

5 Day Devotional

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Day 1: The Premise Behind the Promise

Reading: Joshua 1:7-9

God's promises are always trustworthy, but they come with a premise: obedience.

When God told Joshua, "I will be with you wherever you go," it wasn't an unconditional blanket statement disconnected from Joshua's faithfulness. The promise flowed from the premise of meditating on God's Word and carefully obeying it. Too often we want God's presence and blessing without the surrender that makes us able to receive them. Today, reflect on areas where you're claiming

God's promises while resisting His commands. True courage comes not from positive thinking, but from knowing God walks with those who walk with Him. What promise are you claiming? What premise are you avoiding?

Day 2: The Paradox of Life

Reading: John 12:24-26

Jesus reveals life's greatest paradox: we find life by losing it. Like a seed that must die to produce a harvest, we must surrender our self-directed lives to discover God's abundant life. This isn't about self-hatred, but about releasing our tight grip on control, comfort, and self-preservation. When we "hate our life in this world," we're choosing eternal values over temporary pleasures, God's will over our preferences. The person clinging desperately to their own plans, reputation, and desires ultimately loses what they're trying to protect. But the person willing to lay it all down—their dreams, rights, and agenda—receives true life that death cannot touch. What are you holding onto that God is asking you to release?

Day 3: Gethsemane's Surrender

Reading: Luke 22:39-46

In Gethsemane, Jesus faced the ultimate choice: His will or the Father's. His humanity screamed "no" to the suffering ahead. His sweat became like blood under the weight of what was coming. Yet in that agonizing moment, Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done." This wasn't passive resignation; it was active trust. Jesus shows us that surrender doesn't mean we don't struggle or that obedience comes easily. It means that in the struggle, we choose God. Every day presents us with smaller Gethsemane moments—will we trust the Father or turn away? Will we do what we want or what He wants? Jesus's prayer becomes our prayer, His strength becomes our strength. Where is your Gethsemane today?

Day 4: The Garden of Choice

Reading: Genesis 2:8-17; 3:1-7

Eden was humanity's first test: would we trust God's wisdom or seize it for ourselves? Adam and Eve chose autonomy over obedience, control over surrender. They believed the lie that God was withholding something good, that they knew better than their Creator. Their choice unleashed death, shame, fear, and brokenness into God's good world. But their story is our story. Daily we face the same temptation—to be our own authority, to decide for ourselves what's right and wrong, to trust our judgment over God's Word. Every act of disobedience is us reaching for that forbidden fruit again, believing we know better than God. Recognize today's Eden moments. When are you tempted to be your own god?

Day 5: Two Gardens, Two Outcomes

Reading: Romans 5:12-21

Two gardens. Two choices. Two outcomes. In Eden, Adam chose self and brought death. In Gethsemane, Jesus chose surrender and brought life. Through one man's disobedience, sin and death entered; through one man's obedience, righteousness and life overflowed. The beautiful truth is that we're no longer bound to Adam's pattern. In Christ, we can choose differently. When united with Jesus, His obedience becomes ours, His strength empowers us, His life flows through us. We're not called to try harder but to abide deeper—to be found in Him. Today, you'll face garden moments requiring choice. Will you release death through self-will or life through surrender? Remember: you don't stand alone. Christ stands with you, praying "not my will, but yours" alongside you, giving you power to choose life.