



DAY 1 EPHESIANS 1:15-21

1

Do you ever pray that your children will learn to share, be generous, and love others? How about that they get a good education, find productive jobs, and marry a kind, godly person? I know this has been my prayer. The apostle Paul planted churches in many places, and as a result, had many spiritual children. These believers dwelt in his heart and their care was on his mind. He shows us in this passage how he fervently prayed for his church family. He was thankful for them. He prayed they would up their game. Faith begins with trust in Jesus as Savior, but Paul wanted them to come to fully know God and His ways. He also wanted them to discover the calling on their lives and the power inherent in following Jesus. We can pray what Paul prayed, not only for others, but also for ourselves.

DAY 2 JAMES 2:14-26

2

Let's say you just bought a brand new car. You pull up to the gas station, fill the tank, and then jump in the driver's seat. But you never turn on the ignition. You're not going anywhere. The same is true of faith. We can be a brand new person in Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, but our faith goes nowhere without the key of obedience. Obeying God in thought, word, and deed reveals our faith to others. When we help someone in need, people see how Jesus would act. Faith and works go together. James also says that doing works perfects our faith. Every time we obey God and trust Him, our faith is strengthened. Has God given you an assignment? Step on the gas and go, because faith without works is dead.

DAY 3 1 JOHN 2:3-6

3

Christ comes to live in us when we are born again. But what does it mean for us to live in Him? I can picture Jesus living in me, but it's much more difficult to imagine myself residing in Jesus. How can this be? John outlines three steps. He says if I keep His commandments, I will know Him. If I keep His word, the love of God will be perfected in me. If I abide (live) in Him, I will walk like Him. Do you remember the popular phrase, WWJD which stands for "What would Jesus do?" This simple sentence carries a lot of weight. When we stop and think about how Jesus would act in any situation and respond accordingly, we are on our way to living in Him.

DAY PSALM 63:1-4

4

Legend has it that a Greek warrior ran with a message from Marathon to Athens without stopping. In his dying breath, he announced the defeat of the Persians. Our modern marathon was birthed from this myth. Can you imagine running twenty-six miles without a drink of water? A modern runner wouldn't dream of it. In this Psalm, David realizes the importance of thirst. He is in a wilderness place and recognizes that he needs water—his flesh longs for God in a dry and thirsty land. But how often do we run the marathon of life without drinking from the fountain of God's Word? David understood that spending time with God was the only way he could complete his mission. Like David, we must recognize our spiritual thirst and seek God daily.

DAY JEREMIAH 9:23-24

5

What's your favorite reality show? These shows are popular because they often reflect goals we wish we could accomplish. American Idol, Fixer Upper, and American Ninja Warrior are a few that come to mind. We can dream through the accomplishments of others. However, Jeremiah tells us that God doesn't want us to boast in our worldly achievements. God's desires are often different from ours. He delights in us when we seek Him. This pleases Him more than being a top executive, building your dream house, or earning your doctorate. He is pleased when people want to know and understand his lovingkindness, justice and righteousness. He says, if we want to boast, we should boast that we know Him and His ways. Let's make knowing Him our highest goal.

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