5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Series: "Miracles Do Happen" -- So Close, Yet So Far

Day 1: The God Who Sees You

Reading: John 5:1-6 -- The account of Jesus arriving at the pool of Bethesda and noticing a man who had been ill for 38 years, knowing his condition without being told

Devotional: There is a profound difference between being noticed by people and being seen by God. The man at the pool of Bethesda was surrounded by a crowd, yet invisible to everyone who passed. Jesus did not stumble upon this man by accident. He went directly to him, already knowing the depth of his suffering. God does not require you to announce your pain before He acknowledges it. He already knows how long you have been in your condition, how many times you have tried, and how weary you have grown. Before you find the words to pray today, rest in the truth that you are fully seen, fully known, and fully loved by a God who walks straight toward the forgotten.

Reflection: In what areas of your life have you felt overlooked or invisible? Take a moment to sit in the reality that God already sees that place in you.

Practical Application: Write down one struggle you have been carrying quietly. Acknowledge it before God in prayer today, not to inform Him, but to release it to the One who already knows.

Day 2: Do You Really Want to Be Made Whole?

Reading: John 5:6-8 -- The account of Jesus asking the man whether he truly wants to be healed, and the man responding with an excuse rather than a direct answer

Devotional: Jesus asked one of the most searching questions in all of Scripture when He turned to that suffering man and asked whether he truly wanted to be made well. It seems like an obvious answer, but the question cuts deeper than it appears. Wholeness requires change. It requires leaving behind the familiar rhythms of a broken life, the comfort of people's pity, the ease of low expectations, and the safety of never having to take responsibility. Many people desire relief from pain without desiring the transformation that follows healing. God is not merely interested in removing your discomfort. He is interested in making you whole, which means your mind, your habits, your relationships, and your character must all be surrendered to His work.

Reflection: Are there areas in your life where you have grown comfortable in a difficult situation? Have you confused enduring a problem with trusting God to change it?

Practical Application: Honestly examine one area where you say you want change but have resisted the steps required to get there. Bring that specific resistance to God in prayer and ask Him for the willingness to move.

Day 3: Stand Still and Stay Ready

Reading: Exodus 14:13-14 -- Moses telling the Israelites to stand firm and watch God deliver them, assuring them that the battle belongs to the Lord

Devotional: There is a significant difference between passive waiting and faith-filled readiness. The young woman in Bishop Hayes' illustration did not simply attend a prayer service for rain -- she arrived dressed for it. She brought her umbrella. She expected God to answer before she saw a single cloud in the sky. That is the posture God is calling you to today. Standing still does not mean sitting idle. It means you have done everything within your natural capacity, and now you are positioned and prepared for God to do what only He can do in the supernatural. Stop exhausting yourself trying to force outcomes that only God can produce. Do your part, then stand ready for His.
Reflection: What does it look like practically for you to be ready for the miracle you have been praying for? Are you prepared to receive it, or would it catch you off guard?
Practical Application: Identify one concrete step of preparation you can take this week that demonstrates your expectation that God will move. Take that step as an act of faith.

Day 4: Get Up and Move When God Says Move

Reading: Luke 17:11-19 -- The account of Jesus healing ten lepers who were cleansed as they walked in obedience, and the one who returned to give thanks being declared wholly restored
Devotional: Obedience in motion is one of the most powerful expressions of faith in Scripture. The ten lepers were not healed standing still -- they were healed as they walked. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priest, and it was in the going that the miracle happened. The same principle runs through the healing at Bethesda. Jesus did not tell the man to think about getting up or to gradually ease into movement. He said get up, pick up your pallet, and walk. When God gives you a clear direction, delayed obedience is still disobedience. There is something that is released in your life when you move at the command of God, even before you can fully see how it is going to work out.
Reflection: Is there a direction God has been clearly giving you that you have been slow to act on? What has been holding you back from moving when He said move?
Practical Application: Identify one instruction from God -- through Scripture, prayer, or confirmed counsel -- that you have been delaying. Take one tangible step toward obedience today, even if the full picture is not yet clear.

Day 5: Do Not Go Back -- Walk in Your Miracle

Reading: Philippians 3:12-14 -- Paul's declaration that he presses forward, forgetting what lies behind, straining toward what is ahead, pursuing the high calling found in Christ
Devotional: After 38 years of suffering, the healed man at Bethesda was found in the temple. He did not go home and disappear. He did not run to celebrate with people who had nothing to do with his healing. He was found in the house of God, which is exactly where you should run first when God does something remarkable in your life. But Jesus also gave him a warning -- do not return to the sin that opened the door to his condition in the first place. Your miracle is not just a moment. It is a new beginning that requires a new way of living. Forget what is behind. Release the bitterness, the shame, the old habits, and the old company. Press forward. You are not who you used to be, and you must not live like you are.
Reflection: After seasons of answered prayer or breakthrough, have you found yourself drifting back into old patterns? What does it look like for you to protect and walk in the miracle God has already given you?
Practical Application: Write down three specific things God has done in your life that you never want to forget. Keep that list somewhere visible this week as a daily reminder to give Him glory and to keep pressing forward without looking back.