

Live It 5 — Given, Not Earned

Take-Home Devotional • God Is Gracious

WEEKLY GRATITUDE PROMPT

Gratitude is what happens when we remember everything is a gift.

This week: Each day, thank God for one specific thing you have that you did not earn — your breath, a relationship, a kindness, your salvation. Naming gifts keeps gratitude fresh and pride small.

Write it down or say it out loud before bed.

GOAL FOR THE WEEK

Grace sinks in when we keep hearing that it's a gift.

This week's goal: Read Ephesians 2:8–9 once each day. Read it slowly, and each time ask one question: What does this show me about God? Let it move you from earning to receiving.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

Devotional 1 — It Is the Gift of God

Read This Verse: Ephesians 2:8–9

“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” Read the key words again: gift, not works, no boasting. You cannot achieve this; you can only receive it. The pressure to earn God's acceptance was lifted before you ever picked it up. Grace is not a wage for the deserving. It is a gift for the empty-handed.

Reflection Prompt: Where are you still trying to pay for something God has already given you for free?

Prayer Prompt: “God, help me stop working for what You've already given. Teach me to simply receive.”

Devotional 2 — He Invited Himself In

Read This Verse: Luke 19:5

Zacchaeus was a cheater nobody liked, yet Jesus stopped under his tree and said, “I must stay at your house today.” Notice who moved first. Zacchaeus did not earn the visit — Jesus invited Himself. That is how grace always works: God comes to us before we deserve it. And being chosen changed Zacchaeus so completely that he gave away half of everything. Grace wasn't his reward for changing; grace is what changed him.

Reflection Prompt: Where would you rather earn your way than let Jesus simply come to you as you are?

Prayer Prompt: “Jesus, thank You for coming to me before I had anything to offer. Come in and change me.”

Devotional 3 — Given Much, Give Much

Read This Verse: Matthew 10:8

“Freely you have received; freely give.” People who forget grace become critical, proud, and stingy. People who remember it become generous and patient. The cure for a hard heart is not trying harder to be nice —

it is remembering how much grace you have been given. When you know you've been given much, you stop acting like you earned it, and you start handing grace to others.

Reflection Prompt: Who in your life needs to receive from you the same grace God has given you?

Prayer Prompt: "God, You've been so gracious to me. Help me be gracious to the people around me."