

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Stop Waiting, Start Moving

Devotional

It is easy to treat faith like a spectator sport. We show up, we listen, we nod along, and then we go home and wait for something to change. But that is not the life Peter describes in his final words to the church.

The word he uses for diligence is an action word. It means to be prompt, eager, and to make every effort. There is nothing passive about it. Faith was never meant to be something that happens to you while you sit still. It is something you lean into, pursue, and invest in every single day.

Think about the relationships that matter most to you. They did not grow deep on their own. They grew because someone showed up, made the call, had the hard conversation, or simply chose to be present. Your relationship with God works the same way.

You already belong to Him. That is settled. But belonging and growing are two different things. Growth requires movement. It requires intention. It requires you to actually show up.

The good news is that you are not starting from zero. God is already near. He is already for you. You are simply being invited to close the gap on your end and move toward the relationship He has already made possible.

Start today. Not perfectly. Just intentionally.

Bible Verse

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." - Hebrews 10:24

Reflection Question

Where in your faith life have you been passively waiting instead of actively engaging, and what would one small intentional step look like this week?

Quote

"Don't just sit back in your lazy boy chair. Don't sit on your hands. Don't be lazy, don't be idle, don't be careless. But rather be active in your relationships."

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for the times I have coasted in my faith and waited for growth to just happen. Give me the desire and the courage to be intentional today. Amen.

Day 2: Grace Came First

Devotional

Here is something worth sitting with today. You do not pursue holiness to earn your place in God's family. You pursue it because you are already in.

That changes everything.

When you understand that your forgiveness is complete, that God sees you through the righteousness of Jesus, the pressure shifts. You are no longer striving to impress God or prove yourself worthy. You are responding to love that was already given freely.

Think about how differently you work when you feel secure versus when you feel like you are constantly trying to prove yourself. Security produces freedom. Fear produces exhaustion. Grace produces the first one.

This is the foundation of the Christian life. God's love for you does not fluctuate based on your performance. His grace is not something you can earn more of, because He already gave you the ultimate expression of it in Jesus.

So when you pursue holiness, when you choose honesty over hiding, when you deal with sin instead of ignoring it, you are not climbing a ladder. You are walking in the freedom of someone who has already been welcomed home.

Let that sink in today. You are not working toward acceptance. You are working from it.

Bible Verse

"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him." - 2 Peter 3:14

Reflection Question

How does knowing that God's love for you is already complete change the way you approach your relationship with Him today?

Quote

"We don't strive to be spotless and without blemish to earn a spot in God's family. We do it because we already are in God's family."

Prayer

Father, thank You that Your grace is not something I have to earn. Help me to live today from a place of security in Your love, not fear of losing it. Amen.

Day 3: You Moved, Not Him

Devotional

When you mess up, what is your first instinct? For most people, it is to pull back. To go quiet. To feel too ashamed to pray, too guilty to open the Bible, maybe even too embarrassed to walk through the doors of a church.

Here is what you need to hear today. God did not move. You did.

Guilt and shame are powerful forces. They whisper that you are too far gone, that God must be disappointed, that you need to clean yourself up before you can come back. But none of that is true. God's position toward you has not changed. His love has not shifted. The door has not closed.

Sin creates distance, but not because God steps back. It creates distance because we do. We stop listening to the Holy Spirit. We stop approaching God. We let the gap grow wider when the whole time, He is still right there.

The invitation today is simple. Come back. Not when you feel ready. Not when you have it figured out. Just come back now, as you are, to a God who never left.

Dealing with sin honestly and regularly is not about shame. It is about keeping the relationship close. It is about refusing to let guilt build a wall between you and the One who loves you most.

Bible Verse

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." - 2 Peter 3:18

Reflection Question

Is there an area of sin or shame in your life right now that has been quietly creating distance between you and God, and what would it look like to bring it to Him today?

Quote

"God never moves. God's love for us never changes. Our position as holy and as part of God's family never changes."

Prayer

God, thank You that You never move away from me. Give me the courage to stop hiding and come back to You honestly today. Amen.

Day 4: Do Your Part

Devotional

Relationships are hard. Anyone who has tried to reconcile with someone who hurt them, or tried to repair a friendship that fell apart, knows that it does not always go the way you hope.

But here is what followers of Jesus are called to do anyway. Do your part.

You cannot control how someone responds. You cannot force forgiveness. You cannot guarantee reconciliation. But you can choose to pursue peace. You can take the step, have the conversation, extend the olive branch, and leave the outcome in God's hands.

This applies to your neighbors, your coworkers, your family members, and your fellow believers. Romans 12 calls us to honor one another, to live in harmony, to carry each other's burdens. These are not suggestions for when it feels easy. They are the daily practice of people who take love seriously.

And here is the encouraging part. You are not doing this alone. The same grace that God has extended to you is the grace that fuels how you treat others. You give what you have been given.

So today, think about a relationship that needs attention. Maybe it needs a kind word. Maybe it needs a hard conversation. Maybe it just needs you to show up. Do your part, and trust God with the rest.

Bible Verse

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." - Romans 12:10

Reflection Question

Is there a relationship in your life right now where you have been waiting for the other person to make the first move, and what would it look like for you to do your part today?

Quote

"You may never be reconciled in a relationship. You may never find forgiveness in a relationship. But what he's saying is this, do your part as a follower of Jesus to do your best to reconcile. If someone rejects it, that's on them."

Prayer

Lord, give me the humility and the courage to pursue peace in my relationships, even when it is uncomfortable. Help me to do my part and trust You with the outcome. Amen.

Day 5: Growing Is the Goal

Devotional

Peter's final words land on this: grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Not just know more about Him. Actually know Him more.

There is a difference between information and experience. You can know facts about someone without really knowing them. But when you spend time with someone, when you go through things together, when you let them into the real parts of your life, that knowledge becomes something deeper. It becomes personal.

That is what growth in Jesus looks like. It is not just accumulating Bible knowledge, though that matters. It is the fruit of the Spirit becoming more real in your daily life. More love. More patience. More peace. More gentleness. These are not things you manufacture. They grow when you stay close to the source.

And here is the beautiful thing. Every devotional this week has been pointing to the same place. Be intentional. Live from grace. Stay close to God. Tend to your relationships. These are not separate tasks. They are all part of the same life, a life that is fully alive in Jesus.

You were not saved to coast. You were saved to grow. So keep going. Keep showing up. Keep leaning in. The best is still ahead.

Bible Verse

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." - 2 Peter 3:18

Reflection Question

When you honestly look at your life right now, where do you see the most growth in your relationship with Jesus, and where is one area you want to intentionally invest in next?

Quote

"It's not just knowledge up here, but because we're growing in joy and love and peace and patience, we're experiencing more of Jesus in our lives."

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the grace that makes growth possible. Help me to keep leaning in, to know You more deeply, and to reflect Your love in everything I do. Amen.