

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Doctrine of Grace

Day 1: The Gift You Cannot Earn Reading: Ephesians 2:8-9 -- Paul declares that salvation comes through grace and faith, not through human effort, so that no one may take credit for it.

Devotional: We live in a world built on performance. We earn wages, we win trophies, we prove our worth through effort. It is no wonder that so many people carry this same thinking into their relationship with God. But grace shatters that framework entirely. God does not offer salvation as a reward for good behavior. He offers it as a gift, purchased at the highest possible cost, the life of His Son. Your best efforts cannot reach the standard of perfection. Only Jesus meets that standard. Today, stop striving and start receiving.

Reflection: What have you been trying to do to earn God's approval? What would it look like to simply open your hands and receive what He has already provided?

Day 2: Accepted Before You Act Reading: Romans 5:8 -- Paul writes that God demonstrated His love for us by sending Christ to die on our behalf while we were still sinners, not after we had cleaned ourselves up.

Devotional: Religion tells you to clean yourself up before approaching God. Grace tells you that God came to you in your mess. This is the revolutionary truth at the heart of the gospel. You are not accepted because of what you have done. You are accepted because of what Christ has done. This means your standing before God does not rise and fall with your daily performance. It is secured in Him. Good works do not produce your salvation. Rather, a grateful heart overflowing with the reality of grace naturally produces a life that honors God.

Reflection: Do you live as though your acceptance before God depends on your daily behavior? How might resting in your already-secured acceptance change the way you live today?

Day 3: The Righteousness You Could Never Build Reading: Romans 1:17 -- Paul declares that in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that comes by faith from first to last.

Devotional: Martin Luther spent years torturing himself trying to earn righteousness through fasting, confession, and self-punishment. He was miserable because he was trying to build something only God can give. When he finally understood that righteousness is received by faith, not manufactured by effort, it changed the world. The Protestant Reformation was born from one man grasping the truth of grace. You cannot be righteous enough on your own. But God, in His mercy, credits you with the righteousness of Christ the moment you believe. That is not a reward. That is a gift beyond all measure.

Reflection: Where in your life are you still trying to build your own righteousness? What would it mean to fully trust that Christ's righteousness has been credited to you?

Day 4: Repentance Is Not a Work -- It Is a Surrender Reading: Mark 1:15 -- Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is near and calls people to repent and believe the good news.

Devotional: Repentance is often misunderstood as another item on the religious to-do list. But repentance is not a work you perform to earn grace. It is the moment you stop fighting and surrender. It is the posture of open hands, dropping everything you have been clutching, and saying to God, I was wrong, I cannot do this on my own. That surrender is itself a gift from God. When you repent, you are not impressing God with your humility. You are simply agreeing with what He has always known and turning toward the grace He has always been offering.

Reflection: Is there an area of your life where you are still holding on rather than surrendering? What would genuine repentance look like in that specific area today?

Day 5: Grace Produces Gratitude, and Gratitude Produces a Life Reading: Titus 3:4-5 -- Paul reminds Titus that God saved us not because of any righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy and kindness toward us.

Devotional: Grace is not a license to live carelessly. It is the very power that transforms how you live. When you truly understand that you have been given what you could never deserve, something changes inside you. You do not obey God to earn His love. You obey because you are overwhelmed by a love you never earned. This is the difference between religion and the gospel. Religion produces either pride or despair. Grace produces humble, joyful, grateful obedience. A life shaped by grace is not a life of doing less. It is a life of doing everything from a completely different motivation.

Reflection: Are the good things you do for God motivated by fear, pride, or genuine gratitude? Ask God today to let grace be the root from which everything in your life grows.