

5-Day Devotional: Building a New Community

Pastor Jay Hassman

January 25, 2025

Day 1: The Foundation of Devotion

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Devotional: The early church wasn't built on programs or buildings. It was simply built on devotion. The believers "devoted themselves" to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Notice the intentionality: they didn't casually participate; they steadfastly committed. Devotion means organizing your life around community, not fitting community into your schedule. When we gather consistently around God's Word and prayer, we create space for transformation. Faith doesn't grow in isolation; it flourishes in fellowship. Today, ask yourself: Am I devoted to my spiritual community, or merely interested? True community requires showing up and not just physically, but with your whole heart. Commit to being present, engaged, and faithful. Your consistency strengthens not only your faith but the faith of those around you.

Reflection Question: What would it look like to move from casual involvement to devoted commitment in your church community?

Day 2: The Power of Unity

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Devotional: Unity doesn't mean uniformity. The early believers came from vastly different backgrounds, yet they were "together and had everything in common." Their unity wasn't built on sameness but on shared surrender to Christ. Paul urges us to be "completely humble and gentle," bearing with one another in love. This requires effort and one that shows us that unity must be protected. It means choosing relationship over being right, extending grace instead of gossip, and valuing others above us. When conflicts arise, humility asks, "What builds the body?" rather than "What proves my point?" Unity becomes our witness to a divided world. When God's people walk in genuine unity, hearts are drawn to Christ. Today, examine your relationships: Are you protecting unity through humility, or allowing division through pride? Make every effort to keep the bond of peace.

Reflection Question: Is there a relationship where you need to choose humility over being right?

Day 3: Generosity as Worship

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Devotional: The early church's generosity wasn't manufactured because it was the natural overflow of hearts transformed by grace. They "sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." When you truly encounter God's mercy, it changes how you hold what you have.

Generosity becomes worship, not obligation. God loves a cheerful giver because joyful giving reflects a grateful heart. But biblical generosity extends beyond finances. It also includes your time, presence, and service. It's noticing needs instead of ignoring them, opening your schedule, serving when no one's watching, and staying consistent when it's inconvenient. Community grows when everyone brings their portion sacrificially. Today, ask God to reveal where He's calling you to greater generosity. Who needs your time? Your resources? Your presence? Let gratitude fuel your giving.

Reflection Question: What act of generosity is God prompting you to take this week?

Day 4: Spirit-Empowered Community

Reading: Acts 4:23-31

Devotional: The early church's impact wasn't produced by human effort. It was empowered by the Holy Spirit. When they prayed together, "the place where they were meeting was shaken," and they were filled with boldness. The Spirit didn't just attend their gatherings; He actively transformed them. He filled their hearts with joy, their homes with worship, and their witness with power. This is the difference between religious activity and spiritual vitality. Programs don't change lives. Lives are changed by the presence of God. When the Holy Spirit fills a community, it becomes magnetic. People aren't drawn by marketing but by authentic encounters with God's presence. Today, don't settle for going through the motions. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill your gatherings, your conversations, and your service. When generosity creates space, the Spirit fills it, and God brings increase.

Reflection Question: Are you depending on human effort or the Holy Spirit's power in your community involvement?

Day 5: Building Deep, Not Just Big

Reading: Hebrews 10:23-25

Devotional: God's vision for community starts deep before it grows wide. The writer of Hebrews urges us not to give up meeting together, but to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Community isn't about crowd size. Community is about the connection depth. You don't find community; you build it through consistency and love. It requires showing up when it's uncomfortable, staying present when it's costly, and choosing people over convenience. Biblical community spurs us forward when we're tempted to stall, encourages us when we want to quit, and strengthens us when faith feels weak. This year, commit to growing deeper in the Word and prayer, stronger in unity and love, and wider in outreach. Revival doesn't start with a crowd. It all starts with a committed community. Be the kind of person who builds deep relationships, not just surface connections.

Reflection Question: Who in your community needs your consistent encouragement and presence right now?