

## 2026-02-18 5 Day Devotional

### 5-Day Devotional: When Suffering Meets Faith

#### Day 1: Beyond Self-Righteousness

Reading: Philippians 3:7-14

Devotional: Paul's words challenge our tendency to measure spiritual worth by accomplishments. Like Job, we can become trapped in listing our good deeds, believing they earn God's favor. Paul calls his impressive credentials "dung" compared to knowing Christ. This isn't about devaluing good works, but about examining our motivation. Are we serving to gain credit or out of genuine love? Today, inventory your spiritual resume. What trophies are you still displaying? What accomplishments do you secretly hope will impress God? The freedom Paul discovered came from releasing his grip on self-righteousness and pressing forward to know Christ more deeply. Maturity means forgetting what lies behind—not our sins necessarily, but our achievements—and straining toward the goal of Christ himself.

Reflection: What accomplishment or good deed am I holding onto as proof of my worthiness before God?

#### Day 2: The Power of Speaking to God

Reading: Matthew 8:5-13

Devotional: The centurion understood something profound: Jesus only needed to "say the word." When we pray for others, especially those suffering, we're not begging an reluctant deity. We're partnering with the God who spoke creation into existence. Everything responds to His voice—except sometimes us. Job's story reveals how suffering can make us question God's responsiveness, but the centurion's faith reminds us that God's power isn't diminished by our circumstances. Today, approach prayer with renewed confidence. You're not trying to convince God to care; you're aligning with His compassionate nature. When you intercede for someone sick or hurting, remember: He can speak healing, comfort, or strength into

existence. Your humble petition becomes that lightning rod for heaven's power.

Reflection: Who needs me to be their "lightning rod" of prayer today?

Day 3: Grieving for the Poor

Reading: James 2:14-17; Job 30:25

Devotional: Job asked a penetrating question: "Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?" This moves beyond feeling sorry or avoiding judgment. It's about letting your heart break for what breaks God's heart. Job didn't just help the poor; he grieved with them, tasted the salt of their tears. His compassion was active and personal. Today's challenge isn't simply to avoid condemning the less fortunate, but to genuinely grieve for them. Can you weep for someone you don't know? Will you let their suffering touch your heart? Faith without works is dead, but works without genuine compassion can become self-righteous scorekeeping. Ask God to give you His heart for the overlooked, the struggling, the poor—not to earn points, but because love compels you.

Reflection: When did I last genuinely grieve for someone in need rather than just feeling sorry for them?

Day 4: Planning for Suffering

Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Devotional: "Don't be surprised by the fiery ordeal," Peter warns. Yet we are surprised, aren't it? We presume that goodness guarantees comfort, that faith ensures smooth sailing. Job's mistake wasn't his righteousness but his presumption that it would protect him from suffering. If we don't plan for suffering, suffering will handle us. This doesn't mean living in fear or pessimism, but in realistic faith. Jesus promised tribulation in this world. Paul wanted to share in Christ's sufferings. Planning means deciding now: When trials come, will I trust God's character even when I don't understand His

ways? Will I worship Him when my harp is tuned to mourning? Today, establish your spiritual foundation before the storm. Know what you believe about God's goodness, sovereignty, and love—because those convictions will anchor you when everything else shakes.

Reflection: What is my plan for maintaining faith when suffering comes unexpectedly?

Day 5: Knowing God in the Dark

Reading: Job 42:1-6; Psalm 139:7-12

Devotional: Job's journey ended not with answers but with encounter. After all his questions, defenses, and complaints, God showed up and Job responded: "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." Suffering has a way of revealing whether we truly know God or just know about Him. In our darkest moments, we discover if our faith is built on blessings or on God Himself. Paul's passion was singular: "I want to know Christ." Not just understand doctrine, not just follow rules, but actually know Him—His power, His presence, even fellowship in His sufferings. Today, ask yourself: Do I know God, or do I just know the benefits of knowing Him? Darkness can become the place of deepest intimacy if we stop demanding explanations and start seeking His face. He is present in your pain.

Reflection: What has suffering revealed about my relationship with God—do I truly know Him or just His blessings?