

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

This or That / Week 3

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

Romans 15:7 NIV

DAY 1

In some ways, we all want to be accepted by others, don't we? And if we don't feel accepted by our friends, family members, teammates, or even the other kids at church, we start to wonder what's wrong with us. We wonder why we don't measure up. We think we're not enough. When you feel this way, remind yourself of this truth: God accepts you exactly as you are. He isn't asking you to be anyone other than who you are to fit in with Him. That's the ultimate acceptance! So, the next time you struggle with feeling like you aren't enough or accepted by others, pray that God will show you more of how He accepts you.

“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.”

Matthew 25:29 NIV

DAY 2

Believe it or not, all of us have been given things by God—things that matter. Our gifts, our talents, our personalities, even our relationships are all really important things that God has given to us. And whether we realize it or not, what we do with those things matters. When we ignore, complain about, or waste what we have by comparing it to what someone else has, we're not using what God has given us wisely. So rather than keep your eyes focused on what you don't have, focus instead of using what you do have well. Share with someone in your life just one way you want to use what God has given to you.

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”

1 Peter 4:10 NLT

DAY 3

What better way to celebrate what God has given you than by using those things to serve others? Using what we have to help or benefit someone else is a great way to stop ourselves from comparing and start celebrating instead. So, think about this: Who in your life is difficult to celebrate? Who do you struggle with comparing yourself to? This week, find a way to use something you have to serve them. As you do, pray that God would help you celebrate not only what you have, but the person you're serving as well. Ask Him to change your heart from comparison to celebration!

<p><i>“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.”</i></p> <p><i>Romans 12:4-5 NLT</i></p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>While our God-given gifts and talents are great on their own, they work even better alongside the gifts and talents of others. That’s the way God designed it to be! Comparison not only keeps us from fully being able to use and celebrate our own gifts, it keeps us from doing the same for others. It keeps us from serving, celebrating, and working as one body—the body of Christ. Rather than let your gifts or the gifts of others be wasted, find a way to celebrate the way your gifts fit and work together with someone else’s. To start, celebrate the gifts you see in others. Send a text, post on social media, or just tell someone you’re close to a gift you see in them.</p>
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<p><i>“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”</i></p> <p><i>2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT</i></p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>We all want to do great things with our lives, but so often we hold back simply because we’re afraid we don’t have what it takes. Well, God says that we do! In fact, He says He’ll give us exactly what we need to do all the great things (and more!) that He’s called us to do. So we don’t have to worry or fear that we aren’t enough. Instead, we can rest in the knowledge that God has given and will continue to give us everything we need. Is there an area of your life where you feel this struggle? Ask God to show you all the things He’s given you that make you more than enough to do the great works He has for your life.</p>
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<p><i>“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”</i></p> <p><i>Philippians 1:6 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Sometimes it can be difficult to trust that we really are enough. When things don’t go the way we thought they would, it can be easy to believe that we somehow don’t measure up. That God made a mistake in making us. That we don’t have what everyone else seems to have. In those moments, God asks us to stay confident, not in ourselves, but in Him. When our confidence is in Him, we can know for sure that there is no mistake, no need to compare, and no reason to worry that we don’t have what it takes. He is enough, and because of that, we can know that we are enough, too. Is there an area of your life where you’re struggling with confidence? Pray this verse about that part of your life, asking God to help you put your confidence in Him.</p>
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<p><i>“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 4:23 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Memorized this verse already? Great work! Then now it’s time to share it with others. This week, find a unique way to put this truth out there for your friends, family, and followers to see. Post it on your social media, write it down somewhere in your home, or create a video of you sharing it from memory. Remember that as you share, you’re not only helping yourself focus on this truth, but you’re giving it to others so they can do the same.</p>
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