

September Devotions

Renewed by the Spirit

²⁰ But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. **(Ephesians 4:20–24)**

Paul reminds us that following Jesus means more than believing facts—it's about transformation. We are called to throw off the old self, with its broken patterns and false desires, and instead let the Spirit renew us from the inside out. This isn't a one-time decision, but a daily surrender.

The Holy Spirit longs to guide us into rhythms that keep us close to Christ—times of prayer, worship, Scripture, and quiet listening. As we respond to His gentle promptings, He shapes our thoughts, softens our attitudes, and establishes habits that root us in God's presence. Slowly, but surely, our lives begin to reflect His holiness.

Our part is simple: be willing. The Spirit does the renewing, but we must choose to yield. When we consistently turn to Him, we step into the new nature created to be like God—righteous and holy.

Prayer Point:

Holy Spirit, help me throw off my old ways and embrace the new life You are forming in me. Lead me into daily rhythms that keep me rooted in You, and give me grace to respond quickly to Your promptings.

Forever

His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And Men shall be blessed in Him. All Nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel. Who only does wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen (**Psalm 72:17-19**)

This is a declaration made to God by King David. Now, we also can declare it. We serve a God who never ceases to do such wondrous things. Just for a moment, would you close your eyes and ponder some of those wonderful things He has done for you. Probably too many to count and some you may not even know about. This King, This Jesus, is ours forever! We will be praising Him all the days of our life from now through out eternity! Give a shout of praise to Jesus, who died for us. “But you, O Lord, will sit on your throne forever. Your fame will endure to every generation.” (**Psalm 102:12 NLT**) “...He has also set eternity in the human heart...” (**Ecclesiastes 3:11b NLT**) God’s love is unconditional. Who is like Him? God’s love stands forever. God does not change. “Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.” (**Psalm 89:2 NLT**) “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (**Hebrews 13:8**)

Prayer: Lord, help me to lay aside my old ways and let Your Spirit renew my mind and attitudes. Teach me to follow Your promptings and establish holy rhythms in my life, so I may walk daily in the new nature You’ve given me.

Psalm 113:5, Psalm 136:1, Malachi 3:6

Becoming More Like Jesus

Have you ever thought about the Pure Heart mission “together we are becoming more like Jesus for the sake of others” and wondered what it really means? While Jesus was on the earth as a man, He was and has always been God. But since we aren’t God and can’t be God, how can we be more like Jesus who is God? **John 10:30, John 8:58**

Does that mean we have to live perfect, sinless lives? No, in fact, we all fall short and because we are sinners, we need a Savior. That’s why Jesus came. Before he died for our sins, He demonstrated how we should live in a way that’s pleasing to God. And while we can’t be perfect like Jesus, we can be transformed by the Holy Spirit and become more like Him in our words, thoughts and actions. **Romans 3:23**

So on a practical level, what does becoming more like Jesus look like?

It looks like love. Jesus gave a command to love one another as He loves us. It wasn’t a suggestion. It was a command. And we can do that because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through Holy Spirit who lives in us. **John 13:34, Romans 5:5**

It looks like service. Jesus modeled the true servant’s heart when he washed the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper. He told them that they would experience blessings if they put into practice what He had done for them. **John 13:12-17**

It looks like humility. Jesus was the most powerful man ever to walk on the face of the earth yet he was the humblest. His agenda was never to promote himself, but to please his Father by loving and serving others. **Mark 10:45**

It looks like obedience. Jesus was completely obedient to God, His Father. Everything He said. **John 12:49** Everything He did. **Hebrews 10:7** Even to His death. **Philippians 2:8**

When we love and serve others with humility and in obedience to God’s will, we are becoming more like Jesus!

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for sending His Son to demonstrate how to live like Him.
- Ask Holy Spirit to pour God’s love into your heart so you can love like Him.
- Seek God’s will to become more like Jesus so you reflect Him to others in your love, service and humility.

The River Within

The festival was at its height—music in the air, voices in the streets, cups filled with wine and water. And then, above the noise, a voice rang out, urgent and unshakable:

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink...”

It was the voice of Jesus.

Not an invitation to sip, but a summons to be drenched.

Not a promise of a trickle, but of a river—alive, moving, unstoppable.

He spoke of the Spirit, the holy torrent from heaven that would surge into believing hearts.

Not a stagnant pond that grows stale,

but a current that refreshes, cleanses, and carries life wherever it flows.

A river is never for itself.

It moves. It overflows. It carves new paths in hard ground.

When we drink of Jesus, we are not just satisfied—we become part of His outpouring.

The Holy Spirit turns our inner desert into a garden,

and our garden into a spring that runs into the thirsty world.

But the order remains: **come, drink, believe... then flow.**

We can't pour from empty vessels. We must return to the Source, again and again.

And the miracle? The Source is not far—

He is within us, welling up, ready to burst into the streets,

ready to drench dry souls with the life of Christ.

Today, hear His voice over the noise of your world.

Come with your thirst. Drink until you overflow.

And let the river run free.

John 7:37-39

Closing Prayer Point:

Holy Spirit, I come thirsty—flood my soul. Wash away dryness, fill every hollow place, and let Your living water spill over into every conversation, every act, every corner of my life. Make me a river that carries Jesus to the world.

Storms of Life

“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.” **(Isaiah 43:2a NLT)**

It is a comfort to know that God is on our side, and He will be with us as we face trials and suffering in this lifetime. Let's say you were at a football game, you would be cheering along with others, for your team. Likewise, we are being cheered on to victory by the promises of God. He won't ever leave us. He is on our side and wants us to have the victory over all the arrows thrown at us by the enemy of our soul. He is for you. He created you in His image. He knows the end from the beginning. Jesus is with you when you feel like the storms of life will overtake you. In Luke chapter 8 we read about Jesus being in a boat with some of his disciples when suddenly a great storm arose and “...the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. (v23b) Jesus was sleeping during the storm so, “The disciples went and woke him up, shouting ‘Master, Master, we’re going to drown!’ When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped, and all was calm.” The disciples were amazed because the wind and the sea obeyed him. This speaks loud and clear that Jesus is with us when we are overwhelmed. If we look to Him, He can calm our fears. Let Jesus carry you when the unexpected storms of life come. He is only a prayer away. I can hear the words of a song: “Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.” (by Anthony Johnson Showalter) Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **(John 16:33)**

Prayer: Thank you that Jesus is always with me, and I can lean on him to calm my anxieties. Amen

Deuteronomy 31:6, Romans 8:31, Genesis 1:23, Isaiah 46:10

Security In Jesus

Have you ever worried that you aren't "good enough" for God? Maybe you're afraid He can't possibly forgive your past sins. Or perhaps you're worried you aren't reading the Bible enough or tithing enough or sharing the Gospel enough.

Paul reassures us about this very concern in **Romans 8:15-16**. The Passion Translation says it so beautifully, ¹⁵And you did not receive the "spirit of religious duty," leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance," enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, "Beloved Father!" ¹⁶For the Holy Spirit makes God's fatherhood real to us as he whispers into our innermost being, "You are God's beloved child!"

As believers, we are a new creation. The old is gone and the new is here! God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, does not count our sins against us, and He will not condemn us when we sin. Through Jesus, the law of the Spirit sets us free from the law of sin and death.

When we sin, the Spirit convicts us, and His conviction is done in love and grace. God designed us to feel sorrow over sin so we will seek repentance that leads to victory instead of remorse.

Keep in mind, God's grace does not give us free rein to sin nor should we abuse it. God knows our heart, and He knows our motives. We must face our sin honestly and truly seek His forgiveness.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Romans 8:1-2 ; 2 Corinthians 7:10

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for His love, reconciliation and that He made you His beloved child!
- Seek forgiveness when you feel the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray **Psalm 51:10** – Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me

When Words Fail

Lord, when my words falter, Your Spirit speaks.

When my mind is clouded, You pray through me with perfect clarity.

Romans 8 says You search my heart and align my cries with Your will.

1 Corinthians 14 calls me to pray and sing both with my spirit and my mind—
not choosing one over the other, but surrendering both to You.

Sometimes my prayers sound like whispers;

sometimes they roar in languages I don't understand.

But every time, You catch them.

You refine them.

You send them into the Father's heart.

So, I thank You, Holy Spirit,

for translating my groans into heaven's language.

I glorify You, Jesus,

for forever interceding for me.

I honor You, Father,

for hearing me when I can't even hear myself.

Prayer Point:

Holy Spirit, teach me to flow in both mind and spirit in prayer. Let my weakness be Your strength, my silence be Your song, and my worship be a dwelling place for Your glory.

“The Narrow Road”

“To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ; Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.” **(Jude 1:1b-2 NIV)**

Deep inside we are looking for meaning and purpose. Why am I here? Aren't we really looking for mercy, peace and love to fulfill our life? Actually, it's really a narrow road we are looking for, but few find it. Why is that? It's because we look at the glitter and glamour of the world and try to stake our claim on what the world has to offer, hoping for meaning and fulfillment. We look in the wrong direction and end up with disappointment after disappointment, with no peace and so we jump on the next broad road trying to find what will make us happy. Is there an answer to all this disappointment? Yes, the cross of Christ is the answer. It's a narrow road that leads to life. The narrow road of following Jesus Christ fills us with His mercy, peace and love. “Taste and see that the Lord is good...” (Psalm 34:8a NIV) “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” **(Matthew 7:13-14 NIV)** So, we have two choices to follow the broad road that is empty and leaves us thirsting or the narrow road that leads to peace and fulfillment through Jesus Christ. Question? Which road are you following? Jesus said: “...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” **(John 14:6 NIV)** Choose the narrow road and let Jesus fill you with His everlasting love. Jesus loves you so much, He died for you on the cross so you could have everlasting life.

Prayer: Dear God in heaven, I am choosing the narrow road. I ask you to forgive me of my sins. I believe your son Jesus died for me, and I receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for making me a new person. Amen

Living In Peace

There's a lot of uncertainty in our world today. Many lines are blurred, and the "world" is selling a very different version of what the Bible is telling us it can be confusing, especially for new believers in Christ.

If we aren't careful, Satan's crafty ways of repackaging God's truth can trip us up. So how do we stand strong in our convictions without getting confused or justifying our actions because, hey, everyone's doing it, right?

If we're solidly planted in the God's Word, we will know exactly what He asks of us. If we're still confused then that's a sure sign we need to be feasting on His Word. Not just a little nibble here and there, but a full-blown-Thanksgiving-dinner-with-all-the-trimmings kind of feast!

God is NOT the God of confusion but of peace. If we're doing, saying and thinking stuff we know we shouldn't be doing, saying or thinking, and we're trying to run from the Holy Spirit's promptings then we definitely aren't living in peace. That should be our first indicator that we need to be in The Word and in prayer.

Ask God to open you up to His Word and open up His Word to you. It's important to realize we shouldn't rely on our feelings. Our hearts can lie to us. So we need to intentionally keep our eyes on Jesus and trust in Him to keep us on the right path.

It can seem daunting at times but we can rest knowing we aren't left to figure it all out on our own. We can rely on Holy Spirit for strength, wisdom and discernment as we navigate each day. He will teach us and remind us of all God's promises.

1 Corinthians 14:33; Psalm 119:34; Jeremiah 17:9; Proverbs 3:5-6; John 14:26

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for His peace and protection against the enemy's lies and confusion.
- Ask God to open you up to His Word and open His Word to you.
- Pray that Holy Spirit will give you strength, wisdom and discernment every day.

The Lifeline in the Battle

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18

Paul has just finished describing the armor of God, but the passage doesn’t end with a period after the shield and sword—it ends with prayer. Prayer is not just an accessory to the armor; it is the breath that keeps the soldier alive in battle. Without it, the armor is worn but unused.

Prayer keeps us connected to our Commander’s voice. Jesus said in **Luke 18:1** that we “should always pray and not give up.” Prayer is our line of communication for strength (**Philippians 4:6–7**), for wisdom (**James 1:5**), and for boldness (**Acts 4:31**).

The early church understood this. They prayed in the upper room and received the Spirit (**Acts 1:14; 2:1–4**). They prayed in prison and saw chains fall (Acts 16:25–26). They prayed for each other and witnessed healing (**James 5:16**).

We don’t pray because it’s a religious duty—we pray because it is the difference between walking in our own strength and standing in God’s power. Prayer in the Spirit aligns our hearts with His, sharpens our discernment, and sustains us when the battle grows fierce.

Closing Prayer Point:

Lord, awaken in me a fresh urgency to pray without ceasing. Keep me alert to Your Spirit’s promptings, faithful in prayer for Your people, and dependent on You for every step in this spiritual battle.

The Holiest Time in Prayer

The greatest and most sacred moments in prayer are not when we ask for things, but when we seek the Lord's face and declare His glory. To worship God for *who He is*—not just for what He does—is to enter the highest place of intimacy with the Creator of the universe.

Psalm 100:4 (NKJV) says,

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."

This isn't a ritual—it's an invitation. Worship is our entry point into the presence of the Holy One. It shifts our focus from our needs to His nature. It breaks chains, silences the enemy, and aligns our hearts with heaven.

When we praise, we proclaim His goodness. When we give thanks, we acknowledge His faithfulness. And when we seek His face, we encounter the One who is worthy of all our devotion.

God doesn't *need* our worship—He *desires* it. The Maker of galaxies welcomes us to draw near, not just to request His hand but to behold His glory. In worship, we remember that He is holy, righteous, merciful, unchanging, and mighty to save.

Let your prayer life be marked not only by requests, but by reverence. Begin with praise. Let your heart overflow with thanksgiving. Declare the greatness of the Lord—not because your circumstances are perfect, but because *He* is perfect.

Prayer Points:

1. **Lord, teach me to seek Your face above all else.** May worship rise from my heart even when I don't have the words to pray.
2. **Father, I praise You for who You are**—holy, loving, and glorious. I lift Your name above every need and every fear.
3. **Thank You for the privilege of entering Your presence** with thanksgiving and praise. You are worthy of all honor.

Scripture for meditation: Psalm 29:2 – *"Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*