

5-Day Devotional: Living with Purpose

Day 1: Created for Good Works

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

Devotional: You are God's masterpiece, recreated in Christ Jesus for a specific purpose—to do good works. Many people struggle with depression and emptiness because they're living only for themselves. God didn't save you just so you could go to heaven someday; He saved you to make a difference today. When you wake up feeling unmotivated or unfulfilled, remember that God has ordained works for you to walk in. Your fulfillment doesn't come from self-help or self-focus—it comes from serving others. Ask yourself today: Am I living for myself or for the purpose God created me for? The answer to that question will determine whether you end your day exhausted and empty or tired but fulfilled.

Day 2: The Great Commission Is for You

Reading: Mark 16:15-16

Devotional: Jesus gave a command, not a suggestion: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This isn't just for pastors or missionaries—it's for every follower of Christ. You don't need a seminary degree to be a witness; you simply need to tell what happened to you. When you stand in court, a witness doesn't preach a sermon—they just tell what they saw and experienced. That's all God asks of you. Stop making excuses about not knowing enough or not being qualified. If you're saved, you have a testimony. Someone in your circle of influence needs to hear it. Everyone deserves a chance to go to heaven, but they can't believe in someone they've never heard about. Today, ask God to give you one opportunity to share your story.

Day 3: Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Reading: Acts 1:8

Devotional: God never commands us to do something without giving us the power to accomplish it. When Jesus said to go into all the world, He immediately promised the Holy Spirit to empower us. You may feel inadequate, shy, or scared, but the Holy Spirit living in you gives you supernatural ability to be Christ's witness. The Holy Spirit doesn't make you weird—He makes you effective. He gives you the words to say, the courage to speak, and the love to reach people who are different from you. Stop saying "I can't" when God has already said "You can through My Spirit." The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. That's more

than enough power to share the gospel with your neighbor, coworker, or the stranger you meet today.

Day 4: Finding Your Circle of Influence

Reading: Acts 8:1-8

Devotional: Jesus gave us a strategy: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. These concentric circles represent your spheres of influence. Jerusalem is your immediate community—your church, neighborhood, and town. Judea extends a bit further to surrounding areas. Samaria represents the culturally despised or forgotten people—those who don't look like you, talk like you, or live like you. The uttermost parts are the unreached places around the world. You don't have to do everything, but you must do something. Which circle is God calling you to? Maybe you serve on campus, volunteer at a nursing home, reach out to international students, or support missionaries. Don't be overwhelmed—just start where you are. What's your desire? What are you good at? Use those gifts for Jesus instead of just yourself.

Day 5: What's Your Why?

Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Devotional: Everyone needs motivation, inspiration, and fulfillment to get through life. Without purpose, people become depressed, isolated, and empty. Jesus modeled the ultimate purpose-driven life—He didn't live for Himself but emptied Himself to serve others. Your "why" determines whether you wake up excited or dreading the day. If you're living only for yourself, your family, and your retirement, you'll find life hollow. But when you live to serve others and advance God's kingdom, you discover deep satisfaction. At the end of a hard day serving Jesus, you'll be tired but fulfilled, ready to do it again tomorrow. Stop asking "Do I fit in?" and start asking "Where do I fit in?" and "Will I obey Jesus?" Your assignment is waiting. Just do it.