

The Path
DEVOTIONAL

THE NEW

MATTHEW 9:14–17

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 6



Mission Statement

Empower individuals and help people strengthen their relationship with God, especially children, youth, and families through Christ-centered programs, and resources that inspire spiritual growth, leadership, and community impact.

Vision

To be a global beacon of Christian leadership, discipleship, and service, inspiring future generations to live with faith and purpose.

Motto:

**Preparing people for the second coming of Christ.
To give people knowledge of salvation**

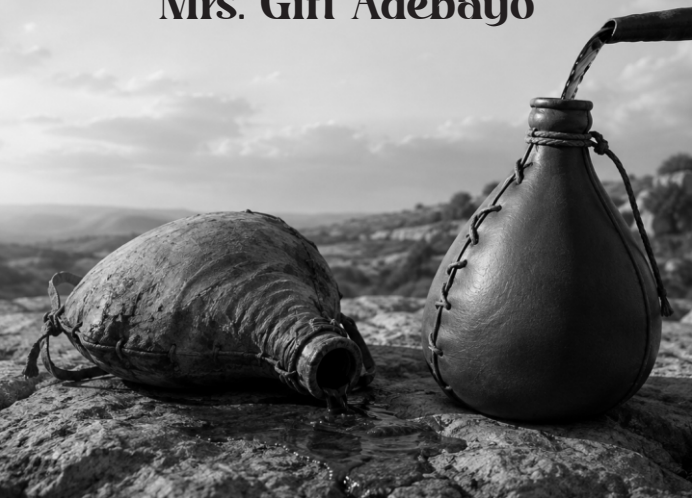
Core Values:

Love, Truth, Culture, Service, Leadership, and Community.

This devotional is thoughtfully crafted for teens, young adults, and beyond. We encourage parents to explore the daily Scriptures and reflections in advance to ensure they resonate with your family's unique journey of faith.

Written by

Mrs. Gift Adebayo



FROM THE AUTHOR

When I was told I would be writing the devotional for this month, one of the first things I asked for was the theme of the year. When I heard it — *Our Year of Receiving the Life-Giving Spirit* — I honestly could not take it off my heart. It stayed with me.

I kept thinking about it, praying about it, and somehow the Holy Spirit kept bringing me back to those same words: the Life-Giving Spirit.

Of course, I already knew that the Spirit of God lives in us. I knew that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. But I felt the Lord was trying to take me beyond just knowing it. What does it really mean to have the Spirit of God living within you? The One who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. What does that make possible? What is the reality that comes with carrying that life?

Because this life is not just something we read about in the Bible. It is our inheritance in Christ — something we are meant to live in and experience, not just believe in.

Then another question rose in my heart: if this life is already available to us, what stops us from walking in the reality of it?

That's where my mind went back to Jesus' words about new wine and old wineskins. The problem was never the wine — the wine was good. But the wineskin had to be able to carry it.

And I began to understand something.

Sometimes we ask God for the reality of what He has already made available to us, while there are still things within us that He is trying to deal with. We want to experience the fullness of the life of the Spirit, but we're still holding on to old ways of thinking, old responses, old patterns — sometimes even old versions of ourselves.

The Life-Giving Spirit isn't here just to give us an experience. He is here to give us *life*. And that life has to touch something in us. It has to change the way we think, the way we respond, the way we live, and the person we're becoming.

FROM THE AUTHOR

So as you read through this devotional, come with an open heart. Not just asking, "Lord, what can You do for me?" — but also being willing to ask, "Lord, what are You trying to do in me?"

Maybe there is a reality God wants to bring you into, and part of the journey is allowing Him to prepare your heart for it.

My prayer is that as we go through this month together, we won't just learn more about the Life-Giving Spirit — we will let Him work in us. And beyond simply knowing that He lives within us, we will begin to walk in the reality of the life He has given us.

SEPT | 01

THE NEW WINE REQUIRES A NEW WINESKIN

TEXT

Matthew 9:14-17

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 9:17

SUMMARY

Jesus used the picture of new wine and old wineskins to explain something that is easy to overlook.

The problem was not the new wine. The problem was the old wineskin trying to contain it. There is a life that God wants us to experience through His Spirit, but that life cannot be fully expressed through a heart that is unwilling to be changed. Sometimes we are asking God to do something new in our lives while holding tightly to the same thoughts, habits, attitudes and responses that have always governed us.

We ask, "Lord, what are You doing in this season?" Yet there are times when the better question is, "Lord, what are You doing in me?"

The Holy Spirit is not coming into our lives simply to add something to what is already there. He wants to transform us from within. He wants to deal with the places we have become comfortable with, even when those places no longer look like Christ.

The new wine requires a new wineskin. As we ask God for more of Him, we must also be willing to let Him work on us.

PRAYER POINT

Father, make me a vessel that can carry what You desire to pour into me. Search my heart and reveal every mindset, habit and response that is resisting Your work. Give me grace to surrender to Your transformation.



Song Suggestion

New Wine — Hillsong Worship

SEPT | 02

WHEN GOD MAKES YOU NEW

TEXT

2 Corinthians 5:14–17

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 5:17

SUMMARY

Paul tells us that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. This is more than having another chance or starting over after making mistakes. Something fundamental has changed. We now belong to Christ and have been given a different life.

The difficulty is that sometimes our lives change before our minds do.

We know that we have been forgiven, yet we continue to carry the guilt of what we did. We know that God has accepted us, yet we still measure ourselves by the opinions of people. We know that we have been given a new identity, but we keep going back to the person we used to be whenever we make a mistake.

The past may explain some things about you, but it does not have the authority to define you. There comes a point where we have to allow our minds to agree with what Christ has already done. You are not being asked to become the person you were before. You are learning to live from the person Christ has made you.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, help me to see myself, the way you see me. Let the reality of my identity in You affect the way I think, speak, make decisions and live.



Song Suggestion

New Creation — Hillsong Worship

SEPT | 03

WHEN THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE

TEXT

John 3:1-8

MEMORY VERSE:

John 3:6

SUMMARY

Nicodemus came to Jesus with knowledge, religious understanding and a sincere desire to know more. Yet Jesus spoke to him about something deeper than knowledge. He spoke about the work of the Spirit.

There is a kind of transformation that discipline alone cannot produce. You can change some habits, become more organized and even become more religious, but there is still work that only the Spirit can do within a person.

Jesus said that what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

This is why our walk with God cannot be sustained by trying harder in our own strength. We need the life that comes from the Spirit. He does not simply help us behave better; He begins to change what is happening within us.

It is possible to know many things about God and still need Him to do a deeper work in your heart. So as you read this today, don't only think about what you know. Think about what the Spirit is producing in you. Is He changing the way you see things? Is He changing what you desire? Is He changing the way you respond?

That is where His life becomes real.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, let Your life become evident in me. Go beyond my outward appearance and work deeply within my heart. Teach me to depend on You rather than the strength of my flesh.



Song Suggestion

Breathe — Maverick City Music

SEPT | 04

WHEN GOD CHANGES WHAT IS WITHIN YOU

TEXT

Ezekiel 36:24–28

MEMORY VERSE:

Ezekiel 36:26

SUMMARY

God promised His people that He would give them a new heart and put His Spirit within them. He was not simply promising to change their circumstances. He was promising to change them.

This is something we often miss in our walk with God. We can become so focused on asking Him to change what is around us that we don't notice what He is trying to change within us. There are situations where you have prayed for the door to open, but God has been preparing you for what is behind the door. There are seasons when you have asked Him to remove the pressure, while He has been using the pressure to deal with something in your heart. God cares about what is happening within you.

He cares about your motives, your thoughts, your desires and your responses. He wants to make your heart responsive to Him so that your life can increasingly agree with His ways. The work may not always be comfortable, but it is necessary. Sometimes the greatest thing God can change in a situation is the person you become while walking through it.

PRAYER POINT

Father, do Your deepest work in me. Give me a heart that is tender toward You and willing to be changed. Help me to recognize what You are forming in me, even when the process is uncomfortable.



Song Suggestion

Give Me You — Shana Wilson

SEPT | 05

THE SPIRIT MUST HAVE ROOM TO WORK

TEXT

Ezekiel 11:17-21

MEMORY VERSE:

Ezekiel 11:19

SUMMARY

God promised His people one heart and a new spirit so that they could walk in His ways. His Spirit was not coming simply to give them an experience. He was coming to establish something within them that would affect how they lived.

The same is true for us.

The Holy Spirit will sometimes correct us, and our first instinct may be to explain ourselves. He may ask us to forgive someone when we still feel justified. He may tell us to wait when we are ready to move. He may expose an attitude that we have always called our personality. What happens in those moments?

The Spirit cannot transform what we are determined to protect.

If we want Him to work deeply in us, we have to give Him access. Let Him speak to the parts of your life you don't usually discuss with anyone. Let Him correct your motives. Let Him challenge your thinking.

Let Him deal with the things you have become comfortable with.

He is not trying to take your life away from you. He is teaching you how to live it differently.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, have room in me. Make me humble enough to receive Your correction and willing enough to follow Your leading. Let nothing in me continually resist Your work.



Song Suggestion

Rest on Us — Maverick City Music & UPPERROOM

SEPT | 06

WHAT MUST BE PUT OFF?

TEXT

Ephesians 4:17–24

MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 4:22

SUMMARY

Paul speaks about putting off the old self and putting on the new self. It is a reminder that walking with God involves letting go of things that no longer belong to the life He is forming in us.

Take a moment and think honestly about what you are still carrying.

There may be a habit you keep excusing, a bitterness you have justified, a way of thinking that constantly works against God's Word, or an identity that was built around something that happened to you years ago.

Sometimes we hold on to things simply because they are familiar. But familiarity does not mean something belongs in our lives.

God is not asking us to carry everything we have carried into every season. There are things He wants us to put down.

The process may require honesty, repentance and sometimes difficult decisions, but there is freedom on the other side of surrender.

PRAYER POINT

Father, show me what I am still carrying that no longer belongs in my life. Give me courage to release it and grace to walk in the person You are forming me to become.



Song Suggestion

I Surrender All — Hillsong Worship

SEPT | 07

DO NOT LET YOUR PAST BECOME YOUR IDENTITY

TEXT

Isaiah 43:18–21

MEMORY VERSE:

Isaiah 43:19

SUMMARY

God told Israel not to remain focused on former things because He was doing something new. He was not asking them to forget everything they had experienced. He was asking them not to allow yesterday to become the limit of what they could see.

Sometimes the past follows us long after the season has ended.

We remember the failure and begin to believe we will always fail. We remember the rejection and begin to expect rejection everywhere. We remember what someone did to us and start responding to people who have never hurt us as though they are the same person.

At some point, we have to allow God to separate who we are from what happened to us. Your past can become part of your testimony without becoming your identity. God may be doing something in your life that you cannot recognise because you are still looking at everything through what happened before.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, help me release every identity and limitation that has been built around my past. Heal what needs healing and give me grace to recognise what You are doing in my life now.



Song Suggestion

Do It Again — Elevation Worship

SEPT | 08

THE NEW BEGINS IN THE MIND

TEXT

Romans 12:1-2

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 12:2

SUMMARY

Transformation often begins in a place nobody else can see: the mind.

Your circumstances may not change immediately, but your understanding of those circumstances can change. You can face the same pressure and respond differently because you are no longer thinking from the same place.

A renewed mind changes the questions you ask. Instead of immediately thinking, "Why is this happening to me?" you may begin to ask, "Lord, what are You teaching me here?" Instead of assuming that a delay means God has forgotten you, you learn to trust His timing.

This does not mean ignoring reality or pretending that difficult things do not hurt. It means allowing God's truth to have the final say over how you interpret what you are experiencing. If the mind remains unchanged, old patterns will continue to find their way back into your life.

Let God renew your thinking.

PRAYER POINT

Father, renew my mind. Teach me to see myself, my circumstances and other people through Your Word. Let my thoughts come into agreement with Your truth.



Song Suggestion

Refiner — Maverick City Music

SEPT | 09

NO LONGER CONDEMNED

TEXT

Romans 8:1-4

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 8:1

SUMMARY

Romans 8 begins with a truth that every believer needs to remember: there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

There are times when we become so aware of our failures that we forget what Christ has already done.

We replay conversations, remember mistakes and allow the voice of accusation to tell us that we are not worthy of approaching God. But condemnation does not lead us into transformation. It keeps us looking backward. The Spirit leads us forward.

You do not need to spend the rest of your life trying to punish yourself for what Christ has already forgiven. Receive His mercy and allow Him to teach you how to live differently. Freedom from condemnation does not mean taking sin lightly. It means you can face your failures honestly without allowing them to become your identity.

You can repent and keep walking.

PRAYER POINT

Jesus, thank You that there is no condemnation for those who are in You. Help me receive Your forgiveness and walk forward without allowing guilt and accusation to control my life.



Song Suggestion

No Longer Slaves — Bethel Music

SEPT | 10

WHAT GOVERNS YOU?

TEXT

Romans 8:5–11

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 8:6

SUMMARY

Romans 8 presents a very honest picture of two ways of living: according to the flesh or according to the Spirit.

It is easy to say that we are led by the Spirit when everything is going well. The more revealing moments come when we are disappointed, offended, afraid or under pressure.

What comes out of you then?

When someone treats you unfairly, how do you respond? When God does not answer the way you expected, what happens in your heart? When you are frustrated, what controls your words and decisions?

These moments often reveal what has been governing us.

The Spirit wants to lead more than our church attendance or our spiritual language. He wants to influence the way we think, the things we desire and the decisions we make.

So don't only ask whether you have the Spirit. Pay attention to whether you are allowing Him to lead you.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, govern my thoughts, desires, emotions and decisions. Teach me to recognise when I am responding from the flesh and give me grace to choose Your way.



Song Suggestion

Spirit Move — Bethel Music

SEPT | 11

THE LIFE MUST BE LIVED

TEXT

Romans 6:1–11

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 6:4

SUMMARY

Paul says that we have been united with Christ in His death and resurrection so that we can walk in the newness of life.

That means the life we have received from Christ is meant to become visible in the way we live.

It is possible to know the right things, say the right things and still struggle to allow those truths to shape our everyday decisions. But the Christian life was never meant to remain in our heads.

Something should begin to change.

The way you speak to people should change. The way you handle temptation should change. The way you respond when you are corrected should change. The way you deal with disappointment should change.

This does not mean you become perfect overnight. It means there is a direction to your life. You are no longer comfortable remaining exactly where you were.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, teach me to live what I believe. Let the life of Christ become visible in my everyday choices, habits, relationships and responses.



Song Suggestion

Resurrecting — Elevation Worship

SEPT | 12

DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE TO GOD

TEXT

Romans 6:12-14

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 6:13

SUMMARY

Paul tells us not to allow sin to reign in our bodies but to present ourselves to God as people who have been brought from death to life.

There is a response that comes with receiving life from God.

Our bodies, our words, our time, our abilities and our relationships are all things we can place before Him.

Sometimes we want God to take complete control of our lives while still keeping certain areas under our own control. We want Him to bless our plans without necessarily wanting Him to change them.

But surrender means allowing God to have access to everything.

The question is not whether you have something to offer God. The question is whether you are willing to offer what you already have.

PRAYER POINT

Father, I present myself to You. Let every part of my life become available to Your purposes. Teach me to use my body, time, gifts and relationships in ways that honour You.



Song Suggestion

Take My Life — Chris Tomlin

SEPT | 13

WHAT ARE YOU STILL HOLDING ON TO?

TEXT

Colossians 3:1-11

MEMORY VERSE:

Colossians 3:5

SUMMARY

Paul tells believers to put to death the things that belong to their earthly nature. There is a seriousness to that instruction because some things will not disappear simply because we have prayed about them.

There are things we have to make a decision about.

It is difficult to pray for freedom while continuing to feed what keeps us bound. We cannot keep entertaining the same thoughts, returning to the same habits and defending the same attitudes, then wonder why nothing seems to change.

Take a quiet look at your life. Is there something you already know God has been asking you to release?

You may not be able to change everything in one day, but you can stop making excuses for what God is asking you to surrender.

The Spirit gives grace for the process, but we must be willing to cooperate with Him.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, show me what I am still holding on to. Give me the courage to release anything that keeps me from becoming more like Christ.



Song Suggestion

More Like Jesus — Passion

SEPT | 14

LET CHRIST BE SEEN IN YOU

TEXT

Colossians 3:12-17

MEMORY VERSE:

Colossians 3:14

SUMMARY

Paul speaks about compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness and love. These are not abstract Christian words. They become real in the way we treat people every day.

It is easy to feel spiritual when we are worshiping, praying or listening to a sermon. The real test often comes later, when someone annoys us, disappoints us or speaks to us in a way we do not appreciate.

That is where Christlike character is formed.

The person who is being changed by God begins to respond differently. It may not happen perfectly every time, but there is a growing desire to respond in a way that reflects Christ. The goal is not simply to know more about Jesus. It is for His character to become recognizable in the way we live.

PRAYER POINT

Father, let Christ be seen in me. Teach me to respond to people with compassion, humility, patience and love. Let my everyday life reflect what You are doing within me.



Song Suggestion

Make Me More Like You — Sinach

SEPT | 15

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

TEXT

Psalm 51:10–12

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 51:10

SUMMARY

David's prayer after his failure is worth paying attention to. He did not begin by asking God to fix everything around him. He asked God to deal with his heart.

"Create in me a clean heart."

There are seasons when we become very focused on what needs to change around us. We want the situation to change, the people around us to change and the pressure to go away. Yet God may be drawing our attention to something much closer: our own hearts.

What has this season revealed about you?

What have you discovered about your fears, your desires, your reactions or your dependence on God?

These are not always comfortable questions, but they can lead us into genuine transformation.

Sometimes the most important thing God does in a difficult season is what He does in the person going through it.

PRAYER POINT

Father, create in me a clean heart. Search the places I have ignored and correct what needs to be corrected. Renew my spirit and make me sensitive to You again.



Song Suggestion

Create in Me a Clean Heart — Donnie McClurkin

SEPT | 16

YOU CAN'T THINK OLD AND LIVE NEW

TEXT

Philippians 4:4-9

MEMORY VERSE:

Philippians 4:8

SUMMARY

What occupies our minds eventually affects the way we live. This is why Paul tells us to intentionally dwell on what is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely and worthy of praise.

This does not mean we ignore the difficult things happening around us. It means we refuse to give every thought permission to stay.

Fear will tell you one thing. Your past will tell you another. Your circumstances may tell you something else. But God's Word has to become the voice that settles your thinking. Pay attention to what you repeatedly tell yourself. The thoughts you keep entertaining will eventually shape the way you respond.

The Spirit wants to renew your mind, but there is also a responsibility to be intentional about what you allow to occupy it.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, take over my thought life. Teach me to recognise thoughts that are not from You and to fill my mind with what is true and pleasing to You.



Song Suggestion

I Will Exalt You — Hillsong Worship

SEPT | 17

THE SPIRIT PRODUCES OBEDIENCE

TEXT

Ezekiel 36:25–27

MEMORY VERSE:

Ezekiel 36:27

SUMMARY

God promised, “I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes.” The Spirit does more than give us moments we remember. He works in us until our response to God begins to change.

Obedience is one of those areas where transformation becomes very practical. When God tells you to forgive, what do you do? When He asks you to wait, can you trust Him? When He corrects something in you, are you willing to admit that He is right?

We sometimes want to experience God’s presence without allowing His presence to affect our decisions.

But the Spirit is forming people who can respond to God. His work in you should eventually influence what you do with what He tells you.

PRAYER POINT

Father, make me obedient from the heart. Let Your Spirit make me responsive to Your Word, Your correction and Your instruction.



Song Suggestion

Yes I Will — Vertical Worship

SEPT | 18

LED BY THE SPIRIT

TEXT

Romans 8:12–17

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 8:14

SUMMARY

Paul says that those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Being led sounds simple until the Spirit leads us somewhere we would not have chosen for ourselves.

There will be times when He asks you to apologize first. There will be times when He tells you to wait.

There will be moments when obedience will cost you something you would rather keep.

Following the Spirit means giving up the need to always be in control.

You do not have to understand every step before taking it. Sometimes you simply have to trust the One who is leading you.

If we want the Spirit to direct our lives, we must also be willing to follow when His direction does not look like what we planned.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, lead me. Give me the humility to follow You even when I do not understand everything and the courage to obey when Your direction takes me outside what is comfortable.



Song Suggestion

Lead Me Holy Spirit — Sinach

SEPT | 19

THE SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT

TEXT

Galatians 5:16–25

MEMORY VERSE:

Galatians 5:25

SUMMARY

One of the clearest ways to know what is influencing a person's life is to look at what the life produces.

Paul talks about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are the things the Spirit wants to grow in us.

So it is worth taking a moment to look at ourselves honestly.

Since I began walking with God, what has changed in me?

Am I becoming more patient with people? Do I forgive more easily? Am I learning to control my words? Do I have greater peace when things do not go my way?

Spiritual growth is not measured only by how much we know. It is also seen in who we are becoming.

The Spirit produces fruit, and over time, that fruit should become visible.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, produce Your fruit in me. Let the character of Christ grow in my life and let the works of the flesh lose their influence over me.



Song Suggestion

More Like Jesus — Passion

SEPT | 20

THE VESSEL MUST BE PREPARED

TEXT

2 Timothy 2:20–21

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Timothy 2:21

SUMMARY

Paul speaks about vessels that are prepared for honourable use. It is a beautiful picture of what God wants our lives to become.

We often spend a lot of time asking what God wants to do through us. We want to know our assignment, our calling, our purpose and the people we are supposed to reach. Those things matter, but there is another question we need to ask: What is God doing in me? God cares about the vessel.

He cares about your character when nobody is watching. He cares about your motives. He cares about how you handle correction, success, disappointment and responsibility.

The platform may be public, but much of the preparation happens where nobody sees you. Don't become so focused on being useful to God that you forget to allow Him to form you.

PRAYER POINT

Father, prepare me for Your use. Purify my motives, strengthen my character and deal with the things in me that would hinder what You want to do through me.



Song Suggestion

Available — Elevation Worship

SEPT | 21

THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT IS NOT A FREE MEAL TICKET

TEXT

2 Corinthians 4:6-18

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 4:16

SUMMARY

Sometimes we can misunderstand what it means to have the Life-Giving Spirit. We begin to think that because the Spirit lives in us, every difficult situation should disappear. So when challenges come, we ask, "Why am I still going through this? I have the Spirit. Why hasn't God changed this yet?"

But Scripture does not teach that the presence of the Spirit means the absence of difficulty. Paul talks about being afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and struck down. Yet he also speaks about not being crushed, not being driven to despair, not being abandoned and not being destroyed. The difference is important.

The Spirit does not make us incapable of going through difficult things. He gives us life while we go through them.

There are seasons when God removes the problem. There are other seasons when He gives us grace to walk through it without losing ourselves in it.

So when you find yourself in a difficult place, it is okay to ask God to change the situation. But don't stop there. Ask Him what He wants to form in you while you are there.

Perhaps the patience you have been praying for is being developed in the waiting. Perhaps your dependence on God is growing because you have reached a place where your own strength is no longer enough.

The Life-Giving Spirit is not a promise that we will never suffer.
He is the life of God within us while we walk through whatever comes.

PRAYER POINT

Father, help me to recognise your work even in difficult seasons. When You do not immediately change my circumstances, show me what Your Spirit is producing in me. Give me grace to remain alive in You through every season.



Song Suggestion

Yet I Will Praise — Vertical Worship

SEPT | 22

THE NEW REQUIRES SURRENDER

TEXT

Luke 9:23–24

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 9:23

SUMMARY

Jesus tells anyone who wants to follow Him to deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Him.

Following Christ requires surrender because there will always be parts of us that want to remain in control.

We have plans we want God to bless. We have things we want Him to leave untouched. We have relationships we want to keep, habits we don't want to confront and ambitions we don't want Him to question.

But the Spirit cannot fully lead a life that is constantly insisting on having the final say.

Sometimes we ask God why we have not moved forward, when the real issue is that we are still holding on to something He has asked us to release.

Surrender is not losing yourself. It is allowing God to form you into who He intended you to be.

PRAYER POINT

Jesus, I surrender my will to You. Help me to deny myself, take up my cross daily and follow You, even when following You requires me to let go of something I deeply value.



Song Suggestion

I Surrender — Hillsong Worship

SEPT | 23

ABIDING IN THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

TEXT

John 15:1–8

MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:5

SUMMARY

Jesus tells us to abide in Him. A branch does not produce fruit by trying harder to be a branch. It produces fruit because it remains connected to the vine.

This is important for us because transformation is not sustained by one powerful encounter. You can have a beautiful moment in God's presence and still need to return tomorrow and sit with Him again. You can receive a word that changes your perspective and still need the Word of God to keep shaping you.

Abiding means remaining.

It means continuing in prayer even when you don't feel anything. It means returning to Scripture when your mind is crowded. It means staying close to God when life becomes busy. The goal is not to have one experience that you remember forever. It is to develop a life that continually draws from Christ.

PRAYER POINT

Lord Jesus, teach me to abide in You. Let my relationship with You become deeper than occasional encounters. Keep me connected to You so that my life continues to bear fruit.



Song Suggestion

Abide — Bethel Music

SEPT | 24

DO NOT RETURN TO THE OLD

TEXT

Galatians 4:8–11

MEMORY VERSE:

Galatians 5:1

SUMMARY

Paul was concerned that people who had come to know God were returning to things that had once enslaved them.

This can happen more easily than we think.

The old ways are familiar. You know how to respond when you are hurt. You know how to protect yourself. You know how to handle things without depending on God.

The problem is that what is familiar is not always what is good for you.

Sometimes God is taking you into something that requires more trust, and because you are uncomfortable, the old begins to look attractive again.

Don't confuse familiarity with safety.

There is a reason God brought you out.

When the process becomes difficult, remember what He has already done and keep walking.

PRAYER POINT

Father, keep me from returning to old patterns and former bondage. When the new feels unfamiliar, remind me of Your faithfulness and help me keep moving forward with You.



Song Suggestion

Firm Foundation — Maverick City Music

SEPT | 25

KEEP BECOMING

TEXT

Philippians 3:12–16

MEMORY VERSE:

Philippians 3:13

SUMMARY

Paul had accomplished a great deal, but he did not think of himself as someone who had arrived.

He kept pressing forward.

There is a danger that comes when we become too comfortable with our current level of spiritual growth. We begin to think, “This is just how I am,” and slowly stop allowing God to challenge us.

But there is still room for Christ to be formed in you.

There are attitudes that can become more Christlike. There are areas of your thinking that can become more aligned with God’s Word. There are places where your trust can deepen.

Growth does not mean you have failed. It means God is still working.

Don’t become so familiar with yourself that you stop believing you can change. Keep becoming.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, don’t allow me to become comfortable with where I am. Keep my heart hungry for You and willing to grow. Continue Your work in me.



Song Suggestion

More of You — Sinach

SEPT | 26

KEEP GROWING

TEXT

1 Peter 2:1–5

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Peter 2:2

SUMMARY

Peter encourages believers to put away things such as malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander, and then tells them to desire spiritual nourishment so they can grow.

There is a connection between what we put away and our capacity to grow. Sometimes we want spiritual maturity while holding on to attitudes that keep us immature.

We want more revelation, but we don't want correction. We want more responsibility, but we don't want discipline. We want God to trust us with more, but we don't want to grow in the areas that require maturity.

Growth takes time, and it also takes participation.

Read the Word. Pray. Listen. Receive correction. Practice what God teaches you. Keep showing up.

You don't have to become everything at once. But you should not remain the same.

PRAYER POINT

Father, increase my spiritual capacity. Give me a hunger for Your Word and the humility to keep learning, growing and receiving correction.



Song Suggestion

More of You — Sinach

SEPT | 27

RENEWED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PROCESS

TEXT

Romans 8:18–27

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 8:26

SUMMARY

Sometimes we imagine that having the Spirit should make life easier. Romans 8 shows us something more honest. There is still groaning. There is still weakness. There is still waiting. There are things we do not understand.

The presence of the Spirit does not mean that every difficult season will end immediately. Sometimes you ask God to remove the situation and He gives you strength to remain in it. Sometimes you ask Him to open a door and He uses the closed door to teach you patience. Sometimes you want Him to change the people around you and He begins by changing your response to them.

This can be difficult because we naturally want relief. But we must learn to recognise that God can be doing a deep work in us even when nothing around us seems to be changing. So if you are in the middle of a process today, don't assume that God has forgotten you. The Spirit is still helping you.

He is still strengthening you.

He is still forming you.

And He is still giving you life.

PRAYER POINT

Holy Spirit, sustain me in seasons I do not understand. When I am weak, strengthen me. When I cannot see what You are doing, help me trust You. Renew me in the middle of the process.



Song Suggestion

Wait on You — Elevation Worship & Maverick City Music

SEPT | 28

GRACE MUST TEACH YOU TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

TEXT

Titus 2:11-14

MEMORY VERSE:

Titus 2:12

SUMMARY

Grace does not only forgive us. It teaches us.

Paul says that grace trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly desires and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives.

This means grace is not permission to remain the same.

God knows where you are, but He also knows where He wants to take you. His grace meets you in your weakness and then teaches you another way to live.

Sometimes we use grace as an excuse for patterns God is asking us to leave behind. We say, "God understands," when what He is actually asking for is repentance and growth.

Yes, God understands you. But His grace is doing more than making you feel forgiven. It is teaching you to look like Christ.

The evidence of grace in your life should eventually be seen in the way you live.

PRAYER POINT

Father, let Your grace teach me. Help me to recognise what I need to leave behind and give me strength to live in a way that reflects Christ.



Song Suggestion

Christ Is Enough — Hillsong Worship

SEPT | 29

LET YOUR LIFE SHOW THE DIFFERENCE

TEXT

Ephesians 5:1-10

MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 5:8

SUMMARY

There comes a point where the work God is doing within us should begin to show on the outside.

It may show in how you speak to people. It may show in how you handle disappointment. It may show in your willingness to forgive, your ability to apologise, the way you respond when nobody is watching, or the way you handle something you desperately want but cannot have yet.

Paul tells believers to walk as children of light.

This is not a call to pretend that you are perfect. It is an invitation to let the life of Christ become visible through you.

When someone encounters you, there should be something about the way you live that points them back to God.

Your life should eventually tell the story of what God is doing in your heart.

PRAYER POINT

Father, let the transformation You are working in me become visible in my daily life. Let my words, choices, relationships and responses reflect the life of Christ within me.



Song Suggestion

Christ Be Magnified — Cody Carnes

SEPT | 30

BECOME THE VESSEL

TEXT

Luke 5:36–39

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 5:38

SUMMARY

We began this month with Jesus' picture of new wine and wineskins, and after everything we have considered, I think the picture becomes much clearer.

There is a life available to us through Christ. There is a life that the Spirit gives and sustains. There is freedom from condemnation, power over the flesh, renewal for the mind, grace for difficult seasons and fruit that God wants to produce in us.

But the question is no longer simply, "What has God made available to me?" It is also, "What kind of person am I becoming as I receive it?"

The Holy Spirit is not merely coming to add something to the life you already have. He is inviting you into a life that is increasingly surrendered to God.

That means allowing Him to change the way you think. It means allowing Him to deal with your heart. It means being willing to release things you have carried for too long. It means learning to respond differently when life does not go according to plan.

Perhaps you have spent a lot of time asking God to change your circumstances, while He has been working on you in the middle of them.

Perhaps you have been asking for another season, while God has been preparing you for what the season will require.

And perhaps, when you wondered why you were still facing difficulties even though you have the Life-Giving Spirit, God was reminding you that His Spirit was never given as a promise that you would never have problems.

He gives you life while you walk through them.

SEPT | 30

BECOME THE VESSEL

TEXT

Luke 5:36–39

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 5:38

CONTINUATION

He gives you strength when yours is not enough. He teaches you dependence when you would rather be in control. He gives you peace when the situation has not yet changed. This is why the work within us matters.

God wants to make us vessels that can carry what He places within us. He wants the life He gives us to become the life we live.

So as this month comes to an end, don't only ask what you have learnt.

Look at yourself:

What has changed in you?

What have you surrendered?

What are you seeing differently?

What no longer controls you the way it used to?

Where is Christ becoming more visible?

There is still work to be done in all of us. But if you remain yielded to the Spirit, you can trust that He who began the work will continue it.

The invitation is simple: let God make you a vessel that can carry Him.

PRAYER POINT

Father, thank You for the life You have made available to me through Christ and by Your Spirit. I surrender my heart, my mind, my desires, my plans and every part of my life to You.

Renew what needs to be renewed. Heal what needs to be healed. Correct what needs to be corrected. Remove what no longer belongs. Teach me to walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh.

When I am going through difficult seasons, help me to remember that Your presence is not measured by the absence of problems.

SEPT | 30

BECOME THE VESSEL

TEXT

Luke 5:36–39

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 5:38

PRAYER POINT CONTINUATION

Teach me to recognise the life You are producing in me even in the middle of what I do not understand. Make me a vessel that can carry what You desire to pour out. Let the life of Christ become evident in me, and let what You do in me become useful in Your hands.

Keep me yielded. Keep me growing. Keep me becoming.
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Song Suggestion

New Wine — Hillsong Worship

www.ffeesd.org

