

5-Day Devotional: "Prepare: Get Ready for What God Is About to Do"

Day 1: Follow the Presence, Not Just the Promise

Reading: Joshua 3:1-5 | Exodus 33:14-15 | Psalm 16:11

Devotional

Israel stood at the edge of the Jordan River with the Promised Land in sight, yet Joshua's first instruction was not to study the river or strategize a crossing. It was to watch the ark -- the visible sign of God's covenant presence. Before the promise, there was the Presence. This order matters deeply. It is possible to become so consumed with where God is taking you that you lose sight of the God who is taking you there. Moses understood this tension. When God offered the land without guaranteeing His presence, Moses refused the offer. He had learned that the destination without God is not worth the journey. The same truth applies to you today. The blessing you are praying for, the open door you are waiting on, the breakthrough you are believing for -- none of it carries lasting meaning apart from genuine fellowship with God. His presence is not merely a bonus added to the promise. His presence is the greatest gift. Pursue Him above all else, and trust that everything else will follow in its proper time.

Reflection: Are you more focused on what God can give you than on God Himself? What would it look like today to prioritize His presence above the outcomes you are praying for?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today with no agenda other than simply being with God. No requests, no lists. Just stillness and acknowledgment that He is enough. _

Day 2: The Wilderness Was Not Wasted

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3 | Joshua 1:1-9 | Romans 8:28

Devotional

Joshua did not arrive at the Jordan River by accident. Long before he stood before a nation as their leader, he stood behind Moses as his assistant. He watched Moses pray, lead, fail, repent, and trust God through impossible situations. Every season of service, every moment of obscurity, and every difficulty he witnessed became part of his preparation. The wilderness years were not wasted years. They were forming years. The same is true for you. The season you are in right now -- the one that feels like delay, detour, or disappointment -- may be the very season God is using to develop what He intends to deploy. Romans 8:28 does not promise that everything will feel good. It promises that God is working all things together for good in the lives of those who love Him. That includes the confusion, the closed doors, the grief, and the unanswered prayers. Nothing in your story is outside of God's ability to redeem and use. Do not despise the season that feels like preparation. It may be the most important season of your life.

Reflection: What difficult season in your past can you now identify as a time when God was preparing you for something you could not yet see? How does that shape the way you view your current circumstances?

Practical Application: Write down one difficult experience from your past and one specific thing God developed in you through it. Offer that experience to God as an act of gratitude for His faithfulness.

Day 3: Sanctify Yourself -- Preparation Is Internal Before It Is External

Reading: Joshua 3:5 | 1 Peter 1:15-16 | Psalm 139:23-24 | 2 Timothy 2:21

Devotional

Before Israel crossed the Jordan, Joshua gave them a command that had nothing to do with logistics. He did not tell them to pack their bags or study the terrain. He told them to sanctify themselves. Before God dealt with what was in front of them, He wanted them to deal with what was inside of them. This is a pattern that runs throughout Scripture. God is always more concerned with the condition of your heart than the comfort of your circumstances. Holiness is not about perfection or performance. It is about belonging completely to God and allowing that belonging to reshape how you live. When you pursue holiness, you are not trying to earn God's love. You are responding to a love that has already been freely given. But consecration still matters. The attitudes you carry, the habits you refuse to release, and

the patterns you inherited from past seasons can follow you into a new chapter if you allow them to. David did not ask God to change his circumstances in Psalm 139. He asked God to search his heart. That is where true preparation begins -- not in your calendar or your plans, but in your character.

Reflection: Is there something God has been prompting you to address -- an attitude, a habit, a relationship, or a pattern of thinking -- that you have been avoiding? What would it look like to bring that before Him honestly today?

Practical Application: Pray the prayer from Psalm 139:23-24 slowly and sincerely. Ask God to reveal anything in your heart that does not belong in your next season. Sit quietly and listen.

Day 4: Faith Prepares Before It Sees

Reading: Hebrews 11:1, 7 | Joshua 3:13-17 | James 2:17

Devotional

When Noah began building the ark, there was no rain. When Abraham left his homeland, he did not know his destination. When the priests stepped into the Jordan, the water was still flowing. In each case, faith moved before the evidence appeared. This is one of the defining characteristics of biblical faith -- it prepares for what it has not yet seen because it trusts the God who has spoken. Joshua told the people that tomorrow God would do wonders among them. And the next morning, the Jordan was still there. The obstacle did not disappear simply because God had spoken. But the priests stepped forward anyway, and it was the moment their feet touched the water that God moved. This is a critical distinction. God did not part the Jordan and then invite them to walk through. He invited them to step in, and then He parted it. Some of us are waiting for the water to move before we take the step. But sometimes God is waiting for the step before He moves the water. Faith is not passive agreement with what God has said. Faith is active preparation and obedience in response to what God has said. What step is God calling you to take today?

Reflection: Where in your life are you waiting for God to remove the obstacle before you obey? Is it possible that obedience is what God is waiting for first?

Practical Application: Identify one area where God has spoken to you clearly but you have not yet acted. Take one concrete step of obedience today, even if the circumstances have not yet changed.

Day 5: Prepare With Expectation -- God Is Not Finished

Reading: Joshua 3:5 | Jeremiah 29:11 | Ephesians 3:20 | Isaiah 43:18-19

Devotional

Joshua's declaration to Israel was not cautious or qualified. He did not say, "Maybe God will do something tomorrow," or "Let's hope things improve." He said with full confidence: "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." That is expectation rooted in the character of God. And expectation changes how you prepare. If you genuinely believe that God is going to move, you will prepare differently than someone who has given up hope. You will pray with intention. You will serve with purpose. You will forgive because you do not want to carry bitterness into your next season. You will develop your character because you know that growth requires capacity. Expectation is not wishful thinking. It is faith applied to the future. God is not done writing your story. The wilderness behind you was not the final chapter. The Jordan in front of you is not the end of the road. It is the place where God is about to demonstrate that He is still God. Whatever you are facing today, come to it with the expectation of someone who knows that the God who brought you this far has not brought you this far to leave you. Prepare accordingly. The wonders are coming.

Reflection: What would change about how you are living right now if you genuinely believed God was preparing something significant for your next season? What does expectant preparation look like for you specifically?

Practical Application: Write out a prayer of expectation. Be specific about what you are trusting God for. Then write out one way you will prepare today as an act of faith in what you have prayed.