

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: What Are You Building For?

Devotional

Most of us spend our days building something. A career. A reputation. A comfortable life. There is nothing wrong with any of those things, but Solomon spent a lifetime building all of them at the highest level possible, and when he stepped back to look at what he had made, he found it hollow.

He had more wealth, more wisdom, and more accomplishment than anyone around him. And still, something was missing. Not because those things are bad, but because they were never designed to carry the full weight of a human life.

Here is the honest truth: everything you are working so hard to hold onto will eventually slip through your fingers. Your strength will fade. Your health will change. The things you own will outlast you. Solomon is not trying to depress you with this reality. He is trying to free you from it.

If you know that nothing here lasts forever, you can stop gripping so tightly. You can start asking a better question. Not "what can I build?" but "what actually lasts?"

That question is worth sitting with today. It is the question Solomon spent his whole life answering, and his conclusion might surprise you. Encouragement for today: you are not behind. You are not too late. Asking the right question is always the right place to start.

Bible Verse

"Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity." - Ecclesiastes 1:2

Reflection Question

If you removed your accomplishments, your possessions, and your reputation from the equation, what would you say your life is actually built on?

Quote

"When everything is said and done, what really matters? What lasts? What is worth pursuing in life?"

Prayer

Lord, help me to loosen my grip on the things that will not last. Give me the courage to ask better questions and the wisdom to listen for Your answers. Amen.

Day 2: You Were Made On Purpose

Devotional

Before you had a name, before you had a personality, before you had a single accomplishment to your name, God was already thinking about you.

That is not a greeting card sentiment. It is a foundational truth that changes everything about how you see yourself. You are not an accident. You are not a collection of random traits that happened to come together. Every part of who you are was intentionally designed by a Creator who had a purpose in mind.

Solomon, after all his searching, arrives at this: life finds its meaning in relationship to the God who gave it. Not in what you do with your life, but in whose life it actually is.

This matters because so many of us carry a quiet suspicion that we are somehow a mistake. That we are too much, or not enough, or that we ended up with the wrong personality for the life we are living. But that suspicion is simply not true.

You were created by God and for God. That means your quirks, your tendencies, your specific way of seeing the world, none of it is accidental. It is all part of a design that points back to a Designer.

Today, let that sink in. You do not have to earn your place. You were placed here on purpose, by a God who does not make mistakes.

Bible Verse

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." - Psalm 139:13-14

Reflection Question

In what area of your life do you most struggle to believe that God made you on purpose, and what would change if you actually believed it?

Quote

"There is nothing about you that is a mistake. Every aspect of who you are was designed by Your creator for the sake of the glory of his name."

Prayer

Father, thank You for making me with intention. Where I have believed the lie that I am a mistake, replace it with the truth of Your design. Amen.

Day 3: The Giver Is Greater Than the Gifts

Devotional

Think about the best things in your life. The relationships that fill you up. The moments that took your breath away. The gifts and abilities that come naturally to you. Now ask yourself: have you ever loved those things more than the One who gave them?

It is an easy trap to fall into. God gives generously, and His gifts are genuinely good. But gifts were never meant to replace the Giver. When we treat them that way, we end up confused and disappointed, wondering why the things that were supposed to make us happy keep falling short.

Solomon learned this the hard way. He chased every good thing available to him and found that none of them could bear the weight of being the reason he lived. Not because they were bad, but because they were gifts, not the source.

Every good thing in your life is a signpost. It is pointing you somewhere. The joy you feel in a deep friendship, the wonder you feel in a beautiful moment, those are not the destination. They are arrows pointing back to a God who is more generous, more present, and more satisfying than any of the things He has given you.

Do not confuse the gift with the Giver. Enjoy what He has given you, and let it draw you closer to Him.

Bible Verse

"Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, I have no pleasure in them." - Ecclesiastes 12:1

Reflection Question

Is there a good gift in your life that you have been treating as the source of your joy rather than a signpost pointing you to God?

Quote

"Don't confuse them with a giver, because all of those gifts will eventually be stripped away, but the giver remains."

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your generosity. Help me to receive Your gifts with open hands and let them lead me back to You, the Giver of every good thing. Amen.

Day 4: What It Really Means to Fear God

Devotional

The phrase "fear God" can sound intimidating. It can conjure images of cowering before an angry deity, waiting to be punished. But that is not what Solomon means, and it is not what the Bible means.

To fear God is to see Him rightly. It means recognizing that He is the Creator and you are the created. That He is the Shepherd and you are the sheep. That He is the Giver and you are entirely dependent. When you see God that way, it does not crush you. It actually frees you.

Because here is what happens when you do not fear God: you end up fearing everything else. You fear what people think of you. You fear losing what you have built. You fear the future. You carry the weight of trying to be your own shepherd, and it is exhausting.

Fearing God means you can put all of that down. You are not in charge of outcomes. You are not responsible for holding the universe together. You have a Shepherd, and His Word is firmly fixed even when everything else shifts beneath your feet.

And this fear is not just a feeling. It shows up in the way you live. In the choices you make when no one is watching. In the way you treat people. In what you actually spend your time and energy on.

Let the fear of God be the thing that shapes your days.

Bible Verse

"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." - Ecclesiastes 12:13

Reflection Question

What are you currently fearing most in your life, and how might a deeper trust in God as your Shepherd change the way you are carrying that fear?

Quote

"The fear of God isn't something you feel. It shows up in the way you live."

Prayer

God, help me to see You rightly so that I can see everything else rightly. Teach me what it means to truly fear You, and let that shape the way I live. Amen.

Day 5: Yours to Steward, Not to Keep

Devotional

Here is a question worth sitting with: do you think of your life as yours, or as something entrusted to you?

The difference is enormous. If your life belongs to you, then you are free to spend it however you want. You measure success by what you accumulate, what you experience, and what you accomplish. And when it is over, you hope it added up to something.

But if your life was given to you by God, then you are a steward. You are holding something that belongs to Him, and the question is not "what do I want to do with this?" but "what does He want me to do with it?"

Solomon's final word is not a list of rules. It is a reorientation. Stop measuring your life by what you can gather and start measuring it by whether it was truly His.

Jesus made this possible in the most costly way imaginable. The innocent died for the guilty. The Judge bore the judgment. And three days later, He walked out of the grave so that you do not have to stand before God carrying the weight of your own failures. Because of Him, your life can be fully surrendered without fear.

You were made to know God, to walk with Him, and to live every part of the life He gave you before Him and for Him. That is not a burden. That is the most freeing thing you will ever hear.

Bible Verse

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." - Philippians 1:21

Reflection Question

In practical terms, what would it look like for you to live this week as a steward of your life rather than the owner of it?

Quote

"If your life belongs to you, you're free to do whatever you want with it. But if your life has been given to you by God, then you are a steward of something that belongs to Him."

Prayer

Lord, my life is Yours. Help me to live it that way, not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for what You have done for me. Amen.