



## Devotional Guide for August 1-7, 2022

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

### Monday, August 1<sup>ST</sup> “Hope does not put us to shame”

**Scripture: Romans 5:1-8** NIV

Paul explains that justification, or righteousness before God, is the free gift that demonstrates the extent of God’s love for humanity. Another result of justification is the enduring peace that replaces the tension and separation between humanity and God. Because Jesus removed the sin barrier, believers can enter into a secure relationship with Him, a relationship that creates a confidence that enables us to endure trials and pain. Justification also allows believers to rejoice in God. Because of our position in God’s family by faith in Jesus Christ, believers have cause for great hope and joy.

*Question: Have you found hope through character and perseverance?*

### Tuesday, August 2<sup>ND</sup> “Give me an undivided heart”

**Scripture: Psalm 86:11-13** NIV

What would be the benefit, if God had saved King David from his enemies, but had abandoned him to his own waywardness? David’s dependence on God is complete, and so is his devotion to God. Even in his distress, King David was eager for God’s wisdom to give him “an undivided heart” (v.11). Then, as it is now, God wants His followers to have wholehearted commitment to Him. When God had promised to bring His people back to the land, after the exile to Babylon, He promised to give them an undivided heart, and put a new spirit within them.

*Question: How can you earnestly seek an undivided heart from God?*

### Wednesday, August 3<sup>RD</sup> “The glory that will be revealed in us”

**Scripture: Romans 8:18-21** NIV

This passage from Paul’s letter begins with a promise of the glory to which we are destined. Like the created world, believers long for their ultimate redemption, waiting for it in hope. Believers can persevere in this hope, because they recognize that the Spirit is helping them to pray and is at work on their behalf. The Lord had cursed the ground in response to Adam’s original sin. While the created world will be thoroughly renovated, it will not be destroyed.

Rather, it will be a renewing of this world, not a replacement (see Colossians 1:20 and Revelation 21:5). Thus, God’s glory will renew us also in our eternal lives.

*Question: How do you find hope in the midst of suffering?*

### Thursday, August 4<sup>TH</sup> “For in this hope we were saved”

**Scripture: Romans 8:22-25** NIV

Because we have the Holy Spirit, we look forward specifically to our full adoption (partially with us already) and the resurrection of the body. This is the plan for which God has saved us—not to look forward to escaping the body and going to heaven, but instead to look forward to resurrection and living in a renewed creation. Or, as Revelation pictures it, we do not go to heaven forever; rather, we will see heaven come down to earth, when the world is renewed (see Revelation 21:10). In light of this glorious future, we should wait both eagerly and patiently with hope.

*Question: How do you imagine heaven to be?*

*What will it be like when heaven comes to earth for God’s final plan?*

### Friday, August 5<sup>TH</sup> “The Spirit intercedes for God’s people

**Scripture: Romans 8:26-28** NIV

Paul gives a further explanation of the assurance that the Holy Spirit indwells us, and how this even helps us to pray. The Spirit makes up for our helplessness, when we do not know what to pray for; unknown to us, the Spirit brings before God the prayer that perfectly matches His will for us. In addition to the Spirit’s intercession—that believers can wait patiently for their ultimate redemption—they can be confident that God works in all the circumstances of their lives, to accomplish His good purpose for them. This is one of the great promises of Scripture. “The good” in verse 28 is not necessarily what believers might think is good, but it is what God deems will be best to assist our growth into the image of Christ. The relationship of the Son of God, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father is so close that the Holy Spirit’s prayers need not be audible. God knows His every thought!

*Question: How has God worked out for the good a problematic or a difficult situation in your life?*

**Sunday, August 7, 2022**  
**8:30 and 10:45 am/Sanctuary**  
 Online Livestream @10:45 am

**Psalm 86:11-13** NIV, **Romans 8:18-28** NIV  
**Pastor’s message: “The Hope of Truth”**

*Summer worship theme:*  
*“Truth Be Told—the Letter to the Romans”*

