

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Persistent in Prayer: Keeping Showing Up

Day 1: The God Who Is Already There

Reading: Acts 17:24-28

Devotional: One of the most freeing truths in the Christian life is that prayer is not about summoning God from a distance. Paul reminds us in Acts 17 that we live, move, and have our being in God. You are never outside God's presence. The problem is not God's absence — it is our inattention. Today, before you do anything else, sit quietly for two minutes and remind yourself that God is already in the room with you, already loving you, already at work on your behalf. Prayer begins with that simple, honest awareness.

Reflection: Where in your daily life have you been looking for God as if he were far away, even though he was already present?

Practical Application: Set a reminder on your phone for three different times during the day. When it goes off, pause for thirty seconds and simply say, "God, I know you are here."

Day 2: Persistence Without Giving Up

Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Devotional: Jesus tells the story of a widow who refuses to let an unjust judge have the final word in her situation. She keeps coming back, not because she is desperate or naive, but because she knows justice is worth fighting for. Jesus uses her persistence not to compare God to an unjust judge, but to make the opposite point — if a hard-hearted judge can be moved by persistence, how much more will a loving God respond to those who keep seeking him? Do not let discouragement, unanswered questions, or dry seasons convince you to stop showing up.

Reflection: Is there a situation in your life where you have stopped praying because nothing seemed to be changing? What would it look like to begin again today?

Practical Application: Write down one prayer request you have been tempted to abandon. Commit to bringing it before God every day this week, trusting that God's love and justice are already at work.

Day 3: Faithfulness Over Intensity

Reading: Lamentations 3:22-23

Devotional: The writer of Lamentations, surrounded by devastation and grief, anchors his hope in one unchanging reality — God's mercies are new every morning. This is not a statement from a comfortable place. It is a declaration of faith made in the midst of suffering and loss. The same principle applies to our prayer lives. We do not need a single dramatic spiritual breakthrough. We need the quiet, daily renewal that comes from returning to God each morning. Consistency is more powerful than intensity. Five faithful minutes today will do more for your relationship with God than one extraordinary hour followed by weeks of silence.

Reflection: What does your current morning rhythm look like? Is there even a small space where you could invite God into the beginning of your day?

Practical Application: For the next five days, spend the first five minutes of your morning in silence, scripture, and one honest prayer before checking your phone or starting your routine.

Day 4: When Prayer Feels Dry

Reading: Psalm 22:1-2, 23-24

Devotional: The psalmist opens with one of the rawest, most honest cries in all of scripture — a sense of being forsaken, crying out and hearing only silence in return. Yet by the end of the passage, the same voice declares that God has not hidden his face from the suffering one. Dry seasons in prayer are not a sign that you are failing or that God has withdrawn. They are a normal part of the spiritual life, even the greatest saints have experienced them. God does not disappear when your emotions go quiet. Show up anyway. Sit in the silence. God is still there.

Reflection: Have you ever mistaken emotional dryness in prayer for spiritual failure? How does knowing that dry seasons are normal change how you approach those moments?

Practical Application: The next time prayer feels empty or unproductive, resist the urge to stop. Instead, sit for five minutes and say, "God, I do not feel much right now, but I trust that you are here." Let that honesty itself become your prayer.

Day 5: Begin Again

Reading: Luke 15:20-24

Devotional: The father in the parable of the prodigal son does not wait for his returning child to offer a perfectly worded apology. He sees him while he is still a long way off and runs toward him. This is the God we pray to — not a record-keeper of failures, not a reluctant listener who must be convinced to care, but a father already watching for you, already running toward you, already preparing a welcome. When your prayer life falls apart, and it will at some point, the most important thing you can do is not perfect your discipline. It is simply to begin again.

Reflection: What would it mean for you to receive God's grace in your prayer life as freely as the father gave it to his returning son? What guilt or shame do you need to release so you can simply begin again?

Practical Application: If you have drifted from a regular prayer practice, today is the day to begin again without self-condemnation. Use this simple structure: two minutes of silence, one short scripture reading, and one honest prayer. Do not make it complicated. Just show up.