



## DAY 1 JEREMIAH 29:11-12

# 1

Ten years ago, I underwent surgery to give me better quality of life; instead it left me more debilitated. Because of the damage to my body, I lost my job, my house, my mobility, my health, and, most importantly, precious time with my children, family, and friends. I spent hours comparing the life I had now versus the active, carefree, productive life I once enjoyed. The constant self-pity drained my energy and left me in a deep depression. Then I turned my attention to God's promise and I found a new passion to follow His unique plan for my life. There are still times where I long for the days of my former self. But, when that happens, I shift my perspective from what I don't have to what God still has for me. Bow your head in prayer today and be thankful for your current situation. Interpret your circumstances by God's promises, not your expectations. Seek joy in God's sovereignty; He is the author of your life and has plans to prosper you!

## DAY 2 EPHESIANS 5:15-20

# 2

It is difficult being a Bible-believing Christian in today's self-gratifying society. We spend our days comparing ourselves to others based on appearance, success, wealth, and popularity. We find our worth in possessions, physical beauty, and acceptance. But God calls us to a different standard. In this passage, He shows us how we can "make the most of every opportunity" in these evil days. It begins with knowing God's will for us. We need to meditate on His Word and apply His wisdom to our lives. Next, we need to be Spirit-filled, joyfully spreading God's truth and love. Ours is a life of service to others, not an existence of self-service. Finally, we need to be thankful in all things and praise the Lord for our blessings. We must recognize that our lives have no meaning apart from Him. Turning our backs on God's ways is easy. Choose to walk in God's wisdom and do not be fooled by the temporal pleasures of this world. Remember, our true, eternal home is Heaven!

## DAY 3 JAMES 1:2-8

# 3

What did your future look like through your eyes at the age of 7? 18? 25? 50? The hopes and dreams for your future most likely changed as you got older. But, whatever your vision, it is most likely not the life you are living today. Perhaps your dream of the perfect spouse, fulfilling job, wonderful family, flawless appearance, and monetary wealth all faded as real life set in. Life doesn't always make sense and it rarely turns out exactly as you expected. But God has you right where He wants you. He puts you through trials so you can mature and grow in faith. God invites you to ask Him for clarity. Embrace the importance of your one-on-one relationship with God and ask Him for the understanding you need. Walk steady in the Lord's presence and have no doubt His promises are real. He has a glorious plan for you, even in your suffering and disappointment.

## DAY MICAH 6:8

4

Your neighbor bought a new car. Your cousin's son got accepted to medical school. Your co-worker got a huge raise. And your babysitter is getting married in a destination wedding in Hawaii. Meanwhile, your car won't start, your child received her third college rejection letter, you struggle to pay the bills, and your love life is abysmal. It is so easy to succumb to "the grass is always greener" mentality, especially in this social media era. Every "blip", "bleep", and "ding" you hear represents a tweet, post or picture of someone else's wonderful life experiences. But you need to keep in mind the filters - the tricks used to make things seem better than they actually are. Also, comparing discredits God's will and distracts from living the life He chose for you. Stop competing and start living as God illustrates in this verse - be fair, love mercy, and show humility. Only then will you find true contentment.

## DAY 1 PETER 2:15

5

Benjamin Franklin wrote, "None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing." Ants don't say anything, they "do". They preach by toiling for the betterment of their colony. In this passage, God is directing us to do the same. He is calling us to lead others to Christ through our example. That cannot happen when we become preoccupied with other's opinions of our lives. This trap leads to discontentment, jealousy, and self-loathing. God made us unique for a reason. He blessed us with different talents and special traits so we can work together to forward His Kingdom. Dealing with our own issues is difficult. Why waste time and energy wondering what others think of our lives? We need to put that energy into improving ourselves; work from the inside out. Trust God's will to seek unity, discipline, and unselfishness by embracing the marvelous differences that make you...YOU!

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