

5-Day Devotional: Next Steps in Faith
Pastor Jay Hassman
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Day 1: When Seasons Change

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Devotional: Moses is gone. The familiar is over. Joshua stands at the edge of something new, and God speaks into his uncertainty: "Arise, go forward." Transitions expose what we truly trust. Do we anchor ourselves in what was, or in the God who remains? Every ending in Scripture precedes a new beginning and not because God is careless with our comfort, but because He is intentional about our growth. The wilderness taught Israel dependence; the Promised Land would teach them faith in action. What season is ending in your life? What is God asking you to release so you can receive what He has next? Remember: God acknowledges your loss but still calls you forward. Your past prepared you; your future awaits you. Trust the God who bridges both.

Reflection Question: What familiar thing is God asking me to release in this season?

Day 2: Rooted Identity

Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: "Who are you?" It's a question we answer daily. Sometimes we don't even realize it. We introduce ourselves by roles: parent, professional, retiree, student. But Paul declares a deeper truth: nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ. Not failure. Not age. Not transition. Not loss. When your identity rests in temporary things, change becomes devastating. But when you're rooted in Christ, seasons shift while your foundation remains. You are chosen before you achieved anything. You are loved beyond what you contribute. You are called regardless of your past. The storm may rage, but your compass points true. Before you are anything else, you are His. Let that truth steady you today. Your worth isn't tied to what you do because it's anchored in whose you are.

Reflection Question: Am I defining myself by temporary roles or eternal identity in Christ?

Day 3: God Goes Before You

Reading: Deuteronomy 31:1-8

Devotional: Fear whispers, "You don't know what's ahead." Faith answers, "But God does." Moses told Israel what Joshua needed to hear: "The Lord goes before you. He will not leave you or forsake you." This isn't positive thinking. It's theological reality. God doesn't send you into tomorrow unprepared; He's already there, arranging grace for what you'll face. He prepares the path before your feet touch it. You want stadium lights; God gives a lamp for the next step. Why? Because faith grows incrementally, one obedient step at a time. Abraham left without knowing the destination. Peter walked on water he couldn't see solidifying. You don't need the whole map because you just need to trust in the Mapmaker. What decision are you delaying because you lack certainty? Step forward. God is already in your future.

Reflection Question: What step of obedience am I delaying while waiting for complete certainty?

Day 4: Faith Over Familiarity

Reading: Hebrews 11:8-16

Devotional: Abraham "went out, not knowing where he was going." That sentence should unsettle us. It contradicts our need for control, our craving for predictability. Yet this is the essence of faith. Trusting God beyond what we can see. The Christian life was never meant to become spiritually stagnant. God continually calls His people forward into unfamiliar territory because faith begins where familiarity ends. We want to worship yesterday's miracles while God is working today's. We cling to old wineskins while God offers new wine. But here's the truth: the same God who was faithful then is faithful now. He hasn't changed methods; we've stopped moving. What if your discomfort isn't a sign you're off course, but evidence you're exactly where faith is required? Embrace the unfamiliar. That's where God does His deepest work.

Reflection Question: Am I worshipping yesterday's victories instead of trusting God for today's challenges?

Day 5: Take the Next Step

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 119:105

Devotional: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." We want understanding before obedience. God asks for obedience before understanding. Noah built before rain existed. Moses stretched out his staff before the sea parted. Joshua marched before walls fell. Faith moves while uncertainty remains. God's Word is a lamp to your feet and not a floodlight for the entire journey. He gives enough light for the next step, not the next decade. Why? Because if we saw the whole path, we wouldn't need faith. And without faith, it's impossible to please Him. So, what's your next step? Not your five-year plan. Just your next step. A conversation you've avoided? A ministry you've delayed? A reconciliation you've feared? A surrender you've resisted? Take it. Not because everything is clear, but because God goes before you. Faith isn't certainty in circumstances; it's confidence in God.

Reflection Question: What is the one next step God is clearly asking me to take today?