

FIRST things FIRST

Daily Devotionals

for August 4-10, 2025

Devotions prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

Monday, August 4 **The Power of Gentle Words**

Read Scripture: Proverbs 15:1-4

Just like James encourages believers to be “slow to speak and slow to become angry,” Proverbs reminds us that our words carry the power to help and to hurt. When life throws you those tough moments, a gentle response is not being weak, it is self-control. Gentleness doesn't mean we avoid the truth; it means we speak the truth in love. We're often quick to react and slow to understand. But when we pause, pray, and respond with gentleness, we can bring peace into the times that need it the most.

Prayer: Lord, tame my tongue. Teach me to speak with wisdom & grace.

Tuesday, August 5 **Walk the Talk**

Read Scripture: 1 John 2:36

John challenges us with these words. If we say we belong to Jesus, our lives should look like His. We need to remember that Christianity is a lifestyle. Listening to sermons and reading Scripture is essential, but if our lives remain unchanged, we've missed the point. Jesus didn't just speak truth—He lived it. He served the poor, forgave His enemies, and lived in complete devotion to God. Following Him means our faith should be visible in how we treat others and how we spend our time.

Prayer: Jesus, I want to live like You. Let my actions reflect Your love each day.

Wednesday, August 6 **The Overflow of the Heart**

Read Scripture: *Luke 6:43-45 “The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”*

James emphasizes the importance of self-control in speech. Jesus teaches that our words are not just slips of the tongue, they reflect who we are. Whatever fills our hearts—bitterness, pride, love, compassion—will eventually show in our lives. If you want to change your speech, start by reviewing where your heart is. Are you filling it with God's Word, worship, and truth? Or with worry, resentment, and entertainment that pulls you away from Him?

Prayer: God, purify my heart so that my words bring life. Fill me with Your Spirit so I overflow with grace and truth.

Thursday August 7

Pure Before God

Read Scripture: Psalm 51:10-12

James speaks of keeping yourself “unstained by the world.” King David, after being confronted with his sin, prayed for this request. Purity begins not with perfect behavior, but with honest confession and a desire for renewal. We live in a world full of spiritual and mental "pollution". The shows we watch, the conversations we have, the pride we live with; these things can slowly blur what we should really see. But the good news is that God doesn't just forgive—He restores.

Prayer: Lord, cleanse me from anything that pulls me away from You.

Friday, August 8

The Fruit of True Religion

Read Scripture: Micah 6:6-8

James defined “pure religion” as caring for the vulnerable and pursuing a holy life. Micah spoke of these things long before James. God is not impressed by performance—He finds joy in those that live justly, love with mercy, and walk humbly with Him. Faith that pleases God is not flashy and it's not loud—it's loving. The Christian life isn't about earning points with God; it's about reflecting who God is to a world that desperately needs to see that level of love.

Prayer: Father, help me walk in humility.

Saturday, August 9

Bearing Good Fruit

Read Scripture: Matthew 7:16-17

James talks about being doers of the Word. Jesus also warned that true disciples would be known by their fruit. Trees don't have to work hard to produce fruit, they just do. Just as we can be rooted with Christ, our lives can also bear much fruit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22–23).

Prayer: Jesus, help me stay connected to You and bear fruit that points others to You.

Sunday, Aug. 10, Worship at 10am

James 1:19-27

Listening Deeply, Loving Boldly

by Pastor Clint Phillips