



pleasing God

Pastor Mason Phillips | February 15, 2026

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Day 1: The Choice Before Us

Devotional: Every morning presents a sacred choice: whom will you serve today? Joshua's declaration wasn't made in a vacuum—it came after years of witnessing God's faithfulness. Yet he still had to choose. The pressure to conform, to please others, to bow to cultural expectations surrounds us constantly. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego facing the furnace, we face our own fires of opposition when we choose God's approval over human acceptance. But here's the beautiful truth: when we declare "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," we're not just making a statement—we're inviting God's transforming power into our daily decisions. Today, before the pressures mount, make your declaration. Choose whom you will serve.

Reading:

Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV

“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Reflection Question: What specific area of your life needs a fresh declaration of commitment to please God over others?

Day 2: Freedom From the Fear of Man

Devotional: The fear of man is a trap—a snare that restricts your movement and controls your choices. It whispers that acceptance, inclusion, and belonging come from conforming to others' expectations. But God offers something radically different: freedom. When you fear God—when you stand in awe of His majesty, power, and love—the opinions of others lose their grip. This isn't about becoming reckless or unkind; it's about recognizing that the God who created the boundaries of the ocean, who set the stars in place, who knows you by name, is infinitely more worthy of your devotion than any human approval. Christ died to set you free—not just from sin's penalty, but from the bondage of people-pleasing. Walk in that liberty today.

Reading:

Proverbs 29:25 NKJV

The Fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

Galatians 5:1 NKJV

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Reflection Question: Who or what currently has the power to trap you through fear? How can you replace that fear with the fear of God?

Day 3: Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

Devotional: Enoch walked with God so closely that God simply took him home. His testimony? He pleased God. How? Through faith—believing that God exists and rewards those who diligently seek Him. The challenge we face is that we can see people with our eyes, feel their pressure, hear their demands. But God? He's invisible to our natural sight. This is why faith is essential. Faith allows us to see beyond the visible pressures to the invisible King. Faith empowers us to make pleasing God our aim whether we're living or dying, whether circumstances are favorable or frightening. Like Enoch, let your testimony be simple but profound: you pleased God. Make that your daily aim, and watch how God rewards your diligent pursuit of Him.

Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:7-9 NKJV

For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be assent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

Hebrews 11:5-6 NKJV

By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Reflection Question: In what situation are you currently relying on what you can see rather than trusting the God you cannot see?

Day 4: Serving With the Right Heart

Devotional: Why do you serve? This question cuts to the heart of our motivation. Many serve to be seen, to be needed, to earn acceptance, or simply out of obligation. But Scripture calls us to a higher purpose: "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." When you serve in God's house, volunteer in your community, or fulfill your daily work, you're not doing anyone a favor—you're worshiping God. This shift in perspective transforms everything. Suddenly, no task is too small, no role too insignificant, because you're serving the King of kings. You're not trying to impress people or meet their expectations; you're bringing pleasure to the heart of God. This changes how you serve—with enthusiasm, excellence, and joy, knowing your reward comes from Him.

Reading:

Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV

And whatever you do,, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Reflection Question: Evaluate your current service commitments. Are you serving to please God or to please (or appease) people?

Day 5: Living Aligned With God

Devotional: A car out of alignment experiences uneven wear, poor handling, and increased risk of accidents. Our lives are no different. When we're out of alignment with God—trying to please both Him and the world—we experience spiritual wear and tear, loss of control, and dangerous compromises. James doesn't mince words: friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God. This sounds harsh until you

realize God is protecting you from a trap. The world's system will never align with God's kingdom. But here's the good news: when you align yourself with God, when you make pleasing Him your priority, life becomes safer, more purposeful, and more abundant. You're not losing anything by choosing God—you're gaining everything. Run a diagnostic on your life today. Where are you out of alignment? Bring those areas back under God's lordship.

Reading:

James 4:4 NKJV

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Galatians 1:10 NKJV

For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Reflection Question: What area of your life is currently out of alignment with God's will, and what specific step can you take today to realign?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for calling us to be Your friends, to walk with You, and to please You with our lives. Forgive us for the times we've chosen human approval over Your pleasure. Give us the courage of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to stand firm when culture demands we bow. Transform our hearts by Your Spirit so that our deepest desire is to hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Help us walk by faith, serve with pure motives, and live aligned with Your will. In every decision today and every day forward, may our aim be to please You alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.