

DEVOTIONAL: JUMP START YOUR WALK WITH GOD

MOMENTUM

MOMENTUM: JUMP START YOUR WALK WITH GOD

THIS DEVOTIONAL BELONGS TO

INTRODUCTION:

THERE ARE OFTEN POINTS in our spiritual life when we need a jolt from the Lord to get us going. One of the best ways to develop spiritual momentum is to consistently come before the Word of God and commit to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18)!

Over the next 31 days, you will have the opportunity to come before the Lord, study His grace and forgiveness in Jesus, and begin to embrace His calling and equipping on your life. Whether you are using this plan to begin a new year or starting this plan on a random Tuesday, this study is designed to jump-start your walk with God. Each day consists of four devotional elements:

1. A Bible passage centered on one aspect of the Christian life
2. A devotional thought based on the verses for the day
3. A reflection question
4. A short prayer

We hope that as you spend the upcoming days consistently meeting with God, you will feel rejuvenated and ready to keep worshipping the Lord with your life long after the study is completed. **May God give you the spiritual momentum you need during this season!**

DAY ONE: LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH that even with all your sin and brokenness, He made a way for you to enjoy Him again through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Because of His love, no matter what you have done or where you are in your spiritual journey, you can find new forgiveness, new compassion and new grace today. By believing in the work of Jesus, you can start fresh right now and declare, "God, You are my portion and the only King I will serve!"

Do you believe that His mercies are new every day?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for Your never-ending compassion and forgiveness that gives me every opportunity to start new.

DAY TWO: ROMANS 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

THIS LIFE IS HARD and too often, you can feel alone and unloved. You try and fill that emptiness with everything under the sun. But the reality is that you can't save yourself. You can't fulfill your God-given purpose. You can't have satisfaction and life apart from the death and resurrection of Jesus. God's love for you was fully displayed on the cross. Rest assured in this truth: God gave up everything so that even in the trouble of this world, you would come to know and experience the fullness of His love again.

Do you believe God loves you so much that He gave up everything to save you?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for Your love that was fully demonstrated on the cross.

DAY THREE: PSALM 51:10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS A TWO-SIDED COIN. On one side, God completely washes away your sin, as far as the east is from the west because of the work of Jesus. On the other side of the coin, God restores you back into His presence. God doesn't simply forgive you and shout, "Good luck!" Instead, God forgives you, picks you back up and brings you back into His joy-filled presence. Your forgiveness is far more than a clean slate. It's a fresh start in a restored position!

Do you seek the restoration of God's joy in your life?

PRAY: Lord, as You forgive me and wash me clean, I ask that You also restore to me the joy of Your salvation so that I may seek to know You and love You all the days of my life.

DAY FOUR: ROMANS 9-10

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

SO MANY RELIGIONS are built on what you are able to do and how you might be able to save yourself. The beauty of the gospel rests in its simplicity. Following Jesus is not about what you can do but about what Jesus has done. The entire Bible points humanity to their inability to bring about their own joy and salvation. Scripture is clear: by humbling yourself, admitting your inability and confessing Jesus as the Savior and Lord of your life, you will be saved. This is good news!

Is your salvation dependent upon your ability or His?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to do what I couldn't do. Help me live my life being led by Him.

DAY FIVE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

IN THE BEGINNING, when Adam sinned, God's good creation became broken. But God went to work again to bring His creation restoration and to make all things new through His Son Jesus. When Jesus saves you, His Spirit comes into your life and makes you new. He forgives you of your past. He gives you a new heart. He transforms your desires. He changes what you love. Allow Him to work in your life so that every day you choose to follow, trust and obey Jesus.

Do you choose to live your new life in Christ?

PRAY: Lord, continue to work in my life so that I choose to follow the new heart You have given me.

DAY SIX: PSALM 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

CULTURE CONTINUES TO VALUE THE TEMPORARY.

They place stock in things that will pass away. But there is no greater treasure in this life than to know God. And what an invitation you have when you pursue a relationship with Jesus! The closer you walk with Jesus, the more you can taste and see that the Lord is loving, kind, powerful, mighty, sovereign, glorious, praiseworthy, merciful and compassionate. Oh, that you would accept His invitation to experience His goodness!

When was the last time you tasted and saw the Lord's goodness?

PRAY: Lord, in Your grace and by the power of Your Spirit, open my eyes to taste and see Your goodness today.

DAY SEVEN: PSALM 63:3-5

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

YOU WERE CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE. This means that you were created to have a relationship with God and reflect God wherever you go. This also means that you need to know God to have a full life. You have an opportunity to praise the God of the universe today and His promise is that as you worship Him, He will give you everything your heart needs. Despite your circumstances, worshipping God will always result in a heart that is totally satisfied in the goodness of God.

Do you believe that God's love is better than life itself?

PRAY: Lord, teach me to find my satisfaction in You alone.

DAY EIGHT: PSALM 86:15

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

THIS CHARACTER LIST is one of the most used descriptions of God in the entire Bible. No matter your circumstances, situations, relationships and troubles, God doesn't change. He is compassionate: He cares for you! He is gracious: He forgives you! He is slow to anger: He is patient with you! He is abounding in love: He loves you! He is abounding in faithfulness: He will always be who He is!

Do you believe God never changes?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for never changing!

DAY NINE: JOHN 16:7-8

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.

CONVICTION OCCURS when you come face to face with your sin and admit your wrongdoing. One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit in your life is to convict you of your sin. When you are living in the ways of the world, you fail to see your sin as it is. You may try to justify your wrongs or minimize the offenses. But when you submit your life to God's leading and you begin to listen to the Spirit, you naturally see your sin as it is: an offense to a Holy God. It is only when you appropriately see your sin that you are able to turn away from it and pursue God's life in Jesus.

Do you listen for the Spirit's conviction?

PRAY: Lord, convict me of my sin and give me ears to hear the Spirit's correction.

DAY TEN: EPHESIANS 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS US of our sin, holds on to us until the final day, and fills us up so that we can be whom God has called us to be and do what He has called us to do. When you are saved, you are given the Holy Spirit to help you live the Christian life. Learn to stay in tune with the Spirit by humbling yourself and listening to His leading through His Word and His prompting. Furthermore, rest in the assurance that the Spirit is holding on to you because of Christ's work on the cross and not your own work. You didn't do anything to save yourself and you can't do anything to keep yourself saved.

Do you try and sustain your own salvation?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for holding on to me and always being faithful.

DAY ELEVEN: ROMANS 6:1-2

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

SOMETIMES THE TEACHING of God's free grace in the gospel can lead to the question: "Well, if I'm always forgiven, can't I just keep sinning because God is going to forgive me?" But Scripture clearly says that this line of thinking is the total opposite of a true understanding of the good news of Jesus! In Christ, you are dead to sin and alive in Jesus. This means your desire for sin should decrease as your love for Jesus increases. Every day is an opportunity to kill sin, mortify the flesh and walk humbly in Christ.

How can you kill your flesh today?

PRAY: Lord, remind me that sin is always seeking to kill me and help me live according to my life that is now with Christ.

DAY TWELVE: LUKE 9:23-24

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE is continually marked by humility. Life is not about you. If you want to follow Jesus, you must learn to kill your sinful desires, deny your selfishness, and own the responsibility of being a Christ follower. Though following Jesus often leads to a less glamorous life according to the world, it will always lead to a glorious life hidden with Christ on high. Remember that the world places its hope in faulty promises that will always fail them. Your hope is in a Savior who always makes good on His promises.

How are you denying yourself today?

PRAY: Lord, remind me that only Your way leads to life. Help me deny my ways and embrace Yours.

DAY THIRTEEN: ROMANS 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

ALL THE CHAPTERS LEADING UP TO THIS VERSE

in Romans explain the nature of the gospel: God demonstrated His love by sending His son Jesus and all those who call on Him receive no condemnation but have eternal life. But is the Christian life a waiting game after you are saved? No! You are called to love this God who saved you and devote the rest of your existence to His service. The more you love God, the more that love will fuel your worship and obedience to Him. Worship is the lifestyle of the redeemed.

How do you use your life to worship God?

PRAY: Lord, teach me to understand Your ways so that I may love You more, worship You more and obey You with my whole life.

DAY FOURTEEN: 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

THOSE WHO REGULARLY EXERCISE would tell you that physical fitness comes over time. The more consistently you work out and the more disciplined your regimen is, the more you will gain strength, endurance and improve your overall health. So, it is with pursuing godliness. The more you prioritize spiritual exercises like reading your Bible, prayer and church, the more you will grow stronger in your faith, persevere longer in trials and improve your overall spiritual health.

What is your spiritual workout regimen?

PRAY: Lord, make it my heart's desire to grow in my spiritual life by prioritizing godly pursuits.

DAY FIFTEEN: 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

SCRIPTURE IS LIKE A PARENT to God's children. First, the Bible teaches you the correct way to live and honor the Lord. Second, the Bible calls you out when you have strayed from His path. Third, the Bible corrects your mistakes and puts you back on track. Fourth, the Bible trains you to keep the correct way you were taught. You need God's Word consistently in your life so that you may be equipped for all the work God has called you to do.

How important is your Bible reading?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for giving us Your Word, that it shepherds us to follow You more closely.

DAY SIXTEEN: HEBREWS 4:12

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

TOO OFTEN, PEOPLE MEASURE their “good and bad” against other people. They may say something like, “At least I’m not as bad as so and so…” or, “At least I’m better than so and so…” The problem with this approach is that it creates a shifting morality that can justify a variety of human behaviors. God’s Word is the standard for living a God-honoring life. You must get before the Bible often because it reminds you that your actions, thoughts and attitudes are always before a holy God.

To whom do you try and measure your actions up against?

PRAY: Lord, convict me by Your standard and show me how to live in Your Word.

DAY SEVENTEEN: MATTHEW 7:7-8

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

ONE OF THE BEST ASPECTS of the Christian life is that you are no longer estranged from God. Rather, as you rest in the work of Jesus and His reconciliation, God allows you to approach His throne boldly and pray. In prayer, you have the ear of God. This is a wonderful thought: The God of the universe willingly listens to His creation! Though prayer can be intimidating, it is a beautiful reminder of God's accessibility and His kindness to act on your behalf and for His glory.

How often do you pray?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for always lending Your ear to me.

DAY EIGHTEEN: PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

IF YOU WERE TO STEP BACK from all your fears and anxieties, nearly all of them would find their root in your inability to control a situation or circumstance. There are so many uncertainties in life that cause a great amount of worry and trouble. Why? Because you fear what you can't control. But God commands you to take what you can't control and give it to Him. You have a big, sovereign God who holds all things in His hands. Cast your anxieties on Him and let His peace rule in your heart.

Where do you turn when you're anxious and stressed?

PRAY: Lord, I cast all of my concerns and worries on You because I know that You care for me, and You are the only One who can grant me peace.

DAY NINETEEN: ROMANS 12:11-12

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

THOUGH THIS WORLD BRINGS ITS OWN TROUBLES,

your fuel to keep pursuing the Lord is never too far out of reach. When life gets tough, you are called to keep following Jesus by remembering His promises and depending on His strength. As you seek to worship and serve Him in your life, be sure to find your joy and satisfaction in God alone. As you do, He will grant you patience in the hard times and His faithfulness will sustain you.

In tough times, do you find your strength in the Lord?

PRAY: Lord, give me strength to keep worshipping You and being obedient to You no matter what life may bring my way.

DAY TWENTY: HEBREWS 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

YOU WERE CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIPS. First, you were created to have a relationship with God. Second, you were created to have relationships with others. The Christian life was never intended to be an isolated endeavor. Rather, you are called to surround yourself with other believers, not because that saves you, but because they will hold you accountable and encourage you to be whom God has called you to be. Don't neglect the importance of and your need for other Christians.

How often do you surround yourself with other believers?

PRAY: Lord, surround me with others who will hold me accountable and help me walk closer with You.

DAY TWENTY-ONE: MATTHEW 22:37-40

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

JESUS SUMMARIZED THE ENTIRE LAW of God into two commands: Love God and love others. Much of the Old Testament is the story of how God’s people could not follow those two rules. Why? Because they needed a new heart and transformed desires. As Jesus forgives you of your sin, the Spirit also works in your life to help you obey these two commands. This means that your ability to love God and others resides in your dependence on Him. The more you stay connected to Him through His Word and prayer, the more He will reveal your wickedness, change your desires, and help you obey.

Do you depend on the Lord to help you obey?

PRAY: Lord, help me do what I cannot do. Transform my desires to love You and all those around me.

DAY TWENTY-TWO: ROMANS 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE WORLD LONGS FOR JOY. They seek it in every possible way and always end up dissatisfied. True joy is only found in Jesus. When you trust in Him, He promises to fill your heart and life with everything that will satisfy your soul. God's joy and peace are always accessible to you. Though life may seem overwhelming and peace may seem far off, run to the Lord, who promises to fill you with so much joy that it will overflow from your life.

Do you find your joy in Jesus?

PRAY: Lord, give me Your joy so that I may be an overflow of Your hope and peace.

DAY TWENTY-THREE: COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

WHEN YOU ARE SAVED, Jesus forgives you and He calls you to a life of forgiveness. You no longer forgive others out of convenience or only when you feel they deserve it. Your forgiveness is based on the forgiveness Jesus has given you. You can always model the love, kindness, gentleness and compassion of Jesus to those around you. As you interact with others today, see every interaction with others as an opportunity to display the grace of Jesus.

Does your forgiveness of others look like Jesus's forgiveness of you?

PRAY: Lord, help me forgive those around me like You have forgiven me.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

DON'T GET DISTRACTED by the wind and the waves of culture. Jesus must be the foundation of your life. Jesus must be the rock on which you build every thought, motivation and action. When you stand firm in Jesus, you can see every opportunity that comes your way as an opportunity to love Him and serve Him. Furthermore, you are able to see that your service and obedience to Jesus are not worthless but are worship to a worthy King.

What are some ways you can stand firm in Jesus today?

PRAY: Lord, as the waves of a sinful culture come crashing down around me, give me strength to stand firm and serve You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE: EPHESIANS 6:10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO STAND UP against the attacks of the enemy. But He has not left you empty-handed. He has given you His belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. God has given you everything you need to stand up and have victory in Christ Jesus. Don't try and fight in your own strength and protection. Rather, depend on Him and actively seek to put on His armor.

How often do you fight the enemy in your own strength and protection?

PRAY: Lord, remind me that the battles of this life aren't against flesh and blood. I need You to equip me to stand firm so I may have victory in You.

DAY TWENTY-SIX: ACTS 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

EVERY FOLLOWER OF JESUS has access to the power of God through the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The Spirit promises to give you the strength you need to not only obey, but also to testify to the love and grace of Jesus. You are called to be a witness to Jesus wherever you go. But in the gospel, you need to remember that God always equips His people to do what He calls them to do. As you seek to be obedient and represent Jesus well, go with the confidence of His power in your life.

Do you depend on the power of God to work in your life?

PRAY: Lord, help me depend on Your power and strength to live for You wherever I go.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN: EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

YOU HAVE VALUE AND PURPOSE in this life not because of what you've done but because of who created you. God created you with intention. You are God's handiwork. You live and function best when you are living according to His ways and bringing honor and glory to Him. Just as a clock is made to tell time, so you have been crafted to display the goodness of God in all that you do.

How can you live out your God-given purpose today?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for creating me with intention and purpose! Empower me to display Your work to those around me.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT: MATTHEW 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

THERE IS ONE CENTRAL VERB IN THIS TEXT: make disciples. This great commission is not a suggestion but a command for all believers to embrace. We live in a world that is lost and dying. Without the hope of Jesus, many people will live and die separated from God forever. You have a responsibility to be a light in a dark world, a city on a hill. And every step of the way, Jesus promises to come alongside of you as your strength, comfort and power.

Who do you know who needs Jesus?

PRAY: Lord, I pray for those around me who don't know You. Give me the wisdom, courage and boldness to share Your good news with them.

DAY TWENTY-NINE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD, so the church is His body. The Lord has created you with certain giftings and specific skills so that you may serve alongside other brothers and sisters in Christ. Just as there are so many body parts that make up a body, so there are so many ways to serve Jesus in the church. Don't waste your equipping! Whether you are a teacher or an encourager, whether you are young or old, whether you're a new believer or a seasoned believer: Every believer has a role to play in the church!

Where is God calling you to serve in His church?

PRAY: Lord, show me where I can serve in Your body.

DAY THIRTY: JOHN 13:14-15

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

JESUS IS OUR ULTIMATE EXAMPLE of servant leadership. The Lord of lords and the King of kings came down, took on flesh and served all of humanity to the point of death on a cross. You should have this same attitude in your interactions with others. If Jesus washed His disciples' feet, how much more should His servants serve those around them? God has surrounded you with unlimited opportunities to selflessly love those around you, like Jesus.

Who is God calling you to love today?

PRAY: Lord, open my eyes to see the needs of those around me and open my hands that I might serve them with Your love.

DAY THIRTY-ONE: JOHN 15:4

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

HOW DO YOU KEEP MOMENTUM in your Christian life? You must prioritize your relationship with Jesus! If you desire to bear the fruit of Christ, then you must stay connected to the root of Christ. There is no greater pursuit in this life than to learn to love your Savior more and more. Savor His grace and forgiveness. Get to know His kindness and compassion. Embrace His calling and equipping. Every moment of every day, you have an opportunity to stay connected to Jesus, and He promises to work in you so that you bear His fruit to the world.

How are you going to stay connected to Jesus?

PRAY: Lord, give me a heart that desires to stay connected to You!



Cottonwood Creek
— CHURCH —

1015 Sam Rayburn Tollway
Allen, Texas 75013

972.359.7777
cottonwoodcreek.org

© 2022 Cottonwood Creek Church in Allen, Texas. All rights reserved.