

## 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

### The Life Grace Makes Possible

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#### Day 1: The Freedom of No Condemnation

**Reading:** Romans 8:1-4

**Devotional:** Grace does not begin with a demand — it begins with a declaration. Paul opens Romans 8 by declaring that those in Christ Jesus are free from condemnation. This is not a reward for perfect behavior. It is a gift given to those who admit their need and trust God. Yet many of us still live as though the verdict against us has not been overturned. We carry guilt like a weight we were never meant to bear. Today, sit quietly with this truth: God has already spoken the final word over your life, and that word is not condemnation. It is freedom. Receive it.

**Reflection:** What guilt or shame are you still carrying that grace has already addressed? What would it mean to live as though you are no longer condemned?

**Practice:** Write down one thing you have been unable to forgive yourself for. Then write "no condemnation" over it. Place it somewhere you will see it today.

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#### Day 2: The Spirit Who Empowers What Willpower Cannot

**Reading:** Romans 8:5-11

**Devotional:** Paul draws a sharp contrast between two ways of living — one centered on our own resources and the other on the Spirit of God. This is not a contrast between body and soul, as though our physical lives are somehow shameful. It is a contrast between a life disconnected from God and one that remains open and attentive to God's presence. The honest truth is that most of us have tried to change by trying harder, and most have discovered the limits of that approach. Willpower alone cannot heal what is broken at the root. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, now lives in you. That same power is available for your transformation today.

**Reflection:** Where in your life have you relied solely on willpower rather than staying open to the Spirit's work? What does it feel like to acknowledge that you need more than your own effort?

**Practice:** Before making a significant decision today, pause and pray a simple prayer: "Holy Spirit, what do you want me to do here?" Then wait. Practice listening before acting.

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### **Day 3: Abiding as the Source of Lasting Change**

**Reading:** John 15:1-11

**Devotional:** Jesus does not say the branch must work harder to produce fruit. He says the branch must remain connected to the vine. The fruit is the result of the connection, not its cause. This is one of the most misunderstood truths in the Christian life. Many people exhaust themselves trying to produce spiritual fruit through sheer effort, not realizing that the fruit is a byproduct of abiding — of staying close to Jesus, attentive to his presence, and shaped by his words. Spiritual practices such as prayer, scripture, worship, and community are not achievements to display. They are the means by which we remain connected to the one who is the source of all lasting change.

**Reflection:** What does your current rhythm of life reveal about how connected you are to Jesus? Are there areas where you have been striving to produce fruit without remaining rooted in the vine?

**Practice:** Identify one spiritual practice you have neglected. Commit to returning to it for the next five days, not as a religious obligation but as a way to stay connected to Jesus.

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### **Day 4: Small Steps, Real Growth**

**Reading:** Galatians 5:16-25

**Devotional:** Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control — not as qualities we manufacture, but as the natural result of walking in step with the Spirit. The word Paul uses for "walk" suggests something unhurried and ongoing, a daily rhythm rather than a single dramatic moment. Growth in the Christian life rarely looks like a sudden transformation. It looks like choosing patience in a moment of frustration. It looks like practicing generosity when holding on feels safer. It looks like telling the truth when hiding would be easier. These small choices, repeated over time, open us to the Spirit's shaping work and gradually form the character of Jesus within us.

**Reflection:** Which fruit of the Spirit feels most absent from your life right now? What is one small, specific choice you could make today to move toward that quality?

**Practice:** Choose one fruit of the Spirit to focus on this week. At the end of each day, ask yourself: Where did I cooperate with the Spirit in this area today, and where did I resist?

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## **Day 5: Becoming Who You Were Created to Be**

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

**Devotional:** Paul describes the Christian life as a process of being transformed from one degree of glory to another. This is not an instant renovation. It is a gradual restoration — the slow, steady work of the Spirit unveiling who we were always meant to be. The goal of this transformation is not religious performance or moral perfection. It is becoming more like Jesus: more loving, more truthful, more free from fear, more willing to forgive, and more open to those the world pushes to the margins. Grace meets us exactly where we are, with all our unfinished edges and unhealed wounds, and does not leave us there. It leads us, one faithful step at a time, toward the fullness of life God has always intended for us.

**Reflection:** When you imagine becoming more like Jesus, what specific quality comes to mind first? What is the single next-best step you could take this week to move in that direction?

**Practice:** Close this five-day guide by writing a brief, honest prayer. Name where you are right now. Name where you sense God is calling you to grow. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you there, step by step, and trust that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you.