

FIRST things FIRST

Daily Devotionals

November 24-30, 2025

Devotions are prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

Monday, Nov. 24 Stay Awake to God's Work

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 and Matthew 24:36-44

Paul encourages believers by saying we are “children of the light” and therefore not caught off guard like the world. Readiness in faith is not rooted in anxiety but in identity. Because we belong to the light, we live differently. We pay attention. We notice God's movements around us. The busyness of work, the weight of responsibilities, the noise of uncertainty can make our spiritual life numb. Yet Paul calls us to live with awareness. Readiness means noticing the needs around us, being sensitive to the Spirit's nudges, and allowing God to guide our thoughts and actions.

Prayer: Lord, awaken my heart. Keep me alert to Your presence.

Tuesday, Nov. 25 Keep Your Lamps Burning

Scripture: Luke 12:35-38 and Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes servants ready for their master's return. Their readiness is not frantic or fearful; it's steady, faithful, obedient. They don't know the exact moment the master will arrive, but they know their role in the meantime. In the same way, God calls us to be faithful in the ordinary. Being ready often looks like doing small things with great love and staying committed to the mission God has set before us. The servants in Jesus' story are blessed, not because they predicted anything, but because they were faithful when it mattered.

Prayer: Jesus, keep my lamp burning.

Wednesday, Nov. 26 Build on the Rock

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27 and Matthew 24:36-44

In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Jesus makes a simple but life-changing point: readiness is about foundation. Only those who ground their lives in Christ's teachings will stand firm. It is easy to build on sand: on comfort, success, opinions, or emotions. A foundation on the Rock requires intention. We need to hear Jesus' words and put them into practice. It means allowing God to shape our

decisions, values, and priorities. It means trusting Him even when the storms swirl.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to build my life on Your truth.

Thursday Nov. 27 Faithful in the “In-Between”

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:10-12 and Matthew 24:36-44

Peter reminds the church that “the day of the Lord will come like a thief,” echoing Jesus' teaching. But he does not call believers to fear; rather, he urges them to live “holy and godly lives.” The waiting is not passive, it is purposeful. It can be tempting to become discouraged and impatient, while we wait. But Peter teaches that how we live now matters deeply. Our choices, attitudes, and actions reflect our hope in Christ. Readiness is reflected in holiness and letting our lives shine as witnesses of God's grace.

Prayer: Spirit of God, shape me into someone who reflects the hope of Christ.

Friday, Nov. 28 Guard the Good Treasure

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:13-14 and Matthew 24:36-44

Paul encourages Timothy to “guard the good treasure” of faith and the gospel entrusted to him. Readiness means not letting our faith fade away. In a world filled with conflicting voices and shifting values, it is easy to let the truth of the gospel become diluted or neglected. Paul reminds us that the treasure of faith has been placed in our hearts by God Himself. Guarding our treasure means nurturing our walk with God. It means immersing ourselves in Scripture, praying regularly, surrounding ourselves with believers, and letting our faith shape the decisions we make each day.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, guard my heart and strengthen my faith.

Saturday, Nov. 29 Watch and Pray

Scripture: Mark 14:38 and Matthew 24:36-44

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus tells His disciples, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” While Jesus faced the weight of the cross, His closest followers struggled simply to stay awake. Their physical tiredness became a spiritual vulnerability. Jesus' words still speak to us. Prayer anchors our hearts in God's strength rather than our own. When we drift, when we lose focus, when we neglect prayer, we become more vulnerable to discouragement, temptation, and spiritual fatigue.

Prayer: Father, help me stay awake spiritually.

Sunday, Nov. 30 ADVENT (HOPE) Signs and Times

Worship at 10:00am

Matthew 24:36-44
by Pastor Clint Phillips