



Daily Devotionals

Devotional Guide for Dec.30-Jan. 5, 2025

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, December 30TH “The stone the builders rejected...”

Scripture: Psalm 118:15-29 NIV

This psalm affirms God’s goodness and everlasting love. This part of chapter 118 recalls the images of a processional entering the holy city of Jerusalem, most likely led by King David. The psalmist explains that the rejected stone has become the cornerstone; this is the first stone set in a building project. It is the most important stone, because it determines the direction of the walls (length and width) and it also establishes plumb for the walls (height). The concept of the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone became a rich metaphor throughout Scripture... as it symbolizes the Lord’s replacement of arrogant, selfish leaders with His appointed leader, who would be the starting point of a new work of God. The apostle Paul would interpret this new work to be a new temple. This new work would be a great blessing!

Question: How do you see the church today as God’s temple?

New Year’s Eve, December 31ST “The Lord Almighty is holy”

Scripture: Isaiah 8:13-14b NIV

This passage continues the thought of the section: if the Lord is not made the central focus of one’s life, then He becomes an obstruction over which one must constantly fall. God counsels Isaiah that if he is going to dread something, it ought to be the Lord Almighty. But in the end, the fear of the Lord is not something defiling or demeaning; it is pure (see Psalm 19:9). It means ordering our lives around God’s power, goodness, and reliability.

Question: Have you come to understand the awesome power of God?

New Year’s Day, Jan. 1ST “The Living Stone and Chosen People”

Scripture: I Peter 2:4-10 NIV

After describing the new birth and the moral transformation of the character necessary to sustain the new life in Christ, Peter presents an image of a spiritual house, or temple, with Jesus Christ as the sole foundational cornerstone into which believers are being built. Peter takes Old Testament imagery of stone (see Psalm 118:22–23; and also Isaiah 8:14–15; 28:16).

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He then applies it to Jesus, and uses terms that previously described the Old Testament people of God to refer to Christians. Those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ have the privilege of also being counted among the people of God. Peter refers to Christians in words that previously described only God’s chosen nation of ancient Israel.

Question: How do you feel chosen by the Lord in your faith journey? What can you do, in this new year, to draw closer to God in your life?

Thursday, January 2ND “They were all together in one place”

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 NIV

Jesus came into the world as the new hope—a hope that can renew all of life. He was born, in order to be able to die our death on the cross; then to be raised back to life, in order to offer us salvation and grace. After Jesus ascended back to heaven, He then gave marching orders to the disciples in launching His church. God’s time is a marvel unto itself—He was born at just the right time... when the known world spoke Greek as a common language, and also when Roman roads allowed extensive travel between nations. And on the day of Pentecost (a Jewish religious feast that celebrated the beginning of the wheat harvest and the giving of the Law), as Jewish believers had gathered in Jerusalem from around the world, the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples, in order to launch the church. You could say that this was when God chose to awaken the force of His grace and love.

Question: How do you picture God’s Holy Spirit coming to the disciples?

Friday, January 3RD “The Lord added to their number daily”

Scripture: Acts 2:38-47 NIV

After Peter explains the historical context of the prophecies of the coming Messiah, he then shares how those who believe in Jesus can repent of their sins and receive the Holy Spirit themselves. Peter’s message made a tremendous impact on this international crowd, as we read that “about three thousand were added to their number that day” (v.41). Add 3000 to the original 120 disciples/followers of the Lord up to the day of Pentecost, and we see the astonishing growth in the early days of the church, which increases to 5000 by Acts 4:4. This is the first major summary of the church’s activity. Luke depicts the Jerusalem church as a loving, caring, and supportive community. They used teaching, breaking of bread, and prayer to grow.

Question: What would our church do if it grew to 5000 in a short time?

Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2025

Worship Service at 10:00 am (Livestream @10:00 am)

I Peter 2:4-10 and Acts 2:1-21,38-47 NIV

Pastor Kevin’s message: “The Force Awakens!”

(The story of the birth of the church)

Worship theme: “STAR BORN—

Long Ago in a Galilee Not So Far Away...”

