

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: Putting Off What Holds Us Back

### Devotional

We all have habits and attitudes that don't reflect who we want to be. Maybe it's the way we speak about others when they're not around, or the envy that creeps in when we see someone else's success. Peter calls us to intentionally "put away" these destructive patterns - malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. This isn't about perfection; it's about progress. When we actively choose to remove these behaviors from our lives, we create space for something better to grow. Think of it like cleaning out a closet - you can't fit new clothes until you remove what no longer serves you. The beautiful truth is that God doesn't just ask us to stop negative behaviors; He empowers us to replace them with His character. Every time we choose kindness over malice or honesty over deceit, we're not just improving ourselves - we're showing others what transformation looks like.

### Bible Verse

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind." - 1 Peter 2:1

### Reflection Question

What is one specific behavior or attitude that you need to "put away" this week to better reflect Christ's character?

### Quote

Put away all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander. Put away simply means this. It means to put aside. It means that to cast off, it means to leave. It means to take off. It means to reject.

### Prayer

Lord, help me identify the attitudes and behaviors that don't honor You. Give me the strength to put them aside and replace them with Your love and grace.

# Day 2: Craving What Nourishes Your Soul

## Devotional

Have you ever noticed how a baby cries for milk? There's an urgency, a desperate need that can't be ignored. Peter tells us this is how we should crave God's Word - with the same intensity and longing. But here's the challenge: many of us have lost that spiritual appetite. We might read our Bibles out of duty or habit, but do we truly hunger for it? Developing a deeper desire for Scripture means moving beyond surface-level reading to really tasting and experiencing God's goodness through His Word. When we approach the Bible expecting to encounter the living God, something shifts. We begin to see how His truth applies to our daily struggles, relationships, and decisions. This isn't about becoming a Bible scholar; it's about cultivating a relationship where God's Word becomes as essential to our spiritual health as food is to our physical bodies.

## Bible Verse

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." - 1 Peter 2:2-3

## Reflection Question

How can you cultivate a deeper hunger for God's Word beyond just reading it as a daily task?

## Quote

Like newborn infants long for the pure spiritual milk that by you may grow up into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

## Prayer

Father, create in me a genuine hunger for Your Word. Help me taste and see Your goodness in Scripture every day.

## Day 3: Built Together as Living Stones

### Devotional

Imagine trying to build a house with just one brick. It's impossible - construction requires many stones working together to create something strong and beautiful. Peter reminds us that we are living stones being built into a spiritual house with Jesus as our cornerstone. This means our faith isn't meant to be lived in isolation. We need each other to become who God designed us to be. The church isn't just a building we visit on Sundays; it's a living, breathing community where we support, encourage, and challenge one another to grow. When we're connected to other believers, our individual testimonies become part of a larger, more powerful witness. People don't just see one person trying to follow Jesus; they see a family that loves unconditionally, supports each other through trials, and welcomes anyone who wants to belong. Your role as a living stone matters - the whole structure is stronger because you're part of it.

### Bible Verse

"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." - 1 Peter 2:4-5

### Reflection Question

How are you actively contributing to building up the spiritual community around you?

### Quote

The church is supernatural. The church is a family that loves and supports one another. The church is diverse and open to anyone.

### Prayer

Lord, help me see my vital role in Your church family. Show me how to build others up and be built up in return.

## Day 4: Love That Others Can't Ignore

### Devotional

Actions speak louder than words, especially when it comes to faith. People may not remember every conversation you have about Jesus, but they'll never forget how you made them feel. When we demonstrate genuine love - the kind that serves without expecting anything in return, forgives when it's difficult, and shows up in practical ways - we create a powerful testimony. This love isn't just warm feelings; it's choosing to treat people with dignity, offering help when someone is struggling, or simply listening when someone needs to be heard. The world is watching to see if our faith makes a real difference in how we treat others. When we love authentically, we're not just being nice people; we're giving others a glimpse of God's heart. Every act of genuine love becomes an invitation for others to experience the same love that transformed us. Your love story with Jesus is best told through how you love the people around you.

### Bible Verse

"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." - 1 Peter 2:12

### Reflection Question

Who in your life needs to experience God's love through your actions this week?

### Quote

Be an example by your love, by your love for others. Be an example, Be an example by how you treat people. Be an example by how you interact with others.

### Prayer

God, fill me with Your love so that it overflows to everyone I encounter. Let my actions point others to You.

# Day 5: Faith That Shines in the Dark

## Devotional

Anyone can have faith when life is going well, but the true test of our relationship with Jesus comes during difficult seasons. When we face health challenges, relationship struggles, financial stress, or unexpected loss, people are watching to see if our faith is real or just Sunday morning talk. This isn't about pretending everything is fine or putting on a fake smile. It's about demonstrating that our hope is anchored in something deeper than our circumstances. When we respond to trials with prayer instead of panic, when we choose forgiveness over bitterness, when we continue to trust God even when we don't understand - we show the world what authentic faith looks like. These moments of testing become opportunities to display the peace, strength, and hope that only come from knowing Jesus. Your faith in tough times might be exactly what someone else needs to see to believe that God is real and that He cares about their struggles too.

## Bible Verse

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." - 1 Peter 2:9

## Reflection Question

How can you demonstrate authentic faith during your current challenges in a way that points others to Jesus?

## Quote

We're also an example by our faith in tough times. A lot of being a follower of Jesus comes down to what we do in the difficult circumstances.

## Prayer

Lord, when difficulties come, help my response reflect Your faithfulness. Use my trials to show others Your goodness and strength.