

THIS WEEK'S JOURNEY

I'D RATHER HAVE YOU

A FIVE-DAY JOURNEY TO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

PRESENCE
PORTION
PEACE
DIRECTION
RETURN

*More Than
A Moment...
A Lifetime
With Him.*

MONDAY • SEPT 21

NOT
MY PLANS
BUT
YOUR PURPOSE.

**CHOOSING
HIS PRESENCE
OVER MY PLANS**

JEREMIAH 29:13

Seek God first, and you will find
more than answers — you will find Him.

TUESDAY • SEPT 22

YOU
ARE MY
PORTION.

**WHAT IF GOD
DOESN'T GIVE ME
WHAT I WANT?**

PSALM 73:25-26

Even if I don't have everything I want,
I still have everything I need — You.

WEDNESDAY • SEPT 23

YOU'RE
STILL
IN THE BOAT
WITH ME.

**WITH YOU
IN THE STORM**

MARK 4:35-41

Peace isn't the absence of the storm;
it's knowing Who's in the boat.

THURSDAY • SEPT 24

MY WAY
EASY HIS WAY
RIGHT

**EASY WITHOUT GOD
IS STILL TOO HARD**

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Don't choose a road because it's easy.
Choose the road where God is leading.

FRIDAY • SEPT 25

SIN
HURT
ADDICTION
REGRET
SHAME
DISTANCE

**COME BACK
TO THE ONE
WHO LOVES YOU**

JAMES 4:6-10

Grace will meet you where you are,
but love won't leave you there.



READ



REFLECT



APPLY



LIVE

BE A DISCIPLE. BE THE DIFFERENCE.

#EverydayEkklesia

*Love more than I know,
Stephan*



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Tuesday, September 22, 2026 • 7:00 PM

I'D RATHER HAVE YOU
When God Becomes More Important
Than What I Want

"Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever." Psalm 73:25–26

Spiritual maturity is reached when we stop treating God as the means to what we want and discover that God Himself is what our souls have been searching for.

And tonight we're going to walk through this week's Word:

PRESENCE → PORTION → PEACE → DIRECTION → RETURN

HIS
PRESENCE
CHANGES
EVERYTHING.



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CALLED CHOSEN SHIFTED

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MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 21
EKKLESIA DAILY DEVOTIONAL

A FRESH WORD FOR YOUR EVERYDAY JOURNEY

I'D RATHER HAVE *YOU*

CHOOSING HIS PRESENCE OVER MY PLANS.

LESS MY PLANS
LESS MY CONTROL
LESS MY COMFORT
MORE OF YOU, LORD

*The Shift
Starts With Surrender.*



KEY SCRIPTURE

*"You will seek me
and find me when
you seek me with
all your heart."*

— Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)



TODAY'S WORD

Sometimes we want what God can give us more than we want God Himself. We want the blessing, but not always His direction. We want the promise, but not always His process. Spiritual maturity begins when we can say, "Lord, even if Your way is different from mine, I'd rather have You."



TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Before asking God for something today, spend time simply seeking Him.



REMEMBER

*His presence
is better
than my
preference.*



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BE A DISCIPLE. BE THE DIFFERENCE.

Jeremiah 29:13

*“You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all your
heart.”*

1. PRESENCE OVER MY PLANS

“When What I Want and What God Wants Aren't the Same”

There is a difference between seeking God and seeking something from God. Sometimes our relationship with God becomes transactional.

We want the door. We want the opportunity. We want the relationship...

And none of those desires are necessarily wrong. But here's the question:

**What happens when what I want begins pulling me away from the God
I'm asking to give it to me?**

1. PRESENCE OVER MY PLANS

“When What I Want and What God Wants Aren't the Same”

Jeremiah doesn't say: “You will seek the blessing and find it.”

God says: “You will seek ME and find ME.”

At some point discipleship has to move from:

“Lord, make my plans work.”

to:

“Lord, teach me to want what You want.”



Have you ever already made up your mind about something—and then prayed as though you were still asking God for direction?

How can we tell when we're seeking God's direction versus asking Him to approve what we've already decided?

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Before asking God for His hand, seek His heart.

Before the next major decision:

PRAY → SEARCH THE WORD → LISTEN → OBEY.

If having it costs me intimacy with God, it costs too much.

LESS
COMPARISON

LESS
DEPENDENCE

LESS OF
WHAT OWNS ME

MORE OF
YOU, LORD.

SEEK
HIM
FIRST

You Are
My Portion.

PSALM 73:25-26



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A FRESH WORD FOR YOUR EVERYDAY JOURNEY

I'D RATHER HAVE YOU
**I'D RATHER
HAVE YOU**

WHEN GOD HIMSELF BECOMES ENOUGH

"Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever."

PSALM 73:25-26 NLT



READ



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Be a Disciple. Be the Difference.

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TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 22
2026



TODAY'S WORD

There comes a point in our walk with God when we stop seeing Him merely as the One who gives us what we need—and discover that God Himself is what we need most.



TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Surrender one thing you've been depending on for fulfillment and declare: "Lord, I'd rather have You."



REMEMBER

God isn't merely the One who gives me my portion.

GOD IS MY PORTION.

*Love More than I know,
Stephan*



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BE A DISCIPLE.
BE THE DIFFERENCE.

Psalm 73:25-26

Whom have I in heaven but you?

I desire you more than anything on earth.

My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak,

but God remains the strength of my heart;
he is mine forever.

2. GOD HIMSELF BECOMES ENOUGH

“When What I Don't Have Starts Controlling How I Feel”

Psalm 73:25–26...

***Asaph has been looking at everybody else. What they have.
How they're prospering. What seems to be working for them.
And comparison almost causes him to lose his footing.
Then something changes.***

2. GOD HIMSELF BECOMES ENOUGH

“When What I Don't Have Starts Controlling How I Feel”

**He stops concentrating on what they have and remembers Who he has.
And he says: “I desire you more than anything on earth.”**

That's a different level of maturity.

It doesn't mean: “I don't want anything.”

**It means: “Nothing I want gets to become greater than the One I
worship.”**

Here's the Shift:

Provider: God gives me what I need.

Portion: God Himself is what I need most.



Finish this sentence privately first:

“I'll finally be okay when _____.”

Now let's talk:

When does a legitimate desire become an idol?

Can I surrender it? Can I hear no?

**Can I tolerate not yet? Can I celebrate somebody else
receiving what I've been praying for?**

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Comparison says: “Look at what you don't have.”

Faith says: “Look at Who you already have.”

IF I HAVE JESUS, I AM NOT EMPTY WHILE I'M WAITING.

And this is tonight's major declaration:

GOD ISN'T MERELY THE ONE WHO GIVES ME MY PORTION.

GOD IS MY PORTION.

SAME
JESUS.

BIGGER
STORMS.

GREATER
PEACE.

I'D RATHER
HAVE YOU.

*Peace Isn't
the Absence of the Storm...
It's Knowing Who's in the Boat.*

MARK 4:35-41



WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 23
2026

EKKLESIA DAILY
DAILY DEVOTIONS
A FRESH WORD FOR YOUR EVERYDAY JOURNEY

I'D RATHER HAVE YOU
**WITH YOU
IN THE STORM**

MARK 4:35-41

"He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,
'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was
completely calm."

MARK 4:39 (NIV)



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TODAY'S WORD

Jesus is with you in the storm. His presence doesn't always remove the storm, but it changes what the storm is allowed to mean. Peace isn't the absence of a storm; it's knowing Who's in the boat.



TODAY'S CHALLENGE

When the storm hits, don't just react — reach. Declare, "Lord, I'd rather have You," and choose faith over fear.



REMEMBER

Jesus is not just a solution to my storms—
He is my peace in the middle of them.

HE'S IN THE BOAT.

*Lovell more than I know,
Stephan*



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BE A DISCIPLE.
BE THE DIFFERENCE.

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” ³⁶ So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). ³⁷ But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

³⁸ Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”

³⁹ When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹ The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

3. PEACE IN MY STORM

“When Following Jesus Doesn't Keep the Storm Away”

This one is important.

The disciples weren't in the storm because they disobeyed Jesus.

They were in the storm after Jesus told them to cross over.

So trouble isn't always evidence that you missed God.

Sometimes you can be exactly where God told you to be—
and still encounter a storm.

Jesus was in the boat.

The storm still came. The waves were real. The water was real. Their fear was real.

3. PEACE IN MY STORM

“When Following Jesus Doesn't Keep the Storm Away”

But there was another reality:

JESUS WAS IN THE BOAT.

Then they wake Him: “Teacher, don't You care that we're going to drown?”

Notice what fear did.

They moved from: “We're in a storm.”

to:

“Jesus doesn't care.”

That's dangerous.

Because now the storm is interpreting God.



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Have you ever interpreted God's silence as God's absence?

What's the difference between acknowledging that the storm is real and allowing the storm to determine what you believe about God?

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Don't let circumstances tell you who God is.

**Let what you know about God tell you how to interpret
your circumstances.**

**Peace isn't the absence of a storm; peace is knowing
Who's in the boat.**

Therefore:

**I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS IN THE STORM
THAN HAVE COMFORT WITHOUT HIM.**

TWO ROADS.
TWO OUTCOMES.
SAME CHOICE.

DON'T CHOOSE
A ROAD BECAUSE
IT'S EASY.

**CHOOSE THE ROAD
WHERE GOD IS
LEADING.**

EASIER
FASTER
COMFORT
MORE OF ME

MY WAY
EASY

HIS WAY
RIGHT

TRUST
OBEDIENCE
PURPOSE
MORE OF HIM

*I'd rather take
the harder road
with God
than the easier road
without Him.*



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A FRESH WORD FOR YOUR EVERYDAY JOURNEY

I'D RATHER HAVE YOU

EASY WITHOUT GOD IS STILL TOO HARD

PROVERBS 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not
on your own understanding; in all your ways
acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

PROVERBS 3:5-6 (NKJV)



READ



REFLECT



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LIVE

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THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 24
2026



TODAY'S WORD

Sometimes the path that makes
the most sense to us is not the path
God is directing us to take. Trust
means surrendering not only the
destination—but also the route.



TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Before making your next move, ask:
"Lord, am I following Your direction—
or simply choosing what looks
easiest to me?"



REMEMBER

Ease is not my compass.
GOD IS.

*Love more than I know,
Stephan*



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BE A DISCIPLE.
BE THE DIFFERENCE.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own
understanding.

Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.

4. GOD DIRECTS MY PATH

“When Easy Isn't Necessarily Right”

We naturally evaluate decisions by what we can see.

Which way is faster? Which costs less? Which creates less conflict?

Which gives me what I want sooner? Which makes the most sense?

But Proverbs says:

Don't make your understanding your final authority.

Because:

I can see the next turn. God sees the entire road.

Here's the theological distinction:

The hard road isn't automatically God's road.

The easy road isn't automatically the wrong road.

Difficulty isn't the compass. Comfort isn't the compass.

GOD IS THE COMPASS.



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What's the difference between using wisdom to make a decision and “leaning on your own understanding”?

Have you ever chosen what looked easier only to discover later that easier wasn't better?

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Before your next move, ask:

**“Lord, am I following Your direction—or simply
choosing what looks easiest to me?”**

Don't choose a road because it's easy.

Choose the road where God is leading.

NO MATTER
HOW FAR YOU'VE GONE...

NO MATTER
WHAT YOU'VE DONE...

NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT'S BEEN...

**YOU CAN
COME HOME.**

SIN

HURT

ADDICTION

REGRET

SHAME

DISTANCE

*I've tried
my way long enough.
Jesus,
I'm coming back
to You.*

JAMES 4:6-10



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DAILY DEVOTIONS

A FRESH WORD FOR YOUR EVERYDAY JOURNEY

I'D RATHER HAVE YOU

COME BACK TO THE ONE WHO LOVES YOU

JAMES 4:6-10

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you...."

JAMES 4:8 (NKJV)



READ



REFLECT



APPLY



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Be a Disciple. Be the Difference.

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FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 25
2026

TODAY'S WORD



You may have drifted. You may have made choices outside His will. You may even be carrying shame over what you knew better than to do. But God does not expose distance merely to condemn you—He calls you back because He loves you.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE



Identify one area where you know you've been resisting God. Don't defend it, hide it, or postpone it. Bring it honestly to Him today.

REMEMBER



Grace will meet you where you are, but love won't leave you there.

YOU CAN COME HOME.

*Love I more than I know,
Stephän*



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BE A DISCIPLE.
BE THE DIFFERENCE.

James 4:6-10

⁶ And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.”

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

5. RETURN TO THE ONE WHO LOVES ME

“When I Realize I've Drifted”

Here's where tonight gets personal.

What happens when God shows me:

I did choose my way... I did ignore His direction...

I did drift... I did compromise... I did know better.

James doesn't say: Hide.

It says: “Come close to God, and God will come close to you.”

That's grace...

5. RETURN TO THE ONE WHO LOVES ME

“When I Realize I've Drifted”

But notice:

Grace doesn't tell us to stay where we are.

James talks about humility.

Repentance. Cleansing. Turning. Drawing near.

Because:

GRACE WILL MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE,

BUT LOVE WON'T LEAVE YOU THERE.

Repentance isn't merely: “I feel bad about what I did.”

Repentance says: “I'm changing direction.”



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**Why does shame often make people run away
from the very God they need to run toward?**

**What's the difference between feeling guilty
and genuinely repenting?**

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Identify one place where you've been resisting God.

Don't defend it.

Don't hide it.

Don't postpone it.

Bring it honestly to Him.

I'VE TRIED MY WAY LONG ENOUGH.

JESUS, I'M COMING BACK TO YOU.

NOW LOOK AT THE WHOLE WEEK

When I'm...

"I'd Rather Have You" reminds me...

Making plans His presence matters more than my preference.

Waiting for something God Himself is my portion.

In a storm Jesus is still in my boat.

Making decisions God's direction is my compass.

Realizing I've drifted Grace is calling me home.

Now Psalm 73:25–26 makes sense.

"Whom have I in heaven but You?"

Because the mature believer eventually discovers:

I WANT THE BLESSING— BUT NOT MORE THAN I WANT JESUS



EKA HOMEWORK — “FIND YOUR WORD”



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Write these five words:

PRESENCE

PORTION

PEACE

DIRECTION

RETURN



1. Which one describes what God is working on most in me right now?

2. What is one act of obedience I can take before next Tuesday?

“Lord, whether You give it, change it, remove it, make me wait, lead me through it, or redirect me—I’d rather have You.”



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THROUGH EVERY TRANSITION,

He was faithful.

**GOD ANSWERED
OUR PRAYER.**



WE HAVE A HOME.

7023 RAGGARD ROAD

LOUISVILLE, KY 40216



**SUNDAYS
10:00 AM**



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CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRIES

Called. Chosen. Shifted.

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BE A DISCIPLE * BE THE DIFFERENCE

“Everyday... Ekklesia” calls us to live out our faith daily,
actively engaging in **discipleship** by **reaching out, bringing others** to Christ.



Each1

*



Reach1

*



Bring1

*



and *together* we'll
Teach Every1



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