

New Year Same God

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Trusting God's Presence in Uncertainty

Reading: Psalm 139:7-10

Devotional:

In Steve Doyle's testimony, he shared his experience of enduring a brain tumor diagnosis and the journey that followed. In times of uncertainty and challenge, it can be difficult to feel God's presence. Yet, Steve experienced God's guidance and comfort in unexpected ways, such as receiving an encouraging phone call from a Duke University doctor. Psalm 139 reminds us that God's presence is ever with us, even in our most trying times. We cannot flee from His Spirit, and whether we rise on the wings of the dawn or settle on the far side of the sea, His hand will guide us. This assurance provides a peace that transcends understanding.

Application:

- **Reflection:** Consider the times in your life when you felt alone or uncertain. How did God show His presence to you during those seasons?
- **Action:** Take a few moments today to share with a friend a specific instance where you experienced unexpected comfort or guidance, similar to Steve's experience. How that was an example of God's hand at work?
- **Prayer:** Thank God for His unwavering presence in your life. Ask Him to help you trust His guidance and feel His comfort during times of uncertainty.

Day 2: The Value of Community

Reading: Hebrews 10:24-25

Devotional:

Steve emphasized the tremendous support he received from his church community during his recovery process. Being part of a community of faith means having people who will pray for you, encourage you, and support you through life's challenges. Hebrews 10:24-25 highlights the importance of not forsaking assembling together, encouraging one another, and spurring each other on towards love and good deeds. The church body provides a glimpse of God's love and care through its members, demonstrating the impact of collective faith and support.

Application:

- **Reflection:** Think about the people in your faith community who have supported and encouraged you. How has their influence impacted your walk with God?
- **Action:** Write a note or message to someone in your church who has been a spiritual support for you. Thank them and let them know the difference they have made in your life.
- **Prayer:** Pray for the needs of your community. Ask God to bless the members of your church and to strengthen your relationships with them.

Day 3: Finding Peace in God's Plan

Reading: Philippians 4:6-7

Devotional:

After learning about his medical condition, Steve Doyle found peace in knowing that God was orchestrating events in his favor—even if it meant an unexpected phone call from a highly esteemed doctor. Philippians 4:6-7 advises us not to be anxious about anything but to present our requests to God with thanksgiving. By doing so, the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This peace comes not from understanding every part of our journey but from trusting that God is in control and working for our good.

Application:

- **Reflection:** Think about a current situation in your life causing you anxiety. What might it look like to surrender this anxiety to God and trust in His peace?
- **Action:** Identify one worry or concern and intentionally pray about it, thanking God for His ongoing work in your life. Pay attention to how your heart and mind respond over the next few days.
- **Prayer:** Ask God to grant you His peace as you bring your concerns to Him. Thank Him for His sovereign plan and express your trust in His wisdom.

Day 4: Joy in the Journey

Reading: James 1:2-4

Devotional:

The journey of life often includes unexpected difficulties, as Steve shared through his brain tumor experience. James encourages believers to consider it pure joy when facing trials because the testing of faith produces perseverance. Experiencing joy does not mean we enjoy the pain but recognize the growth and steadfastness it develops within us. Steve's story reminds us that even through hardships, we can see God's handiwork and find joy in His presence and provision.

Application:

- **Reflection:** Recall a difficult experience in your life that led to personal or spiritual growth. How did God use this trial to strengthen your faith?
- **Action:** Start a gratitude journal to record three things each day for which you are thankful, even amid trials. Look for ways God is working in your life through these challenges.
- **Prayer:** Pray for a heart that sees joy in the journey. Ask God to help you grow in perseverance and faith through life's challenges.

Day 5: God's Faithful Guidance

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional:

Throughout his testimony, Steve repeatedly trusted in God's guidance, even when it did not make logical sense. Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our understanding, promising that He will make our paths straight. The trust that Steve demonstrated was not based on his ability to see the whole picture but on his faith in God's faithful provision and guidance—a trust cultivated through a lifetime of experiencing God's faithfulness.

Application:

- **Reflection:** Reflect on what it means to trust in God completely. In what areas of your life do you struggle to trust Him fully?
- **Action:** Choose a specific area in your life where you need to trust God more. Actively surrender it to Him by writing it down and praying over it daily for a week.
- **Prayer:** Ask God to help you trust Him in all aspects of your life. Pray for wisdom and discernment as you seek His guidance each day.