

DEVOTIONAL

JUST GETTING STARTED LEARNING TO WALK WITH GOD

A 7-Day Devotional for new believers.

Purpose⁺
OVER PRETTY

A NEW BEGINNING

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away.
Behold, all things have become new."*

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

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Welcome!

You're not here by accident and your decision to follow Jesus marks the start of something **entirely new!** The Bible says that in Christ, we're made into **new creations**. That doesn't mean you become perfect overnight—it means your past no longer defines you, and your future is now rooted in **Him**.

Following Jesus doesn't erase your history, but it does redeem it. The shame, the guilt, and the mistakes don't get the final word anymore. **God does!** And He's writing a new chapter in your story, starting now!

You may still feel unsure. You might not "feel" new yet. That's okay—becoming new isn't about feelings, it's about **faith**. You've taken the first step. You've said **yes!** And that yes holds more power than you know!

This journey won't always be easy, but you're not alone. **God is with you** and He never backs out.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: _____

1. What part of your past are you most relieved to leave behind?
2. How does it feel to be told you're a new creation—even if you don't feel new yet?
3. What does starting fresh with God look like in your daily life right now?

WHO GOD REALLY IS

"Yahweh is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness."

— Psalm 103:8

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When you're new to faith, it's easy to assume God is harsh or disappointed; like He's constantly watching to see if you'll mess up. But Scripture paints a completely different picture! God isn't cold or distant—He's **compassionate**, **patient**, and overflowing with **love**.

You don't need to be afraid of Him. He's not looking for ways to punish you. He's longing for **relationship**. His love isn't like human love. It doesn't depend on what you do. It's constant, steady, and **free**.

If you've experienced judgment or shame in the name of religion before, take heart: that was *people*, not Jesus! The God of the Bible is the same One who ran to the prodigal son, wept with the grieving, and welcomed the broken. His character is **gentle** and **kind**.

The more you learn who He **really** is, the more your faith will grow!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: _____

1. What have you previously believed about God that may not be true?
2. How does knowing He's patient and loving change the way you approach Him?
3. What's one way you can begin to get to know God more personally?

WHAT FAITH LOOKS LIKE

"Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen."

— Hebrews 11:1

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Faith isn't about having it all figured out; it's about **trusting God**, even when you don't see the full picture. And when you're just starting out, that can feel overwhelming. You may wonder if you're doing it right, or if you're "spiritual enough." But real faith starts small and grows over time!

You don't need to feel spiritual to be faithful. Faith shows up in the quiet moments... when you choose to pray even if it feels awkward, or open your Bible when it doesn't make sense yet. It's not about hype or emotion. It's about **trust**.

God honors even the smallest steps. He's not grading your performance, He's walking with you as you grow. Some days, faith will feel strong. Other days, it won't. But what matters is that you **keep showing up**.

You're not building faith alone. God is helping you from the inside out!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: _____

1. What does "faith" mean to you personally?
2. Where in your life is it hard to trust God right now?
3. What's one small way you can practice faith today?

TALKING TO GOD

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving"

— Colossians 4:2

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Prayer can be intimidating when you're new to it. You might wonder if you're doing it right, or what you're supposed to say. But here's the truth: prayer isn't a script—**it's a conversation**. It's less about formality and more about **honesty**.

You can talk to God the same way you'd talk to a trusted friend—tell Him what's on your mind, thank Him for the good, ask Him for help, and cry when you need to. He isn't looking for perfect words, He's looking for a **willing heart**.

You don't have to pray long—you just have to pray **real**. Even a few honest words whispered during your day count. God hears you. He listens. And He responds. Not always in ways you expect, but always with **love**.

Prayer isn't about checking a box. It's about building closeness. Start small and stay consistent. You'll be surprised at how that connection grows!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: _____

2. How would you describe your current communication with God?

2. What holds you back from praying more openly or consistently?

3. What's something you want to talk to God about today—even if it's messy?

READING THE BIBLE

"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path."

— Psalm 119:105

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The Bible can feel big and confusing, especially when you're just starting out, but don't let that stop you! This book is **alive**! It's how God speaks, teaches, and reminds you of who *He is* and who *you are*.

As you dive in, remember this: reading the Bible isn't about information—it's about **transformation**. It realigns your heart, renews your mind, and reminds you that **you're not alone** in this life.

You don't have to read it all at once—you don't even have to understand everything at first. Start small with a few verses at a time. Begin with a Gospel (like John or Luke) and ask God to help you understand what you're reading.

Don't give up just because it feels slow or unfamiliar. **It's okay to take your time!** The more you read, the more you'll see God's heart and yourself through His eyes!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: _____

1. What's made the Bible feel overwhelming or distant to you?
2. What's one book or verse you want to explore more deeply?
3. How can you create a simple routine for reading Scripture that feels doable?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MESS UP

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

— 1 John 1:9

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Let's be honest, you're gonna mess up—we all do! Following Jesus doesn't mean you suddenly become flawless. It means you now have a Savior who **walks with you, forgives you, and helps you grow!**

The enemy loves to whisper that when you mess up, you've "ruined it." He tries to convince you that you should be ashamed, or that you've let God down. But shame is **never** from God. While satan tries to make you hide behind shame, God uses conviction to gently call you into change.

When those intrusive thoughts hit, remember: God's forgiveness is **immediate, real, and complete**. When you bring your mistakes to Him, He doesn't rub them in—**He wipes them clean**. You don't have to run from Him. When you fall, **run to Him!**

Grace isn't a one-time offer. It's the foundation you get to stand on **every** day!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: _____

1. How do you normally respond when you mess up spiritually?
2. What's the difference between conviction and shame?
3. What would it look like to bring your failure to God today and trust His forgiveness?

LIVING IT OUT

"Even so, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

— Matthew 5:16

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Faith isn't just something you believe... it's something you **live**. That doesn't mean you need to preach on a stage or memorize every verse. It means you let your life **reflect the One who changed it**.

People will notice the peace in your voice, the kindness in your actions, and the joy that doesn't make sense. You're not called to be perfect. You're called to be **different**—in a way that points to Jesus!

You won't get everything right all the time—and you don't need to pretend to. As you grow in your relationship with God, others will notice and they'll be drawn to the light in you—even if they don't fully understand it.

Your story **matters**. Your faith is **real**. And this is **just the beginning**.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: _____

1. What's one way your life has already changed since beginning this journey?
2. How can you reflect Jesus in your relationships, work, or daily habits?
3. Who in your life needs to hear the hope you've started to discover?