

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Unwrapped: Using Your Gifts with Enthusiasm and Sacrifice

Day 1: You Are Gifted

Reading: Romans 12:3-8 -- Paul reminds believers not to think too highly or too lowly of themselves, but to recognize that God has measured out a portion of faith to each person and distributed unique gifts accordingly.

Devotional: It is easy to look around and either overestimate or underestimate your place in God's kingdom. Paul cuts through both extremes with a simple truth: God has already decided that you are necessary. Your gifts are not accidental. They were measured out and given to you with intention and care. You are not holding a lesser gift because you are a lesser person, and you are not holding a greater gift because you are a greater person. God simply made you to fill a role that no one else can fill in quite the same way. Sit with that today. You were chosen. You were equipped. You belong.

Reflection: What gift has God placed in your life that you have been reluctant to acknowledge or use? What would it look like to accept that gift as something God gave you on purpose?

Practical Application: Write down one ability, passion, or experience that consistently draws others to you or meets a need around you. Spend time today thanking God for placing that gift in your life.

Day 2: One Body, Many Parts

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 -- Paul uses the image of the human body to explain that though the church is made up of many members, all of them together form one unified body in Christ, and no single part can function well in isolation.

Devotional: The church was never designed to be a collection of solo performers. It was designed to be a body, where every part depends on every other part to function as it was created to function. When one part holds back, the whole body feels it. When one part overreaches, the whole body is thrown off balance. The same is true in your local community of

faith. Your gifts are not just for your own fulfillment. They exist to serve the whole. The teacher needs the encourager. The leader needs the servant. The giver needs the one who shows mercy. None of you can be all that God needs alone.

Reflection: In what ways have you been functioning as an isolated part rather than as a connected member of the body? Where have you pulled back from community in ways that may have affected others?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your church or community whose gift complements your own. Reach out to them this week, acknowledge what you see in them, and look for an opportunity to serve alongside them.

Day 3: Give with No Strings Attached

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 -- Paul teaches that generous giving should flow from a decision made in the heart, not from pressure or reluctance, because God loves a cheerful giver.

Devotional: Sacrifice sounds like a heavy word, but Paul reframes it as something that can be done with cheerfulness. The key is examining why you give. When giving is motivated by the approval of others, by the need to feel indispensable, or by obligation, it eventually becomes exhausting. But when giving flows from a genuine love for God and a sincere desire to serve others, it carries a different kind of weight. It is still a sacrifice, but it is one made freely. Paul's instruction that the one giving should do it with no strings attached is a direct challenge to examine your motives before you serve. Pure giving is liberating, not burdensome.

Reflection: When you serve or give, what are you secretly hoping to receive in return? How might releasing those expectations change the way you experience generosity?

Practical Application: Choose one act of service or giving this week that no one will see or acknowledge. Do it quietly, without expectation of recognition, and notice how it feels to give solely for God's glory.

Day 4: Be on Fire

Reading: Colossians 3:23-24 -- Paul encourages believers to approach all of their work wholeheartedly, as if they are working for God rather than for people, trusting that their reward ultimately comes from the Lord.

Devotional: Enthusiasm is not simply a personality trait reserved for the naturally energetic. It is a posture of the heart that says the work I am doing matters because the one I am doing it for matters. Paul's call to be on fire in the Spirit is not a call to perform excitement you do not feel. It is a call to reconnect with the source of your motivation when the energy runs low. Enthusiasm

is contagious, and its absence is equally contagious. When you serve with genuine passion, you give others permission to do the same. The fire you carry into a room has the power to reignite what has grown cold in someone else.

Reflection: In what area of your service or giving has your enthusiasm faded? What was present when you first began that is no longer present now?

Practical Application: Spend time today in prayer, asking God to renew your sense of purpose in one specific area of service. Ask God to help you reconnect with the why behind the what.

Day 5: Living at Peace as You Serve

Reading: Romans 12:9-18 -- Paul outlines the marks of a life lived in genuine love, including sincere affection, honor toward others, perseverance in difficulty, and a commitment to living peaceably with everyone as much as it is possible.

Devotional: The how of using your gifts is inseparable from the way you treat people while you use them. Paul does not simply tell the church to serve. He tells them how to be while they serve -- genuinely loving, deeply humble, emotionally present with those who rejoice and those who grieve, and committed to peace even when it is difficult. Your gifts will mean very little if they are not wrapped in sincere love. The most talented teacher who shows contempt for students, or the most generous giver who gives with pride, undermines the very purpose of the gift. The gift and the character of the giver must move together toward the same end: the glory of God and the good of others.

Reflection: Is there a relationship in your church or community where tension is making it difficult for you to serve freely? What would it look like to pursue peace in that relationship, as much as it depends on you?

Practical Application: Review the qualities Paul describes in this passage and choose one to focus on intentionally this week. Write it somewhere visible and ask a trusted friend to hold you accountable to practicing it in your daily interactions.