

FIRST things FIRST

Daily Devotionals

December 29, 2025 - January 4, 2026

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, Dec. 29 A Heart God Can Shape

Scripture: Psalm 51:10-12 and Ezekiel 36:26-28

David prays this after failure, shame, and regret. He doesn't ask God to fix his situation; he asks God to fix his heart. That's the deepest work God does in us. Sometimes we want God to change the people around us, solve our problems, or smooth our lives. God says, *Let Me start with your heart.* A renewed heart isn't something we perform. It's something we receive. God takes the parts of us that are stubborn, broken, or tired, and He reshapes them. A clean heart isn't a perfect heart—it is a surrendered heart.

Prayer: Lord, clean me, renew me, and reshape me so I can live closer to You. Amen.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 A New Creation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-19 and Ezekiel 36:26-28

In Christ, God transforms us. We aren't just "better behaved sinners." We are made new. Our past may explain us, but it does not define us. The mistakes we made, the paths we wish we could change, the seasons we regret... none of this is fine. God gets the final word. Becoming new is a process. Some days we still feel old. But whether we feel it or not, God keeps working, giving us the chance to grasp onto the hope. It lifts our spirits and shows us a better tomorrow.

Prayer: God, renew me daily and help me live as a new creation. Amen.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 God Writes on Our Hearts

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26-28

In the Old Testament, God's law was written on stone. It sat outside the temple, telling them what to do but not giving them strength to do it. God promises something better: His ways will live inside us. Instead of cold stone, He writes on our hearts. Faith is not simply behavior management. It is God shaping our desires, character, motivations, and loves. When God writes on the heart, obedience stops being a burden. Obedience becomes our joy.

Prayer: Lord, shape not only my actions, but my desires and motives too. I belong to You. Amen.

Thursday Jan. 1 God's Spirit Within Us

Scripture: John 14:15-17 and Ezekiel 36:26-28

Jesus promised His disciples something extraordinary: God would not only walk beside them; He would live within them. We are never left to follow God alone. We don't live the Christian life by our toughness, discipline, or willpower. The Holy Spirit strengthens, guides, comforts, and empowers us. Where we lack strength, God supplies it. Where we lack direction, God leads. We don't simply *carry faith*. Faith carries us.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, lead me, fill me, and remind me I am never alone. Amen.

Friday, Jan. 2 From Death to Life

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-5 and Ezekiel 36:26-28

Paul speaks of spiritual death. He tells us about a life cut off from God. But God meets us in that place. He doesn't come with condemnation. He comes with grace. He doesn't just rescue us; He revives us. He breathes life into places we thought were gone forever. God specializes in resurrection work. Wherever something feels spiritually lifeless in your heart, God can bring life again.

Prayer: God of grace, thank You for loving me. Bring life to every part of me that feels weary, numb, or lost. Amen.

Saturday, Jan. 3 Belonging to God

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10 and Ezekiel 36:26-28

Peter repeats the words of Ezekiel, "*You will be My people, and I will be your God.*" That truth is also for the church. God doesn't just save us individually. He claims us as His people. We belong. We are part of God's story, God's family, God's work in the world. When life feels unstable, unclear, or purpose uncertain, remember this truth: You belong to God. You are not forgotten. You are not on your own. You are His.

Prayer: Lord, help me live as Your child, confident in Your love and committed to You. Amen.

Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026 Wesley Covenant Service

Worship at 10am

by Pastor Clint Phillips

Starting Over

Ezekiel 36:26-28