




# WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

September 29th, 2024

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## Day 1: Embracing Our Identity as God's Children

Reading: Galatians 4:4-7, Isaiah 43:1-4

Devotional: Today, we focus on our identity as beloved children of God. In Galatians, Paul reminds us that through Christ, we are adopted into God's family. This isn't just a legal transaction, but a profound relational reality. God sees us as His own, with the same affection He has for Jesus. Isaiah reinforces this, declaring God's deep love for us. Reflect on what it means to be truly loved by the Creator of the universe. How does this identity shape your self-perception and daily interactions? Today, practice seeing yourself through God's eyes of love, and extend that same view to others around you.

## Day 2: The Power of Spiritual Family

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Hebrews 10:24-25

Devotional: The church isn't just an organization; it's a family. Paul uses the metaphor of a body to illustrate our interconnectedness in Christ. Each member is vital, with unique gifts and roles. The author of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of meeting together and encouraging one another. In a world that often promotes isolation, God calls us to deep, meaningful community. Consider your place in your spiritual family. Are you fully engaged? Are there ways you can better support and encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ? Today, reach out to someone in your church family with a word of encouragement or offer of support.

## Day 3: Growing in Christlikeness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Philippians 2:1-11

Devotional: Our journey of faith is one of continual transformation into the image of Christ. Paul describes this as moving from "one degree of glory to another." This process isn't always comfortable, but it's essential for our spiritual growth. The passage in Philippians provides a beautiful picture of Christ's humility and servanthood – the model we're called to emulate. Reflect on areas in your life where you've seen growth and areas where you still struggle. How can you cultivate a more Christ-like attitude today? Choose one specific way to practice humility and service in your interactions with others.

## Day 4: Embracing God's Love in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:31-39, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Devotional: Suffering is an inevitable part of life, but as believers, we face it with the assurance of God's unfailing love. Paul's powerful words in Romans remind us that nothing can separate us from God's love. In 2 Corinthians, he reframes our perspective on suffering, seeing it as temporary in light of eternal glory. When we're hurting, it's easy to doubt God's love or presence. Yet, these passages assure us that He's always with us, working even in our pain. Reflect on a difficult situation you're facing. How might God be using this to shape you? Ask for His strength and perspective to see beyond the immediate struggle to the eternal hope we have in Christ.

## Day 5: Living as Kingdom Culture-Shapers

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16, Ephesians 4:1-6

Devotional: As followers of Christ, we're called to be different – to shape culture rather than be shaped by it. Jesus uses the metaphors of salt and light to illustrate our influence in the world. Paul urges us to live worthy of our calling, emphasizing unity, humility, and love. In a world often driven by self-interest, we're called to a counter-cultural life of selflessness and community. How can you be "salt and light" in your specific contexts – work, family, neighborhood? Reflect on practical ways you can demonstrate kingdom values today. Remember, our unity in Christ is a powerful witness to the world of God's transforming love.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**