



PURPOSE

LIVE OUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS AND INVITE OTHERS INTO LIFE WITH HIM

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DEVOTION

GOD AS SAVIOR

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Devotion to God is a commitment to continually deepen our relationship with God and orient our lives around that priority.

ROMANS 3:23 ESV

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

PSALM 53:3 ESV

They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

JOHN 3:16-17 ESV

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

ROMANS 5:12-17 MSG

¹²⁻¹⁴ You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we’re in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn’t sin precisely as Adam did by

disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man’s sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God’s gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There’s no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man’s wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, absolute life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

We can grow in our devotion to God as we realize Jesus came to rescue us by standing in our place.

HEBREWS 10:11-18 MSG

¹¹⁻¹⁸ Every priest goes to work at the altar each day, offers the same old sacrifices year in, year out, and never makes a dent in the sin problem. As a priest, Christ made a single sacrifice for sins, and that was it! Then he sat down right beside God and waited for his enemies to cave in. It was a perfect sacrifice by a perfect person

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to perfect some very imperfect people. By that single offering, he did everything that needed to be done for everyone who takes part in the purifying process. The Holy Spirit confirms this:

This new plan I'm making with Israel isn't going to be written on paper, isn't going to be chiseled in stone; This time "I'm writing out the plan in them, carving it on the lining of their hearts." He concludes, I'll forever wipe the slate clean of their sins. Once sins are taken care of for good, there's no longer any need to offer sacrifices for them.

EXODUS 12:13 ESV

The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

JOHN 1:29 ESV

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

We can grow in our devotion to God as we embrace that Jesus died to save us from bondage to sin, and He rose from the grave to save us from death.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 ESV

For our sake He (God) made Him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him (Jesus) we might become the righteousness of God."

JOHN 15:3-5 ESV

³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

EPHESIANS 2:10 ESV

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

We can grow in our devotion to God as we live lives that acknowledge we have been saved from sin and death and for God's amazing purposes and life.

EPHESIANS 4:17-32 MSG

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion.

²⁰⁻²⁴ But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

²⁵ What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

²⁶⁻²⁷ Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

²⁸ Did you use to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work.

²⁹ Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.

³⁰ Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

³¹⁻³² Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

We can grow in our devotion to God as we step into what He has saved us for: a life of freedom that is marked with the character of Christ and lived for His purposes.

DEVOTIONAL CHALLENGE 4: "SAVED FROM/SAVED FOR"

Each day this week, let's note the following:

1. "Saved From" - What is an area of brokenness, sin, or a consequence of brokenness and sin that you have been "Saved From?" Give God thanks for this area of freedom.
2. "Saved For" - What is one purpose of God or aspect of the character of Christ that you have been "Saved For?" How can you step into this today? (Look to Ephesians 4 for ideas, and then try it.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does understanding God's substitutionary sacrifice for us through Christ lead to healthy self-examination? What feelings and thoughts does this truth create in you?
2. Knowing what God has rescued you from, what specific things do you think God is saving and rescuing you for? How are the from and for parts of your story related?
3. God has invited us into His ongoing work of rescuing people from sin and death and for good works. What good works could help others see and know God's sacrificial love for them?

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