



### *5-Day Devotional: Living The Day of the Lord*

#### **Day 1: Waking Up to God's Call**

**Reading:** Joel 1:1–20

**Devotional:** Just as the locusts devastated Judah's land, we too face "locusts" in our lives - circumstances that strip away our security and pride. These moments, though painful, are often God's wake-up calls. Today, reflect on areas where you might be "asleep at the wheel" spiritually. Are there aspects of your life where you've been hitting the snooze button on God's prompting? Remember, even in devastation, our first response should be to cry out to God. He is listening and ready to respond with compassion. Take time to honestly present your struggles to God, trusting in His merciful nature.

- **Reflection Question:** Where might you be “asleep at the wheel” spiritually, ignoring God’s nudges in your life?
- **Action Step:** Take 10 minutes today to pray honestly about one area where you’ve been avoiding God’s call.
- “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” — C.S. Lewis

#### **Day 2: The Heart of Repentance**

**Reading:** Joel 2:12–17

**Devotional:** "Rend your hearts and not your garments," Joel implores. True repentance goes beyond outward shows of remorse; it's a genuine turning of our hearts back to God. Today, examine your heart. Are there areas where you've been putting on a religious show without true inner change? Remember, God is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." He doesn't seek to condemn you, but to restore you. Approach Him with

honesty, offering the broken pieces of your heart. Trust that His response will be one of love and renewal.

- **Reflection Question:** Are there areas in your life where your outward actions look spiritual, but your heart is distant from God?
- **Action Step:** Write down one specific way you can turn your heart back to God today — then pray through it honestly.
- *“The Christian life is a continual repentance. We are never finished with it.”* — Martin Luther

### **Day 3: The Promise of Restoration**

**Reading:** Joel 2:18–27

**Devotional:** After repentance comes restoration. God promises to "repay the years that the locust has eaten." This isn't just about material blessing, but a deep, spiritual renewal. Reflect on areas of your life that feel barren or hopeless. How might God be working to bring new life there? Remember, restoration often looks different than we expect. Sometimes, like a house mid-renovation, things might look worse before they get better. Trust in God's blueprint for your life, even when you can't see the finished product. Ask Him to renew your hope and help you see glimpses of His restoring work.

- **Reflection Question:** What part of your life feels barren or beyond repair, and how might God be planting seeds of restoration there?
- **Action Step:** Journal about one area of loss in your life and pray specifically for God to bring His restoration.
- *“God never wastes a hurt. Every pain we face is an opportunity for Him to bring new life.”* — Rick Warren

### **Day 4: The Outpouring of the Spirit**

**Reading:** Joel 2:28–32; Acts 2:14–21

**Devotional:** Joel's prophecy finds its fulfillment in the day of Pentecost. The Spirit of God is no longer confined to a select few but is poured out on all believers. This is not just ancient history - it's your present reality as a follower of Christ. How aware are you of the Spirit's presence in your daily life? Are you living with the expectation that God can and will use you, regardless of your age, gender, or social status? Today, ask God to heighten your awareness of His Spirit within you. Look for opportunities to be led by the Spirit in your interactions, decisions, and prayers.

- **Reflection Question:** How aware are you of the Holy Spirit's presence in your everyday decisions and interactions?
- **Action Step:** Before making one key decision today, pause and ask, "Holy Spirit, lead me."
- *"The Holy Spirit is not enthusiasm. He is a Person who gives us enthusiasm for Jesus."*  
— J.I. Packer

## **Day 5: Living Between Heaven and Earth**

**Reading:** Romans 8:18–25

**Devotional:** As believers, we live in the tension of "now and not yet." We have the Spirit as a foretaste of future glory, yet we still experience the brokenness of this world. Paul describes this as a groaning - both in creation and in ourselves. How do you experience this tension in your own life? Remember, our present sufferings pale in comparison to the glory that awaits us. Let this hope anchor you in difficult times. Today, practice living as a "priest" in your everyday world - mediating between heaven and earth. How can you bring a taste of God's future kingdom into your present circumstances? Ask God for creative ways to be an agent of His hope and restoration wherever He has placed you.

- **Reflection Question:** How can you live today as a preview of God's future kingdom in your current circumstances?
- **Action Step:** Do one intentional act of kindness today as a way of bringing heaven's hope into earth's brokenness.
- *"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out."* — Václav Havel (quoted by Philip Yancey)