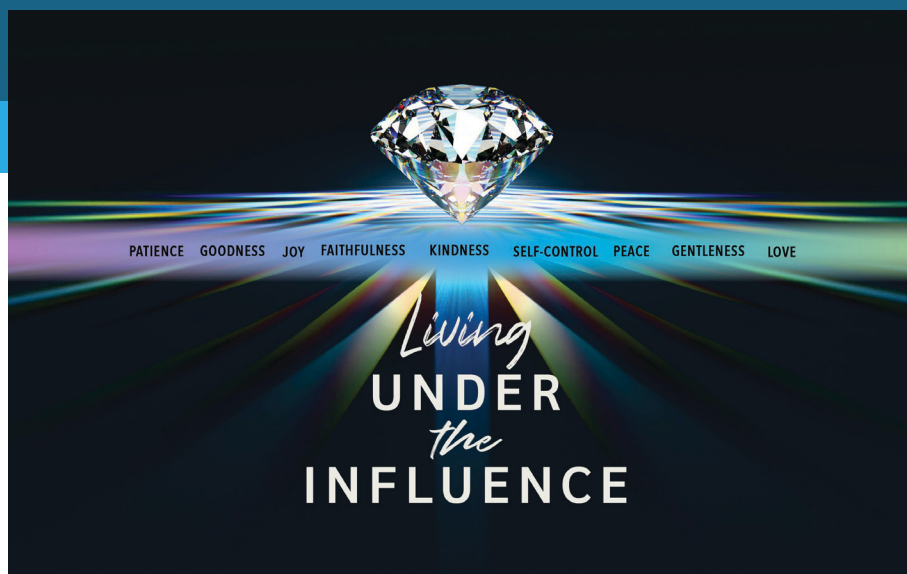


DAILY DEVOTIONAL

A 5-Day Reflection Guide

Joy



SERMON SERIES:
LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

WEEK & TOPIC:
WEEK 4 / FAITHFULNESS

DATES:
JULY 27–31, 2026

This Week's Big Idea

Faithfulness is love that keeps showing up. It is steadfast obedience over time, proving that our confidence is not in our feelings but in God's faithfulness working through us. Faithfulness is the receipt that we remain connected to the Vine, especially when no one is watching and nothing seems to be changing.

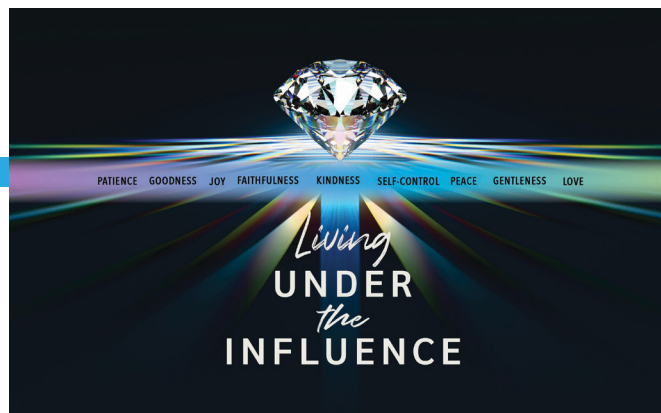
LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Day 1: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 2:13 (NLT) “If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny who He is.”

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT) “Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations...”



TODAY'S SEED

If you've been walking with us through this series, you've probably noticed something. Every fruit begins with God. Patience begins because God can be trusted. Goodness begins because God is good. Joy begins because God's presence changes everything. Now we come to faithfulness. But before we ask whether we are faithful, we have to answer a more important question.

Is God faithful? The Bible answers that question with an overwhelming “Yes.” Not because we've always been faithful, but because God cannot be anything else. Paul writes something remarkable to Timothy: “If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful.” He

doesn't say God remains faithful because we've earned it. He says God remains faithful because He cannot deny who He is. Faithfulness isn't simply something God does. Faithfulness is His nature.

I would imagine that over the course of your life there have been times when your faith was stronger than it was at other times. There were times when your faith was strong, and times that your faith drifted. Yet through every season, God remained exactly who He has always been.

Faithful. He never stopped pursuing you, or loving you. He never stopped keeping His promises, and he never

stopped extending grace.

This is where our faithfulness begins. Not with determination, or discipline, or even with desire. It begins by standing in awe of a God who has never broken His Word. When we truly understand His faithfulness, something changes. We stop striving to prove ourselves, and instead, we begin responding to His love.

The Christian life isn't trying to become someone God might accept, it's learning to reflect the God who has already accepted us in Christ. The more clearly we see His faithfulness, the more naturally faithfulness begins to grow in us.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

In the New Testament, the Greek word for faithfulness is *pistis* (πίστις). Although it is often translated faith, the word carries a much richer meaning. Depending on the context, it can describe faith, trust, faithfulness, reliability, steadfastness, or fidelity. That means the fruit of faithfulness isn't merely believing the right things about God.

When Paul writes, “If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful,” he uses a form of the word *pistos*, meaning trustworthy, dependable, faithful. The reason God remains faithful isn't because He overlooks sin or lowers His standards. It's because He cannot act contrary to His own nature.

Throughout Scripture, God's faithfulness is tied to His covenant. Human beings repeatedly broke their promises, yet God continually kept His. His faithfulness didn't depend on Israel's consistency—it depended on His character.

DON'T MISS THIS

Our faithfulness is a response to God's faithfulness—not a requirement for earning it.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Looking back over your life, where have you seen God's faithfulness even when you didn't recognize it at the time?
2. Is there an area where you've been trying to earn God's approval instead of resting in His faithfulness?
3. How does knowing that faithfulness is God's nature change the way you think about your relationship with Him?
4. Who first reflected God's faithfulness to you, helping you see what God is like?

WATER THE SEED

Make a list of five specific ways God has been faithful to you. It doesn't matter if it's dramatic or ordinary. Expressing gratitude today strengthens our confidence in His faithfulness for tomorrow.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Father, Thank You for being faithful in every season of my life. Thank You for remaining constant when everything around me seemed uncertain, and for never abandoning me even when I wandered. Forgive me for the times I've doubted Your faithfulness or believed Your love depended on my performance. Teach me to rest in Your unchanging character and to trust that every promise You have made is secure. Holy Spirit, let Your faithfulness become visible in me. Make me dependable, steadfast, trustworthy, and true—not so people will think highly of me, but so they will see a reflection of the God who has always been faithful. In Jesus' name, Amen.

In Jesus' name,

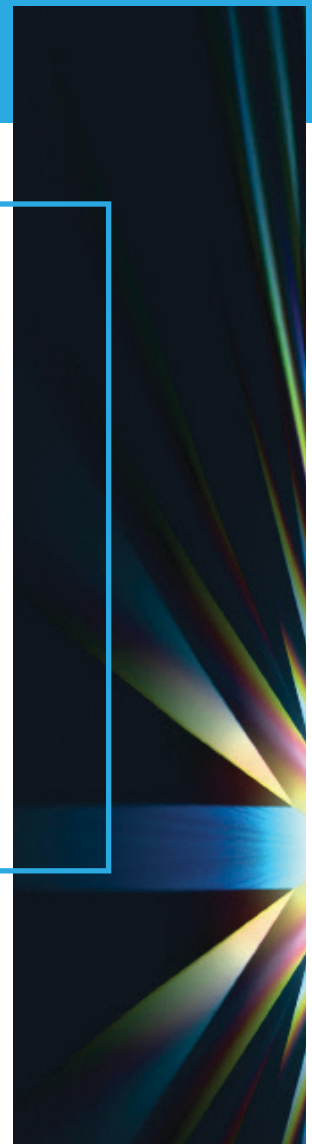
Amen.

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PROCESS. THE FRUIT IS COMING.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Day Two – Faithful in Little

Jesus taught that the greatest opportunities are often entrusted to those who prove faithful in the smallest assignments. What if the breakthrough you've been praying for is connected to the faithfulness you're practicing today?



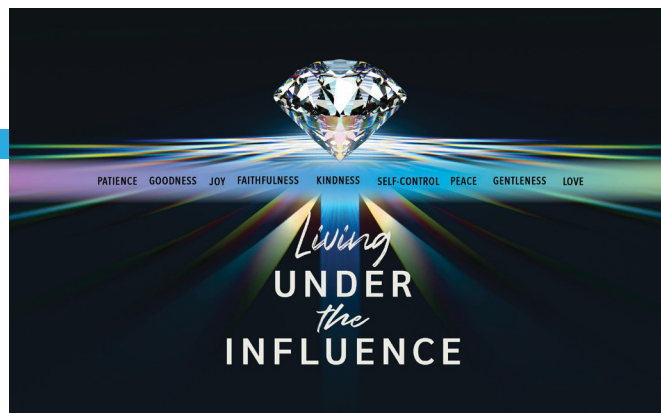
LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Day 2: Faithful in Little

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Luke 16:10 (NLT) “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.”

Matthew 25:21 (NLT) “Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small



TODAY'S SEED

Most of us dream about the “big moments.” The promotion, or the breakthrough. The day God finally opens the door we’ve been praying about. But God often seems far more interested in something else. He’s interested in the little moments. The ordinary Tuesday. The unnoticed act of obedience. The phone call no one knows you made. The prayer no one heard you pray. The promise you quietly kept. Jesus taught that faithfulness doesn’t begin when we’re entrusted with much. It begins with little. That’s encouraging because every one of us has “little things” today.

Maybe it’s a conversation, or a responsibility. A choice to tell the truth, or a decision to keep showing up. We sometimes imagine that if God would only give us a bigger assignment, we’d become more faithful. Jesus turns that thinking upside down.

He says our current assignment is revealing how we’ll handle the next one.

Faithfulness isn’t waiting for a larger opportunity. Faithfulness is honoring God with today’s opportunity. Think about David. Before he stood before Goliath, he faithfully watched sheep. Before Joseph governed Egypt, he

faithfully managed a prison. Before Esther stood before a king, she faithfully walked through years of quiet preparation. Before the disciples preached to thousands, they faithfully followed Jesus.

None of those seasons felt spectacular. But every one of them mattered. Perhaps the greatest preparation for tomorrow’s calling is today’s quiet obedience. Don’t underestimate the value of the ordinary. God rarely skips the small things. He uses them to shape people He can trust with greater things. The little things are never little to God. They are where faithfulness grows.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

In Luke 16, Jesus contrasts “little” with “much.” The Greek word translated little is *elachistos* (ἐλάχιστος), meaning very small, least, insignificant, or seemingly unimportant. Jesus intentionally chooses a word that describes what people often overlook. Yet in God’s Kingdom, the “least” becomes the proving ground for the “greater.” Throughout Scripture, this pattern appears repeatedly. David learned leadership while caring for sheep. Moses spent forty years tending another man’s flock before leading Israel. Even Jesus lived approximately thirty years in relative obscurity before beginning His public ministry. God isn’t impressed by our ability to handle the extraordinary while neglecting the ordinary. He watches what we do with everyday opportunities because they reveal the true condition of our hearts.

DON'T MISS THIS

God measures faithfulness differently than we measure success. We celebrate platforms. God celebrates perseverance.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. What “little thing” has God entrusted to you right now?
2. Are there ordinary responsibilities you’ve begun to overlook because they don’t seem significant?
3. When have you seen God use a season of small beginnings to prepare you for something greater?
4. If Jesus evaluated your faithfulness today, what ordinary habits would He commend?

WATER THE SEED

Today, choose one small responsibility you’ve been tempted to rush, avoid, or neglect. Do it with excellence, not because someone is watching, do it unto the Lord. Faithfulness is often built one unnoticed decision at a time.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Father, Thank You for reminding me that nothing entrusted to me is insignificant. Forgive me for chasing bigger opportunities while overlooking the small responsibilities You’ve already placed in my hands. Help me become faithful in the ordinary moments of life. Teach me to serve with integrity, to keep my word, to honor my commitments, and to obey You even when no one notices. Holy Spirit, form within me a steadfast heart that values faithfulness more than recognition. May I learn to see every small act of obedience as another opportunity to reflect Your character. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

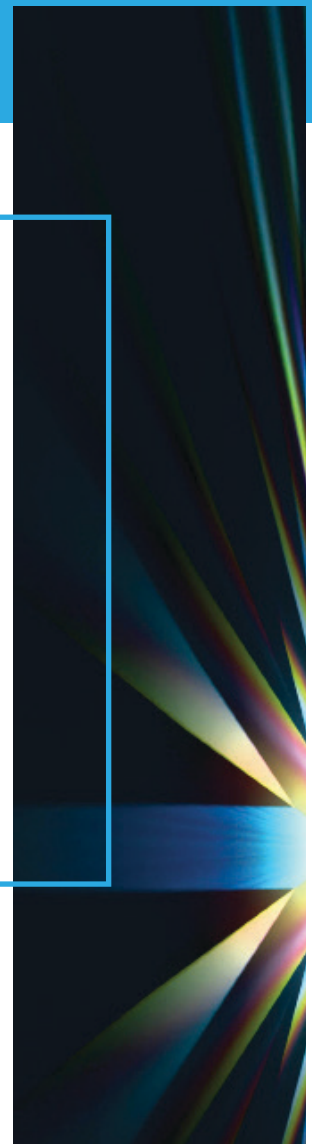
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LOOKING AHEAD

Day Three – Stronger Than Feelings

What keeps someone faithful when the excitement fades, the emotions cool, and obedience becomes costly? Tomorrow we’ll discover why true faithfulness isn’t sustained by feelings—it is sustained by freedom and love.



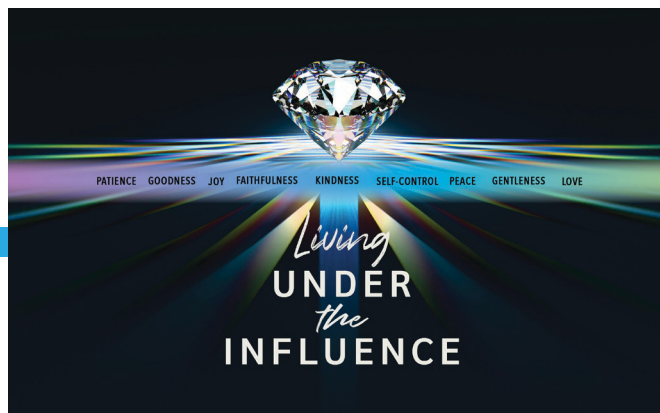
LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Day 3: Faithfulness **Is Love That Keeps** **Showing Up**

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:22–23 (NLT) “The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.”

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”



TODAY'S SEED

There are two kinds of people who make promises. Those who are quick to make them, and those who keep them. The first is impressive, but the second one is faithful. Our culture likes to celebrate beginnings with big announcements, or bold declarations. But God often celebrates something much quieter. Consistency. Showing up. Again, and again, and again.

Faithfulness isn't flashy. It's steady. It's choosing to love your spouse when the honeymoon feelings have faded. It's continuing to pray when you haven't yet seen the answer. It's serving when no one notices. It's opening your Bible

on an ordinary Wednesday morning. It's worshipping even when life feels heavy. It's continuing to trust God when circumstances haven't changed.

That's why faithfulness is one of the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit isn't producing occasional moments of inspiration. He's producing a life that can be trusted. Paul encourages the Galatian believers, “Don't grow weary in doing good.” Why? Because weariness tempts us to quit.

But Faithfulness encourages us to continue.

One of the most beautiful characteristics of God is that He never wakes up and decides not to be Himself. He doesn't love us on Monday and not on Tuesday. He doesn't forgive or keep His promises only when He's in a good mood. He simply remains who He has always been. Faithful.

As His Spirit forms Christ within us, that same consistency begins to grow in us. Little by little, choice by choice, day after day and eventually, faithfulness becomes who we are. Not because life is easy, but because we've learned to remain connected to the One who never changes.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

When Paul writes, “Do not grow weary in doing good,” the Greek verb translated grow weary is *ekkake* (ἐγκακέω). It means to lose heart, become discouraged, or give up because of difficulty. Paul isn't warning against physical exhaustion. He's addressing spiritual discouragement. The temptation to quietly stop doing what God has called us to do because we haven't yet seen the results. Notice the promise that follows: “At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Paul intentionally returns to agricultural imagery. Farmers don't plant seed one day and harvest the next. They continue watering, cultivating, and trusting that growth is taking place beneath the surface.

Faithfulness is much the same. Every unseen act of obedience is another seed planted. Every promise kept strengthens the roots. Every quiet “yes” to God prepares the harvest.

DON'T MISS THIS

Faithfulness isn't measured by how spectacular your moments are. It's measured by how consistently you keep showing up.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Where in your life are you most tempted to grow weary?
2. Is there an area where God is asking you simply to keep showing up?
3. What promises or commitments has God called you to remain faithful to?
4. How has God's consistency encouraged you during seasons when your own strength felt weak?

WATER THE SEED

Today, choose one commitment you've made to God or to someone else, and honor it intentionally. Not because you feel like it, but because faithfulness grows every time love chooses commitment over convenience.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Father, Thank You for never giving up on me. Thank You for loving me with a faithfulness that never depends on my performance or changing emotions. Teach me to become the kind of person who keeps showing up. Strengthen me when I grow weary. Remind me that every act of obedience matters, even when no one notices. Holy Spirit, grow within me a steadfast heart that reflects Your consistency. Help me to remain faithful in my family, my friendships, my work, my church, and my walk with You. May my life become a testimony that Your faithfulness is alive within me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

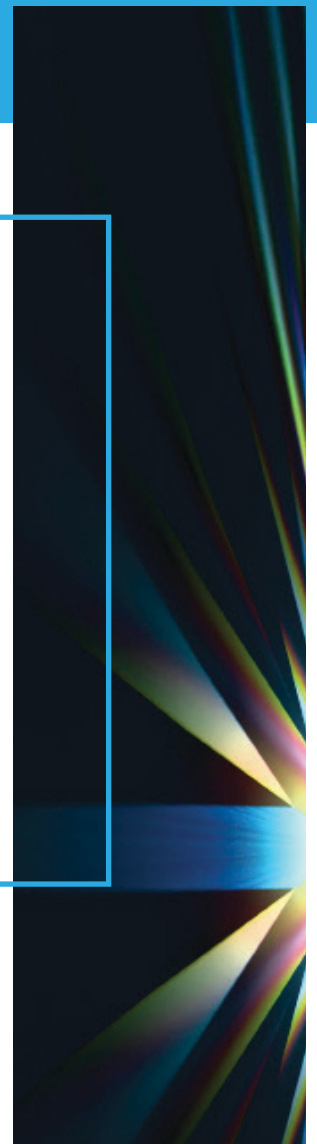
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LOOKING AHEAD

Day Four – Faithfulness Reflects the Father

People don't just hear about God's faithfulness through our words—they experience it through our lives. Tomorrow we'll discover why a faithful life becomes one of the clearest pictures of our faithful God.



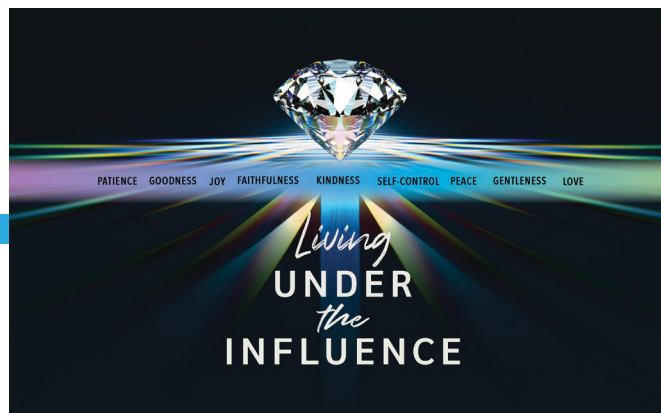
LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Day 4: Faithfulness Reflects the Father

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:16 (NLT) “In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV) “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”



TODAY'S SEED

Think about the people who have had the greatest influence on your life. Chances are, you don't remember them because they were the most talented, the funniest, or the smartest. You remember them because they were dependable. They kept showing up, loving, serving, maybe they kept believing in you. Long after you've forgotten what they said, you remember who they were.

That's the power of faithfulness. Faithfulness builds trust, and trust opens hearts. One of the greatest compliments someone can receive isn't, "They're incredibly gifted." but, "If they say they'll be there...they'll be

there." "If they make a promise...they keep it." "You can count on them."

Those are the very things Scripture says about God. He keeps His promises, He never leaves, He never changes, He can always be trusted. When the Holy Spirit produces faithfulness in us, people begin to experience a glimpse of God's character. That's why Paul tells the Corinthians that stewards are required to be found faithful. Notice he doesn't say successful, or impressive, or famous, but faithful.

God measures differently than we do. We often measure influence by visibility, but God measures influence

by dependability. The world says, "Be extraordinary." God says, "Be faithful." That may not sound exciting. But faithful people quietly change the world. Parents who faithfully pray, volunteers who faithfully serve, employees who faithfully work with integrity, friends who faithfully stand beside someone in hardship. Often those acts never make headlines, but every one of them reflects the Father. People don't simply hear about God's faithfulness through our words, they experience it through our lives. And every time they do, the Father is glorified.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Paul writes that it is "required" of stewards that they be found faithful. The Greek word for steward is *oikonomos* (οἰκονόμος), literally meaning the manager of another person's household. A steward didn't own the estate, he managed it on behalf of the owner. Everything entrusted to him belonged to someone else. That's a powerful picture for believers. Our time, gifts, abilities, finances, or our influence. Ultimately none of them belong to us, we're stewards.

And notice that the owner didn't look for, brilliance, creativity or popularity, but faithfulness. God isn't asking us to be something we're not, He's asking us to faithfully steward what He's already entrusted to us.

DON'T MISS THIS

God won't ask whether you became someone else. He'll ask whether you faithfully stewarded what He gave you.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Who has demonstrated faithfulness to you in a way that helped you understand God's character?
2. What has God entrusted to your care right now?
3. If people described your life with one word, would "faithful" be one of them?
4. In what area could greater faithfulness become a stronger witness for Christ?

WATER THE SEED

Today, intentionally keep one promise. Maybe it's returning a phone call, being on time, or finishing something on your "to-do" list. Treat that simple act as an opportunity to reflect the Father's faithfulness.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Father, Thank You for trusting me with the life You've given me. Everything I have is a gift from You, and I want to steward it well. Help me become known as someone who can be trusted because I reflect Your faithfulness. Guard me from chasing recognition while neglecting reliability. Teach me that faithfulness in ordinary moments often has extraordinary influence. Holy Spirit, shape my character so that the people around me don't simply hear me talk about You—they experience Your faithfulness through the way I live. In Jesus' name, Amen.

In Jesus' name,

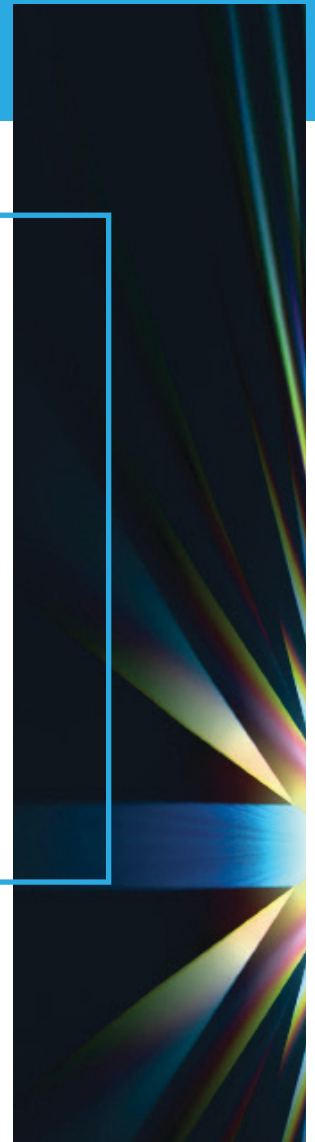
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LOOKING AHEAD

Day Five – Well Done

At the end of life, there is one commendation every follower of Jesus longs to hear: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Tomorrow we'll discover why God values faithfulness more than fame, influence, or achievement—and why the greatest reward belongs to those who simply kept showing up.



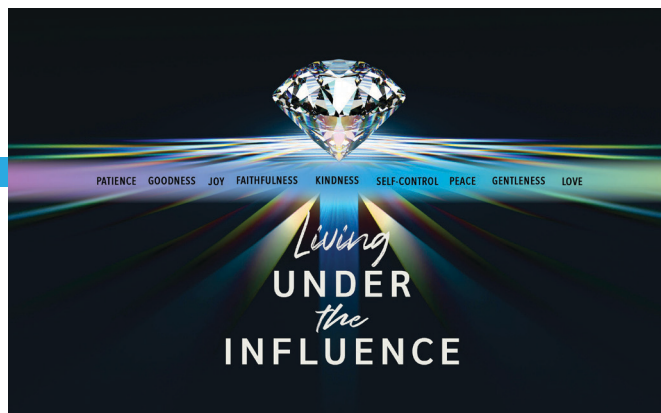
LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Day 5: Well Done

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:21 (NLT) “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’”

John 15:5 (NLT) “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.”



TODAY'S SEED

If someone asked you, “What does a successful Christian look like?” How would you answer? Would you think about a pastor leading thousands? A missionary serving overseas? A worship leader? An author? A ministry that reaches millions? None of those things are bad.

But notice something remarkable. When Jesus described the day we all long for, He didn’t say, “Well done, famous servant.” He didn’t say, “Well done, influential servant.” He didn’t even say, “Well done, successful servant.” He said, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” That tells us something important about the Kingdom. God celebrates different things than

we do. We often measure life by accomplishments. God measures life by faithfulness. Were you faithful with your family? Were you faithful with your words? Were you faithful when no one was watching? Were you faithful with what I entrusted to you? Those questions have echoed through this entire week.

Faithfulness isn’t proven in one extraordinary moment. It’s revealed through thousands of ordinary ones. Every prayer. Every act of obedience. Every promise kept. Every unseen sacrifice. Every quiet “yes” to God. Taken together, they become the receipt of a life that remained connected to the Vine. That’s why

Jesus ties fruitfulness to abiding. The branch doesn’t strain to produce grapes. It simply remains connected. The fruit becomes the evidence that the connection is real.

Faithfulness works the same way. We don’t wake up one morning and decide to become faithful. Faithfulness grows every day we continue abiding in Christ. One day we’ll stand before Him. On that day, I don’t believe we’ll regret the opportunities we didn’t receive. Or the recognition we never gained. Or the applause we never heard. We’ll simply want to know one thing. Did I remain? Did I stay connected? Did I faithfully steward the life You gave me?

BENEATH THE SURFACE

In Matthew 25, the word faithful is the Greek *pistos* (πιστός), meaning trustworthy, dependable, reliable, worthy of confidence. Notice what the Master commends. He doesn’t praise the servant’s intelligence. His creativity. His charisma. Or even the size of his return. He praises his faithfulness. In the ancient world, servants were entrusted with resources that belonged to the master. Their success wasn’t measured by ownership but by stewardship. The same is true for us. Everything we have—our gifts, relationships, influence, time, and opportunities—has been entrusted to us by God. Our calling isn’t to compare our assignment with someone else’s. It’s to faithfully steward what He has placed in our hands.

DON'T MISS THIS

God won’t compare your assignment to someone else’s. He’ll ask whether you were faithful with yours.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Looking back over this week, what has God taught you about faithfulness?
2. Is there an area where you've been chasing success more than faithfulness?
3. What has God entrusted to you that deserves renewed faithfulness this week?
4. If you stood before Jesus today, what part of your life would you most want Him to find faithful?
5. What is one practical commitment you'll make as a result of this week's devotional?

WATER THE SEED

Today, choose one simple act of faithfulness. Call the person. Keep the promise. Pray the prayer. Serve without being noticed. Finish what you started. Then do it as an act of worship—not to earn God's approval, but because you've already received it. Remember, faithfulness grows one obedient step at a time.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Today, choose one simple act of faithfulness. Call the person. Keep the promise. Pray the prayer. Serve without being noticed. Finish what you started. Then do it as an act of worship—not to earn God's approval, but because you've already received it. Remember, faithfulness grows one obedient step at a time.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

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This week you've discovered that faithfulness begins with the faithfulness of God. You've learned that it is cultivated in the ordinary, strengthened through consistent commitment, and displayed as a reflection of the Father's character.

Most importantly, you've seen that faithfulness isn't about earning God's favor—it's about remaining connected to Christ, allowing His steadfast character to become visible through your life. As you continue this journey, remember: the fruit of the Spirit isn't a collection of isolated virtues. It's one beautiful portrait of Jesus being formed in us. Each week's fruit prepares the way for the next.

