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Day 4: Godly Sorrow and True Repentance

Reading: 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

Devotional: There is a world of difference between being sorry you sinned and being sorry you got caught. Worldly sorrow is self-centered -- it mourns consequences, not the broken relationship with God. Godly sorrow runs deeper. It recognizes that sin is first and foremost an offense against a holy and loving God. It breaks the heart not because life became harder, but because God's heart was grieved. This kind of sorrow does not lead to despair -- it leads to repentance, and repentance leads to life. If the Holy Spirit is convicting you today, do not resist it. That conviction is mercy reaching toward you.

Reflection Question: When I am grieved over sin in my life, am I more troubled by the consequences I face or by the relationship with God that was damaged?

Practical Application: Take a moment to confess a specific sin before God today, focusing not on the consequences but on the relational breach it caused, and receive His forgiveness through Christ.

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Day 5: Christ Is Enough

Reading: Galatians 2:16-21 and Galatians 5:1-4

Devotional: Paul's words are sobering -- if you pursue justification through works, Christ becomes of no effect to you. That is not a minor theological footnote. That is a warning about eternity. Christ did not come to supplement your efforts. He came to replace them entirely as the basis of your standing before God. The moment you add your works to His finished work as a means of salvation, you have rejected the grace that saves. But when faith in Christ alone is your foundation, you are free -- free from striving, free from condemnation, free to love and serve from a place of security rather than fear. He is enough. He has always been enough.

Reflection Question: In what ways am I tempted to add something to Christ's work as if it were not sufficient for my salvation?

Practical Application: Memorize or meditate on Galatians 2:16 this week. Each time you feel the pull toward earning God's approval, return to that truth and declare that Christ alone is your righteousness.

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