



# DEVOTIONAL

CHALLENGE 

JULY 3-7, 2022 · KANSAS CITY, MO

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## How This Devotional Works:

*Each day will have a prayer prompt, a passage to read, questions to answer from that passage, three questions to help you apply what you are reading and a daily challenge.*

### **PRAYER PROMPT**

Always start with prayer—ask and trust the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading. Pay attention to the specifics of the prompt; it's geared towards that day's reading.

### **A PASSAGE TO READ**

You'll be given a passage out of 1 Corinthians to read each day. Occasionally you might have another related reading. But, be challenged to use a paper Bible (even better, get your hands on an ESV or NIV study Bible) and keep the distractions away for a few minutes.

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PASSAGE**

Each day you'll answer the same four questions:

- **Who is God?**  
The Bible is primarily about God so look for what each passage teaches us about God (it won't always be obvious, but it's there).
- **What has He done?**  
From start to finish, God is the Hero in every story and situation in the Bible. Look for what God is doing in each passage.

## How This Devotional Works:

- **Who am I?**

Your identity must be rooted in more than just who you think you are and things you enjoy doing. Your identity has to be rooted in who God is and what God has done, is doing and will do. So, who are you as a result of what you learn that day about God and God at work?

- **What do I do as a result?**

After pondering the first three questions, write down your answer to what you should be doing. Then, go process the three application questions and return to this section to add or subtract from what you wrote.

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

These three questions were created specifically for the day's passage in order to help you accurately apply God's Word. Spend time answering them honestly.

### **DAILY CHALLENGE**

Each day ends with a daily challenge. If you do this at night, do that challenge the next day. If you do it in the morning, do the challenge that day. If you do this over lunch, do the challenge that afternoon and/or the next morning, if need be.

That's it. You've got this. Well, God's got this and God's got you, and He wants you to spend time with Him (in prayer and in His Word). Let's go!

# Sample Day

**MORE PRAYER:** Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you understand and apply God's Word. Pray that you would daily remember the truths of the gospel. Pray for those in your life who don't know Jesus.

**MORE BIBLE:** John 3:16-17

## MORE UNDERSTANDING:

Who is God?

*Ex: He is loving, selfless and desires to save us*

What has He done?

*Ex: He sent His Son so that we would not perish.*

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

*Ex: I am someone God sent Jesus to save.*

What do I do as a result?

*Ex: I believe and I get to live as one not condemned.*

## MORE APPLICATION:

1. Do I believe that the Father sent Jesus to live, die and rise again for me?

*I do. But sometimes I forget this truth and get caught up in the world. God help me to truly know and remember that you died for me.*

2. How does this gospel truth, that God loves me enough to die in my place, impact how I live each day?

*It gives purpose to everything I do. It gives me an identity that no one and no thing can take from me.*

3. Who in my life needs to hear this hope filled message?

*The guy who has a locker right next to mine and my teammates.*

## MORE CHALLENGE:

Tell one person today that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to live, die and rise again so they can be forgiven and have new life in His kingdom.

## The Bigger Picture

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you live with the bigger picture—eternity—in mind. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** If you have a study Bible, read the introduction to 1 Corinthians.

**MORE UNDERSTANDING:** Go to [bibleproject.com](https://bibleproject.com) click “watch” then “New Testament” then “1 Corinthians.” Watch the overview of 1 Corinthians. (Or just type in <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>.)

What did you learn about 1 Corinthians?

## More Application:

1. What cultural similarities do you see between the city of Corinth and the United States today?
2. Why did Paul write this letter to the Corinthian church?
3. What More do you hope to get out of this devotional?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

It might seem like a lot but it will go fast - read the whole letter (epistle) 1 Corinthians. If anything sticks out, add it to your “what did you learn about 1 Corinthians” notes.

## Let Me Introduce Myself

**MORE PRAYER:** Thank God for what you experienced at Challenge. Ask Him to do more work in you as you seek Him. Pray that you and your friends would be rooted in Jesus.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** The word sanctified means to be made holy. To be sanctified in Christ Jesus means we are made holy in Christ because of His life, death, and resurrection.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

**Who is God?**

*Ex: God is Father.*

**What has He done?**

*Ex: He keeps us firm until the end.*

**Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?**

*Ex: I am held fast and given what I need.*

**What do I do as a result?**

*Ex: Be thankful for what I have in Jesus.*

## More Application:

1. Reread Paul's salutation (1:1-3). As Paul introduces himself, what or who is highlighted? Why is this Paul's focus? Consider how you would introduce yourself. What/who would be highlighted?
2. Reread 1:4-9. Who equips and enables you to live out your faith? What does it mean to "eagerly wait for the Lord"?
3. Paul is thankful for God's work in the Corinthian believers and the promise that Jesus will continue to work in them. Write down how you have seen God working in your own life and in the lives of other believers around you. (Then thank God for this work.)

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Tell one person today how you have seen God work through them.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Proper Perspective

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you seek unity with those around you, especially the Christians around you. Confess areas that are petty and divisive. Ask the Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What is the thing Paul wants the Corinthians to unify around? What happens when we try to unify around a teacher or a topic not rooted in the Bible (reread vs 12-13)?
2. Paul is clearly passionate about focusing on the gospel and preaching the gospel. What are the things you get passionate about and love to talk about?
3. Why do you think it is so easy to talk about earthly passions but difficult to talk about how Jesus saves us?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

On page 120, labeled “Jesus Changed My Life,” write out how God saved you and what difference(s) that has made in your life.

(How did yesterday’s challenge go? Did you do it?)

## The Life-Changing Message

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you grasp and be passionate about the gospel. Ask Him to be more to you than the world around you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** Reread vs.30. When we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior He takes our sins and in their place He gives us His righteousness (His right and good standing before God), He sanctifies us (makes us holy), and He redeems us (takes our bad and makes us good).

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What does it mean that the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing? How is it “the power of God” for us?
2. Reread vs 30. What does Christ become for us? Why is this significant?
3. No one is righteous, holy or can be redeemed on their own. We all need Jesus. Who in your life needs to hear the good news about Jesus (the gospel)?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Yesterday you wrote out how Jesus changed your life. If you believe, you believe... because someone somewhere shared the gospel with you. Write out how you would share the gospel with a friend on page 122.

(How did yesterday’s challenge go? Did you do it?)

## True Wisdom

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you live for Him and make Him famous. Ask the Holy Spirit for godly wisdom to understand what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 2

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** The wisdom of God refers to His plan for our salvation through Jesus Christ.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Reread 2:1-5. How does Paul describe himself? What does he still do?
2. Read Matthew 28:17-20. What are you called to do? Remember Paul's feelings of inability, what worries do you have about sharing the gospel with someone?
3. Reread 2:10-16. Who gives you the wisdom and mind to live out the commands of God? Spend time asking God to help you have the mind of Christ and see the non-Christians in your life with the same eyes He does.

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

You have been changed by Jesus. You have thought through how you'd share the gospel with others. Today, our challenge is to share the gospel with one person.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Team Work

**MORE PRAYER:** Spend some time praying for the pastors and leaders of your church. Pray they would help plant and water the seeds of the gospel. Pray that you would grow in Christian understanding and that you would engage in Kingdom work. Ask the Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 3

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** Temple refers to a dwelling place, specifically the dwelling place of God. As a Christian the Holy Spirit dwells in you.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What are the marks of “mere infants in Christ”? What are the marks of those more mature in Christ? Which one seems more true of you?
2. As Christians, what are we told to boast in? (check out 1 Corinthians 1:31 for a hint). What does this look like in your life?
3. Reread 3:5-13. How did sharing the gospel with someone go? Did you water a seed? Plant a seed? Did you build on the right foundation?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

You’ve considered how Jesus changed your life, what the gospel is and you’ve shared it with someone. Today, rewrite your story so it's saturated with the gospel. Make Jesus the hero. Not you or your mistakes—Jesus. You can check out how Paul does this in Acts 22:1-21 and write your story on page 121.

(How did yesterday’s challenge go? Did you do it?)

## A Life Poured Out

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you respect the Christians in authority over you. Pray for those brothers and sisters in Christ that they would stand firm in the faith. Ask the Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 4

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. How does Paul describe the life of an apostle? How do you think he stays motivated and joyful: even when people treat him poorly?
2. What robs you of your motivation and joy in this life? What can you do to not be so easily shaken?
3. Paul sends Timothy to essentially help the Corinthians connect their head knowledge of Jesus to their actions (4:14-17). What do your actions reveal about what you truly believe?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Put your faith in action. Today, ask God to help you and make an intentional effort to honor your parent/guardian by engaging in conversation, not talking back, and being respectful regardless of the situation (Ephesians 6:1-3). If they don't know Jesus, consider sharing your story with them.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## The Cancer of Sin

**MORE PRAYER:** Today, Paul gets very specific about dealing with sin. Ask God to reveal sin in your life that needs to be confessed. Spend time listening to God and confess sin as it comes to mind. Ask the Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 5

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** Leaven is fermented dough. Leaven was key to making good bread. You would leave a little leaven from each batch to spread the fermentation to the next batch. You only needed a little to ferment a lot of fresh dough. Negatively, sin operates in the same way.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Why is Paul so serious when it comes to dealing with sin? (Consider 5:6-7.) How does Paul's words compare to what you've been taught about sin?
2. How should the church treat ongoing sin inside the church? What about amongst unbelievers? Why the different approaches? (See 5:9-13.)
3. Why should you take your own sin seriously? How does the gospel encourage you as you consider your own sinfulness?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

On a note card, post-it or a reminder on your phone, write out the words of 1 John 1:8-9 and read it at least seven times today. Repent and trust these truths as needed!

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## How We View Other Believers

**MORE PRAYER:** Spend time praying for other Christians in your life, especially if one (or more) drives you nuts. Ask God for grace to love all fellow Christians. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. These words are a reminder that the way Christians treat one another is a big deal—the world is watching! It's probably not lawsuits at your age, but perhaps gossip, lying, bullying, etc. How do you treat fellow believers?
2. Reread vs. 11. Now read it again. Who is vs. 11 referring to? (Remember, Paul is writing to an entire church, not one person) What is true of all believers? How does this impact how you think about fellow Christians?
3. Reread 6:7-11. Do you see in your own story sins God has not only paid the penalty for, but given you freedom from through the Spirit's power? Now go read "My Story = Jesus the Hero."

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Think of a Christian whom you have treated badly. Go and apologize and seek to repair that relationship.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Why Choose Purity?

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you see that His ways and plans are the best for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** Sexual immorality refers to any sexual act or thought that goes against God's plan for sex - specifically between one man and one woman in the context of marriage.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Write down the reasons Paul lists in this passage to pursue sexual purity? How does this list compare to other reasons for purity?
2. Reread vs. 19-20. What was the price paid for you? How does that impact how you think about purity in all of life?
3. Write a sentence summarizing your answers to: “Who is God?” “What has He done?” “Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?” and “What do I do as a result?”

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

If your reason for doing anything, especially choosing purity, is not rooted in honoring God and trusting that His plan is best, then it will likely not be a lasting commitment. Today, write down areas of your life that you question God’s commands for, then look up what the Bible has to say about each area (Use the space on page 123.).

(How did yesterday’s challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Relationships

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you put others first. If a specific situation comes to mind, ask God for help in that. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read both now and in the future.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Paul is writing about sex inside of marriage due to the frequency of Corinthians having sex outside of marriage (7:1-5). How would you summarize Paul's instructions? How might these words apply to you today? How might they prepare you for marriage or singleness some day?
2. Go back to day one and remind yourself of the cultural similarities between Corinth and the United States. How does understanding God's plan for sex help us evaluate our culture's understanding of sex?
3. Reread 7:12-16. If God calls us to live in peace even in the most difficult situations, what does that tell you about His character?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Spend time praying for the marriages in your life (parents, friends' parents, extended family, etc.). Ask God to strengthen them and help you see whom to look up to as an example of a Godly, healthy relationship.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Where You Are Is Planned

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you find contentment in life. Not that you can't seek to grow and change, but seek first to make God famous where you are. Ask Him to help you do that. Ask the Spirit to lead and guide you in your reading today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** Paul is reminding the Corinthians to focus more on living for Jesus where they are and with what they have instead of focusing on changing their circumstances.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Good, bad, easy or frustrating—what are the places and situations you find yourself in?
2. How can you use each of the above places and situations to know Jesus more and to make Jesus known?
3. Reread vs 19. What are ways you can actually keep God's commands? (Remember, just trying hard won't last.)

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Pick one place/situation you listed above. Today, go into that place/situation and seek to intentionally make God known. Where are you going? What will you do? Whom will you tell about Jesus?

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Pursue Jesus First

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you seek Him above all else, to love Him more than anything in the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Paul returns to instructions about sex and marriage in light of the ongoing sexual immorality in Corinth. It's easy to read this as "all about sex and marriage", but what is the underlying motivation for Paul's instruction?
2. What are some advantages to pursuing God before (and more than) pursuing a significant other?
3. Remember the gospel, how does it speak to how you think about dating? What would it look like to have individual devotion to Jesus in your singleness? What would it look like to please God in dating? In marriage?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Today, consider what you pursue with your time, energy and resources. Where does God fit in? Where should he fit in?

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Cautious Freedom

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you enjoy the good things in life. Ask Him to help you continue to care and see others. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply today's passage.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 8

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What reason does Paul give for Christian freedom? (vs. 6)
2. There is much freedom to enjoy in Christ. What is the one restriction Paul gives? (vs. 9-13) What is a personal example of living this restriction out around others?
3. How is Christian freedom different from how the world understands freedom?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

What is one thing you really enjoy (that is not unbiblical)? Drinking a milkshake? Enjoying a good cup of coffee? Do that thing today for your good and God's glory.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Intentional Choices

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you grow in your faith so that you become more and more intentional in how you use your time, relationships and money. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you to understand today's reading.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 9:1-23

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** "Preach the gospel" jump ahead and read how Paul explains the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What were the intentional decisions Paul made? (1-12) What was his rationale for making them? (13-18)
2. While you are not Paul, you can learn from his example here. What is your rationale for how you live, how you spend your time and how you spend your money?
3. Reread vs. 13-14. Have you ever considered that pastors, missionaries and ministry leaders are supposed to live off what the church gives them? How does this change your answers to question 2?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Who is one ministry person in your life that you could bless today? Go get them a coffee or write them a note or give them a gift to encourage them. Talk to Jesus about what this might look like and then go do it.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Self-Discipline

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to continue to be your main focus. Pray about the ways that you pursue Him. Ask Him that He would help them to be fruitful. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you understanding and accurate application today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. How would you describe Paul's mentality when it comes to living for Jesus? How would you describe your own?
2. What is the prize Paul is speaking of winning? Have you ever thought about approaching life with such an eternal perspective? What would change in your daily life?
3. Paul is so obsessive about keeping Jesus first and sharing the gospel everywhere that he focuses on training his body to kill sin and distractions. What in your life distracts you from pursuing Jesus?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Look at your answers to question 3. Today's challenge: go without one of those distractions. In its place, spend time in the Word and in prayer.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Learn From the Past

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you learn from those who have come before you from the Old Testament to people older than you today. Pray for those who are godly influences in your life. Ask the Spirit to grant you understanding of God's Word today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-22

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** An idolator commits idolatry, which is to worship something that is not God as if it were God. Often in the west we do not bow down to wooden images but instead give all our waking attention to screens or money or popularity.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What is Paul telling the Corinthians, and us today, to learn from the Israelites?
2. Verse 14 tells us to flee from idolatry (worshiping something that is not God). What in your life sometimes takes God's place? You may not pray or sing to it but you devote time and energy to this thing with no thought of God.
3. Is your idol something that could be used as an act of worship? Does it need to be cut out of your life? If possible, how can you use it to honor God instead of distract from Him?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Play your favorite worship song and spend some time worshipping the One True God.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Consider Your Why

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you love and serve others by seeking to live for Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you understanding to what you read today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should. What is Paul's reasoning for what he eats and doesn't eat? What motivates his decisions?
2. Reread 10:31. How does this impact how you think about even the smallest things you do? What does it mean to do something "for the glory of God"?
3. Reread 10:31-11:1. Paul is urging the Corinthians to follow his example as he follows Christ's example. Who are people you look up to and follow their example? Who might be looking up to you and following your example?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

From the lens of verse 10:33, ask God to help you seek to live in every circumstance so that others may be saved.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Pure Worship

**MORE PRAYER:** Thank God for desiring what is ultimately best for you. Thank Him that He wants to hear from you. Ask the Spirit to grant you understanding and application in your reading.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 11

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** When we come to the Lord's Table (celebrate communion) we are supposed to do so seeking to be unified with the other Christians around us. We not only recognize Jesus' body broken and blood shed for us individually but also for all who believe.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Why does Paul give such specific instructions to the Corinthian church? How do his words impact how you think about the church gathering you participate in?
2. Reread 11:23-29, paying close attention to verses 27-29. How does one approach the communion table in an unworthy manner? Why is this such a serious issue?
3. Paul critiques the wealthy/social elite Christians for having a private meal (vv. 20-22) and leaving out the poor, completely neglecting the instructions to be unified. Where do you find yourself leaving others out? What does that communicate to the one(s) left out? What does that communicate to a watching world?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Take time today (even right now) to consider how you approach church. From worship, to communion, to listening to a sermon or even going in the first place—how is your heart before God on Sundays? What needs to be addressed? Pray about those things now and seek to come with a clean heart on Sunday to worship with fellow believers.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Your Gifts His Glory

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you view all that you have as a gift from Him. Ask the Spirit to lead and guide you in your devotional today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Reread vs. 3. How would you explain this to someone else? Can you honestly say that Jesus is your Lord?
2. Make a list of all the gifts, physical and spiritual, that God has given you. If you're stuck on spiritual gifts, also check out Romans 12:6-8. Spend time thanking him for each one.
3. Reread vs. 7 How are you using your gifts to further God's Kingdom?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Choose one of the gifts you listed and intentionally use that gift for the good of another. (An example of a physical gift would be to go to practice and encourage a teammate that they have value because they are made in the image of God. An example of a spiritual gift would be to use your gift of teaching to help someone else learn.)

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## True Unity

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you not compare yourself to others but celebrate what God has given others and what He has given you. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you understanding of God's Word today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** Paul is instructing believers to seek after God and celebrate their different giftings, not to be envious of what others can do.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. You are a needed part of the body! How do you and your giftings contribute to the work of the body?
2. Reread 12:15-20. Do you ever find yourself envious of someone else's gifting? According to this chapter, why is that an issue? Take a moment and ask God to help you celebrate this person's different gifts.
3. A common struggle for many in our culture is self-centeredness and comparison/envy. Why is that so detrimental to the church? How have you seen the impact of self-centeredness play out in your own life/church?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Today, ask a parent or guardian about their spiritual gift(s) and to talk to you about how they use them to benefit the Kingdom. Then talk about your own gift(s). Or, ask them to help you figure out how to use your gifts.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## True Love

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you understand what true love is—Godly love, not how movies and culture define it. Ask God to help you be more loving. Ask the Spirit to guide you to understanding God's Word today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 13

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** The "love" Paul is talking about here is agapē. This gets at love as an action and a way of life.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Make a list of what love is and what love is not. Consider what areas are a struggle for you and confess those to God, asking for His help to grow in love.
2. How does Paul's definition of love compare to your own understanding of love?
3. Read 1 John 4:7-11. How does this further your understanding of true love? How does this understanding impact your relationships with others?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Ask God to help you live out the love described in 1 Corinthians 13 AND today do one kind, loving act for someone you find hard to love.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## True Worship

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to prepare your heart for interacting with His Word and that the Spirit would help you understand and apply it.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 14

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** When you consider all of scripture and all of Paul's writing, he is not prohibiting women from ever speaking. Instead he is pointing to God-given gender roles that are to be celebrated and embraced for our ultimate good and God's glory.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Reread 14:33 and 14:40. Now read 14:24-25. Why is the spoken word so central today? What understanding does this provide for why our church services are the way they are?
2. Paul's main qualification for what is said in church is based on the church being built up. How does your weekly church participation help build up your local church?
3. What is your least favorite part of church? Why? How does this passage speak to that specific thing?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

The spoken word is powerful. Today, go online and relisten to your favorite Challenge speaker/talk.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## True Hope

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you be more and more passionate about His work and His gospel. Ask the Spirit to lead and guide you today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What are the key components of the gospel Paul preached? Does your “The Gospel” in the back pages reflect these elements? (If not, add them.)
2. What does it mean to hold firmly to the gospel? How do you personally hold firm to the gospel?
3. What was Paul’s response to God’s grace? What has your response to God’s grace been? Thank God for His grace and for sending His son.

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Today, share the gospel with someone. It can be from your “list” of unbelievers in your life (day 4) or just pray and ask God to show you who.

(How did yesterday’s challenge go? Did you do it?)

## True Life

**MORE PRAYER:** Thank God for defeating the grip of sin and death. Thank God for the hope we have of life eternal in Heaven. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply today's passage.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

**MORE KNOWLEDGE:** First fruits refers to the first of more to come. Christ rose from the dead first and Christians are the "fruit to come" as we raise from spiritual death to life at conversion, and someday we will also rise from literal death to eternal life.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Reread 15:17-18 and 31-32. How does the faith of Paul and the early persecuted believers help confirm and strengthen your own faith?
2. Paul is addressing a lot of bad and misleading teaching. Reread 15:33-34. How do those you spend the most time with influence how you think and act?
3. Whether the company you keep is currently a positive or negative influence, how can you positively impact them with the gospel every time you're together?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Since Jesus is risen, our faith is not futile. There is purpose in this life! Today, pray with someone. Pray for them while you are with them, out loud so they can be encouraged.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## True Purpose

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you live with a heavenly, eternal purpose. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you understanding of God's Word today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 16

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. What in this passage excites you for what is to come? How do these truths and future hope encourage you to live for Christ now?
2. Reread 15:54-57. How is death different for believers and unbelievers? Do you find this reality to be a motivation to share the gospel? Why or why not?
3. Reread 15:58. How are you giving yourself fully to the work of the Lord? What does this look like in each area of your life?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Spend time talking to a Christian friend. Ask them how the gospel and eternity encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Share some of your answers from today's devotion with them.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Good Bye

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help you be on guard from attacks of the evil one, to help you stand firm in your faith, to be courageous, strong and to love. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you today.

**MORE BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians 16

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Paul summarizes his letter in two sentences. Read it in 16:13-14. What does it mean to “be on your guard”? To “stand firm in the faith”? To be “courageous”? To be “strong”? And to “do everything in love”?
2. Who is it that makes these characteristics true of you? (See 1 Cor 1:26-29, 3:6, 6:11, 15:10.) Spend a few minutes asking God to mature you in these areas.
3. What are the ways we grow in Christian faith? What will you do to seek the Lord after these 28 days are over?

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Trusting that Jesus is More, go tell a friend, who you don't know if they are a Christian or not, about the hope you have in this life and for all eternity because of Jesus.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

## Review Time

**MORE PRAYER:** Ask God to help make things stick out to you today. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply God's Word.

**MORE BIBLE:** Flip back through 1 Corinthians, take time to reread anything in your Bible that you highlighted, underlined or passages noted in your book as you went through this devotional.

### **MORE UNDERSTANDING:**

Today, skim over your answers for the last 27 days and summarize how 1 Corinthians answers each of these four questions.

Who is God?

What has He done?

Who am I in light of who God is and what He has done?

What do I do as a result?

## More Application:

1. Flip back through your 27 prior sets of application questions (and your answers in the index) and write down at least 5 things you want to remember.
2. What is the next book of the Bible you will read?
3. Spend time thanking God for helping you walk through the first epistle to the Corinthians and for all that you learned and were challenged by.

### **MORE CHALLENGE:**

Your final challenge is to live every day believing that Jesus is *More*. Every day for the rest of your life (no joke). Ask God to help you be on guard, steadfast, courageous, strong and loving so that you can live for His Kingdom and His glory in all that you do.

(How did yesterday's challenge go? Did you do it?)

# Jesus Changed My Life

My Story = Jesus the Hero

# The Gospel

# God is More

# CHALLENGE



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