



## Daily Devotionals – November 17, 2024

### Seeking First His Kingdom

#### Day 1: Trusting Beyond Our Understanding

##### Scripture:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” – *Proverbs 3:5-6*

##### Reflection:

When life feels uncertain or confusing, it’s natural to want answers. Yet Proverbs calls us to lean not on our understanding but to trust God fully. True trust means relying on God even when things don’t make sense, believing He sees a bigger picture we cannot.

##### Story:

Sarah had always been a planner. Her life was organized down to the smallest detail, from her career goals to her family plans. But when she lost her job unexpectedly, her carefully constructed world began to fall apart. For the first time, she had no control over what came next. One night, feeling defeated, she opened her Bible to Proverbs 3:5-6. The words struck her deeply, especially, “Lean not on your own understanding.” Sarah took a deep breath and whispered a simple prayer: “God, I don’t know what’s next, but I’m going to trust You.” Over the following months, she learned to surrender her worries daily. Eventually, a new job opportunity opened—one that aligned perfectly with her values and passions. She realized that God’s path, though different from hers, was precisely what she needed.

**Prayer:**

Loving Father, help me to trust You with all my heart, especially when I don't understand what's happening. Teach me to let go of my need for control and to lean into Your wisdom instead of my own. Show me how to surrender fully, knowing that You will make my path straight. Thank You for Your presence, even in my confusion. May I remember today that You are guiding me and that Your way is always best. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Day 2: Surrendering Our Plans****Scripture:**

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." – *Proverbs 16:3*

**Reflection:**

It's easy to hold tightly to our plans, but God calls us to commit our desires and dreams to Him. When we do, He can transform them in ways that exceed our expectations.

**Story:**

Mike had dreamed of launching his own business for years, saving and planning every detail. But every time he stepped forward, another obstacle blocked his path. Frustrated, he finally prayed, "God, I'm committing this to You. If this is Your plan, open the doors. If not, close them." Over time, he felt peaceful about shifting his career focus entirely. Later, he was offered a role at a nonprofit that helped his community path he hadn't anticipated but felt deeply fulfilled in. Mike realized that God's plan was far greater than his own and that he had found a purpose he had never imagined by surrendering.

**Prayer:**

God, today I lay my plans at Your feet. My dreams and desires are limited, but Your wisdom is infinite. Teach me to let go of my agenda and follow where You lead, trusting that You will establish the best path for me. Help me to open my heart and mind to Your will, even if it looks different from what I envisioned. Give me the courage to walk in faith, knowing that Your plans are good. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Day 3: Trusting Through Unanswered Prayers****Scripture:**

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. – *Isaiah 55:8*

**Reflection:**

Sometimes, God's answers to our prayers differ from what we hoped for. Trusting Him means believing His thoughts and ways are higher than ours, even when we don't see immediate results.

**Story:**

Elena prayed for her sister's healing for years, hoping for a miracle. Despite her fervent prayers, her sister's health continued to decline. Elena began to question if God was listening. Then, one day, her sister shared how she had experienced a deeper sense of God's presence and peace through her illness. Elena realized that God was working in ways she hadn't expected. Her sister's journey drew them closer to God, teaching Elena that sometimes God's answer isn't what we want but need.

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, I bring my unanswered prayers to You today, acknowledging my struggles and doubts. Help me to trust that Your ways are higher, and Your love is greater than I can comprehend. Even when I don't understand, help me find peace knowing You always work for good. Strengthen my faith, Lord, and remind me that Your timing is perfect. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Day 4: When God Closes a Door****Scripture:**

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future." – *Jeremiah 29:11*

**Reflection:**

When God closes a door, it's often because He's leading us toward something better. His plans are hopeful, even when the path differs from what we expected.

**Story:**

Jason had been applying for his dream job for months, certain that it was where God wanted him. But when he received a rejection letter, he was crushed. A few weeks later, he received an unexpected offer in a different city, working with an admired community organization. Jason realized that God had closed one door to open another—one that would bring him fulfillment and growth. He learned that trusting God's plans means being open to His unexpected redirections.

**Prayer:**

Lord, help me to trust You when doors close. Remind me that each closed door is a part of Your divine plan, leading me to something better. Give me patience and hope in times of disappointment and help me see Your guidance at every step. Thank You for your plans for me, and help me trust that You are preparing a future filled with hope. Amen.

## **Day 5: Relying on God's Strength**

### **Scripture:**

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me." – *Psalms 28:7*

### **Reflection:**

Our strength has limits, but God's strength is boundless. Trusting Him means relying on His power rather than our own when we feel weak or uncertain.

### **Story:**

Emily was facing one of the most challenging seasons of her life—financial strain, family illness, and work pressures all at once. She felt like she couldn't carry the weight alone. One night, she read Psalm 28:7, and something clicked. She began to pray daily, asking God for strength. Slowly, she found a new resilience and peace, realizing that God was sustaining her through it all. Emily learned to lean on God, trusting His strength was enough even when hers wasn't.

### **Prayer:**

God, today I admit my need for Your strength. I am weak, but You are strong. Help me to rely on Your power, trusting that You will carry me through whatever challenges come my way. Thank You for being my shield, my helper, and my strength. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 6: Trusting God's Timing**

### **Scripture:**

"He has made everything beautiful in its time." – *Ecclesiastes 3:11*

### **Reflection:**

God's timing often differs from ours, but it's always perfect. Trusting Him means having patience and knowing He is working things out in His time.

### **Story:**

After years of waiting to meet someone special, Anna began to lose hope. She had prayed and waited, but God seemed silent. One day, she focused on deepening her relationship with God rather than on what was missing. Months later, she met someone unexpectedly, and God's timing had been perfect. She realized that God's timing is not delayed but designed, shaping us in the waiting.

### **Prayer:**

Father, give me the patience to wait for Your timing. Help me to trust that You are making everything beautiful in its time, even when I feel anxious or discouraged. Let me find peace in Your perfect timing and remind me that You are never late. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 7: Walking in Faith**

### **Scripture:**

“For we live by faith, not by sight.” – *2 Corinthians 5:7*

### **Reflection:**

Faith means trusting in God’s unseen hand to guide and support us. Walking in faith involves letting go of the need to know every step and trusting that God is leading us.

### **Story:**

John felt called to a ministry position overseas, but fear crept in as he considered all the unknowns. He remembered 2 Corinthians 5:7 and realized that walking by faith meant trusting God with each step, even if he couldn’t see the whole path. With prayer and courage, John followed God’s call, discovering a purpose and joy he couldn’t have found any other way.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, help me to walk by faith and not by sight. When I cannot see what lies ahead, remind me that You are with me every step of the way. Give me the courage to trust You, even in uncertainty, and help me remember that faith means relying on You, not on what I see. Thank You for being my guide and my strength. In Jesus’ name, Amen.