

Day 1: Setting Your Mind on Things Above

Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Devotional: What occupies your thought processes today? Paul's call to "seek the things that are above" isn't a one-time decision but a daily reorientation of our minds. Like a compass that must be regularly calibrated, our thoughts naturally drift toward earthly concerns—our frustrations, disappointments, and anxieties. The Christian life requires us to actively redirect our focus toward Christ. This doesn't mean ignoring real problems, but rather viewing them through the lens of eternity. When you find yourself consumed by earthly worries today, pause and pray: "Lord, I don't have the capacity to seek You on my own. Help me desire what You desire." Spiritual growth begins with acknowledging our helplessness and inviting God to transform our thought patterns.

Day 2: Pulling the Weeds

Reading: Colossians 3:5-11

Devotional: A garden left unattended for even a week can become overrun with weeds that choke out the good plants. Our spiritual lives work the same way. Paul doesn't sugarcoat the reality—we must actively "put to death" what is earthly in us: sexual immorality, impurity, anger, malice, and lies. This isn't about achieving perfection; it's about daily choosing to remove what separates us from Jesus. What weeds are growing in your life right now? Perhaps it's bitterness toward someone who hurt you, or a pattern of dishonesty, or consuming media that pulls you away from Christ. Spiritual growth requires honest self-examination and the courage to pull those weeds—daily, repeatedly, for as long as necessary. God's grace covers our failures, but His love also calls us to transformation.

Day 3: Putting On Christ-Like Character

Reading: Colossians 3:12-14

Devotional: Removing sin is only half the equation. As we pull weeds, we must also plant seeds of righteousness. Paul beautifully describes the wardrobe of a Christ-follower: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and above all, love. These aren't natural human tendencies—they're supernatural fruit that grows as we abide in Christ. Consider one relationship in your life that needs transformation. How can you actively "put on" compassion toward that person today? Remember, you are "God's chosen one, holy and beloved." Your identity in Christ empowers you to forgive as the Lord forgave you. This week, choose one character trait from this passage and ask God to cultivate it in you. Transformation affects both our inner life and outward conduct.

Day 4: Let Peace Rule Your Heart

Reading: Colossians 3:15-17

Devotional: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." The word "let" implies permission—something in us resists this peace. What's blocking Christ's peace from ruling in your heart? Perhaps it's unforgiveness, anxiety about the future, or resentment over past hurts. Paul connects peace with thankfulness, community, and God's Word dwelling in us richly. These aren't separate concepts but interconnected practices. When we gather with

believers to sing, teach, and encourage one another, peace grows. When we saturate our minds with Scripture, peace takes root. When we cultivate gratitude, peace reigns. Today, identify what's stealing your peace and surrender it to God. Then do everything—every word, every action—in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to the Father. This is the pathway to experiencing God's kingdom here and now.

Day 5: Daily Steps Create Momentum

Reading: Philippians 3:12-14

Devotional: Paul writes, "I press on toward the goal." Spiritual growth isn't about perfection but pursuit. You won't arrive at spiritual maturity this week or even this year, but daily steps create momentum. Like Paul, we forget what lies behind—past failures, yesterday's frustrations—and strain forward to what lies ahead. The power of the Holy Spirit moves us in ways we never imagined when we commit to consistent, daily pursuit of Jesus. What does that look like practically? It means choosing to pray when you'd rather scroll. Reading Scripture when you're tired. Serving when it's inconvenient. Forgiving when it's hard. These small, daily choices compound over time. Don't be discouraged by how far you have to go; be encouraged by each step you take today. You're not pursuing perfection—you're pursuing Jesus, and He is faithful to complete the work He began in you.