

Devotional guide based August 10th Sermon: On To Maturity

Day 1: Following Christ, Not Men: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Devotional: Paul admonished the Corinthians for their immaturity in following human leaders rather than Christ. As believers, we must be careful not to elevate any teacher or preacher above Jesus. Examine your heart today. While we can certainly learn from godly mentors, our ultimate allegiance must be to Christ alone. Ask God to help you discern truth from error and to keep your focus squarely on Jesus.

Day 2: Christ as Our Foundation: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Devotional: Paul resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. In a world full of competing ideologies and charismatic leaders, we're called to build our lives on Christ alone. Examine your life - what foundations are you building upon? Are there areas where you've allowed other influences to supersede Christ's teachings? Today, recommit to making Jesus the cornerstone of your faith, decisions, and actions. How can you more fully center your life on Christ?

Day 3: The Wisdom of God vs. Worldly Wisdom: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 Devotional: In a world that often prioritizes human wisdom and achievement, we are called to seek God's wisdom. This divine wisdom may seem foolish to the world, but it is the key to understanding God's plan for our lives and for creation. Reflect on areas where you might be relying more on worldly wisdom than on God's wisdom. Are there decisions or situations in your life where you need to seek God's perspective rather than human understanding? Today, commit to pursuing God's wisdom through prayer, Scripture study, and seeking counsel from mature believers. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you discernment to distinguish between godly wisdom and worldly thinking.

Day 4: Unity in the Body of Christ: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Devotional: Paul's concern about divisions in the Corinthian church is still relevant today. As believers, we are called to unity in Christ, not allegiance to human leaders or denominations. Are there any prejudices or preferences that you need to set aside for the sake of unity? Remember, our primary identity is in Christ, not in any human teacher or tradition. Today, pray for unity among believers and look for ways to build bridges with fellow Christians, focusing on what unites us.

Day 5: Living as Salt and Light: Matthew 5:13-16 Devotional: As followers of Christ, we are called to be "thermostats" in the world, not merely "thermometers." We are to influence our surroundings with the love and truth of Christ, rather than simply adapting to the culture around us. Reflect on your interactions with others. Are you merely reflecting the values and attitudes of those around you, or are you actively bringing the presence of Christ into these spaces? Today, ask God to show you specific ways you can be salt and light in your sphere of influence. It might be through an act of kindness, speaking truth in love, or standing firm in your faith when challenged. Remember, even small actions can have a significant impact when empowered by the Holy Spirit.