requires you to die to yourself at every step. You go to the person who wronged you. You go humbly. You go quickly, before the sun goes down on your anger. You go seeking restoration, not vindication. And if you are the one who caused the offense, you seek forgiveness immediately, regardless of whether it was intentional. Forgiveness is not yours to withhold. You have been forgiven of much. The fruit of that forgiveness is the willingness to extend it fully and completely to others.

****Reflection:**** Is there someone in your life you have not approached according to Matthew 18? What emotion or fear is preventing you from taking that step?

****Practical Application:**** Take one step today toward reconciliation with someone you have been avoiding. Begin with prayer, asking God for wisdom, humility, and the right words before you go.

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Day 5: Devotion Over Duty

****Reading:**** Romans 10:5-8; Mark 12:28-30; John 15:4-5

The entire arc of this passage leads to one defining truth — God wants your heart, not your performance. He gave Israel the law not to burden them but to draw them into life with Him. He sent Christ not to raise the standard of human effort but to fulfill what human effort never could. The fruit of genuine salvation — forgiveness, love, reconciliation, humility — is not produced by straining harder. It is produced by abiding. When you are truly connected to Christ, the Holy Spirit produces through you what you could never manufacture on your own. Devotion is not a discipline you master. It is a life you surrender.

****Reflection:**** What would change in your daily life if you approached every relationship, every conflict, and every act of service as an overflow of devotion to Christ rather than a duty to perform?

****Practical Application:**** Begin each morning this week by surrendering your agenda to God before the day begins. Ask the Holy Spirit to produce through you what only He can produce, and watch how differently you respond to the people and circumstances around you.

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