



# **FOR CHRIST** *& OUR FUTURE*

Woodridge Baptist Church of Kingwood, TX  
August 11 - September 5, 2025

This small devotional is meant to provide a time of meditation on the scriptures and prayer for anyone seeking Christ and His direction during the 2025-26 building campaign of Woodridge Baptist Church of Kingwood. "For Christ and Our Future" is certainly about building the church, but not merely with bricks and mortar. In seeking His face together for four weeks, we seek to be built together and become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit (Eph. 2:22).

To that end, there are four weeks of readings, five per week. These can be divided into Four Sections:

1. The Church Member as a Worshipper
2. The Church Member as a Disciple
3. The Church Member on Mission as an Evangelist
4. The Church Member as a Steward

The Pastor and Staff of Woodridge join with you in seeking God's face during this critical time in the life of our church. May Christ be glorified in our obedience to follow hard after Him, and may the Spirit empower us to do greater things than we ever thought possible.

Soli Deo Gloria

**Aug. 11    Where Does Worship Begin?    Psalm 100:1**

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

Does worship begin with the first song on Sunday morning, or the familiar greeting and announcements? True worship does not originate with us. True worship is initiated by God. It was His idea. And in Psalm 100, it is no less than Jesus Christ Himself who calls us to worship. It is Jesus who opens for us the “new and living way” (Heb. 10:20) into the presence of God. It is Jesus who brings us to God (1 Peter 3:18), and it is only by Jesus that any of us can accept the invitation of Psalm 100.

The superscription refers to this as “A Psalm for Giving Thanks.” Psalm 100 is there to stir up the whole church to praise God cheerfully. Some translations say “Make a joyful noise” instead of “shout.” Either way, the emphasis is on the volume of praise and the heart attitude of the worshipper, not on the musicianship. And this instruction is given by Jesus—not simply to the church—but to the whole earth. It’s a bold invitation for every man and woman on the planet to set aside their idols and loudly confess that there is only one God.

*Lord Jesus, I admit my worship on Sundays is sometimes half-hearted and cold. You deserve so much more from me. Be my worship leader this Sunday, and usher me into the presence of the Father.*

**Aug. 12      Choose Joy in Worship      Psalm 100:2**

*Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

What makes a song joyful? Is it the beat? How fast it is played? Maybe it's the key it is sung in, or perhaps it is certain instruments, like drums or guitar, that add the "joy" factor?

What makes a song joyful is the attitude of the worshipper. And here, we are instructed to worship with "gladness" not "madness." So, when worshipping, why is it that our minds so often wander to the ways we've been hurt by others, the circumstances that frustrate us, or the fears that threaten to dominate our thinking? We might be singing "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee" on the outside, but inside we might be grumbling "Crazy, Crazy people 'round me!"

One consideration is this: There's a huge difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is a fleeting emotion, a reaction to something on the outside. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, it transcends anything that happens on the outside. If you're waiting for a feeling of "joy" to strike you before you begin to worship, you'll probably not get past the first verse of any song.

*Savior, You endured the cross "for the joy set before You." (Heb. 12:2). And it stuns me to realize the "joy" was that you could have a relationship with me! Help me choose joy as I worship You.*

**Aug. 13            Help Me Know You More            Psalm 100:3**

*Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.*

To know that the Lord is God is not merely mental agreement, but involves a response of submission. It is more than saying “I believe there is a God;” it is to say that “this Lord” (Adonai) is the only *true* God (Elohim). There is no other. And only the Holy Spirit can enable a person to confess this.

And to know this truth is to acknowledge that we are not our own, that we belong to Him. We are, after all, the sheep of His pasture. Put these two truths together, and as Theodore of Cyrus noted, “God has indicated not only His Lordship over us (we belong to Him) but His watchcare for us (for He is the Good Shepherd.)

Again, to know the Lord is not merely to say “There is a God.” It is to *experience* that God in all awe and wonder. When you consider that God made you in His image, that He has cared and provided for you as a Good Shepherd does his sheep, and that He has made a way for you to know Him in His fullness, this is motivation for worship.

*Good Shepherd, I need rest. I need provision. Come be MY Shepherd today. And when I stray, I'm counting on You to bring me back into Your pasture.*

**Aug. 14**

**Give Thanks**

**Psalms 100:4**

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

True worship is a journey toward Someone. And the road the Christian walks to get there should be paved with praise and thanksgiving. As pilgrims we are still en route, but it is our privilege even now to savor our “citizenship that is in heaven” (Phil. 3:20).

Alec Motyer tells of an elderly couple who were given the privilege of an invitation from the Queen of England to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. A kindly parking attendant, noting their age, pointed them to a seldom-used gate located at the rear of the property. “Go in that way,” he said. “It will save you a long walk.”

“What?” they said. “Do you think that with the invitation from the Queen herself in our hands we are going in through a back gate?” Through Christ’s personal invitation to us (the cross) we are invited to go right through the front gate into the Holy of Holies. And we find joy in the journey, even through the struggles. For the opportunity to see the King Himself one day will greatly outweigh the trials we had along the way.

*How I thank You, Lord God, that there is a place near Your throne for me—all because of what Jesus has done as my substitute at the cross. Help me to begin both my personal and corporate times of worship with a heart full of thanksgiving as I call on Your name in praise.*

**Aug. 15      A Message with a Promise      Psalm 100:5**

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

This verse is the key verse of our Building Campaign, “For Christ and our Future.” In Biblical times, success was closely tied to being able to produce the next generation. In Psalm 78, Asaph wrote “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord . . . so the next generation will know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn will tell their children . . .” (Psalm 78:4b, 6).

The church is always one generation away from extinction. Will it be said someday that the only place to see a Christian will be in a museum? That’s why we’re building at Woodridge—to make sure we have space to reach as many as possible for Christ, and pass our faith along to the next generation.

And what is that message? The Lord is good and his love endures forever! We can go through many difficulties, and if we don’t understand that God is good, we will blame Him for them all. But if we see God as good, and that His love is a well of grace that will never run dry—we can go through anything that is thrown at us and reflect His glory to all.

*Father, show me how I might participate wholeheartedly in this campaign—not simply to purchase brick and mortar, but to invest in future generations of believers in Kingwood, that Your church may grow and that You may be glorified in all my actions.*

**Aug. 18**

**Catch of the Day**

**Luke 5:1-11**

*“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”* said Peter. Then Jesus said to him, *“Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.”* (Luke 5:8, 10b)

The first eleven verses of Luke 5 show two men— One was fishing for fish, the other fishing for men. The man-fisher, after teaching a crowd, told the fisherman to put out into the deep and let down the nets for a catch. And when Peter obeyed, and those nets began to break at the weight of the fish, Peter knew his life would never be the same. For he himself had been hooked and caught by the Fisher of Men, Jesus. Peter was the catch of the day! When they finally reached the shore, Peter’s career as a fisherman appeared to be over—but it was really just beginning!

Being a Christian isn’t about following rules; it’s about following a Person. Jesus doesn’t stand in a far off place and demand that we get our act together before approaching Him. Instead, He climbs into the boat of our life and beckons us into a life larger than our own.

Following Jesus is ultimately about doing *what* Jesus did, the *way* He did it. It’s that simple. We love the people He loved, serve the people He served, and do the things He did. We follow.

*At your bidding, O Master, I will let down my nets and will leave them forever behind. For what you have to offer is infinitely more than all the seas of this world ever could.*

**Aug. 19**

**Listen Up!**

**John 10:27**

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

In John 10, Jesus identified himself as the “Good Shepherd.” In Jesus’ day, shepherds were not highly revered, so to hear of a “good” shepherd would have been unique. And how did the sheep know the shepherd’s voice? Maybe it was the pitch of his voice, or perhaps the rhythm of his call. How do you know the voice of the one you love? You spend so much time with them that their voice stands out in a crowd!

We hear a number of different voices every week, all competing for our attention. They market their wares and recipes for abundant life to us. But at the end of the day, Jesus is saying, it is only the voice of the Good Shepherd that can lead us safely home.

Life doesn’t really begin until you hear God speak to you. It likely won’t be audible. But it will be unmistakable. Whatever He says will never contradict what is in His written Word. But this, more than anything else, will mark you as different from the rest of the crowd. YOU will hear the voice of God calling you. And you will follow Him. This is the mark of a disciple of Jesus.

*Good Shepherd, help me this day to listen for You. Teach me what Your voice sounds like. Show me the direction in which I should go. Lead me to the pastures and watering holes that will sustain me.*

**Aug. 20**

**The Secret Place**

**Mark 1:35**

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

Before He appointed the 12 Apostles, before He fed multitudes, walked on water, was transfigured; before the upper room and the last supper, and the trials, crucifixion, and resurrection, Jesus prayed. Oh how He prayed!

But notice His method: He had a time and a place that allowed Him to get alone with His Father and be empowered by the Spirit of God. Yes, life was busy, but Jesus carved out moments when He could talk to His Father.

And when His disciples found him, they exclaimed “Everyone is looking for you!” (Mark 1:37) But because Jesus had been praying, He didn’t let them convince Him to stay in Capernaum. He said “Let us go somewhere else . . . so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

Direction—Focus—Purpose—Commitment—Jesus had all these in spades, because the Father gave them to Him while He was praying. What if He hadn’t prayed that morning? WE ONLY HAVE THE CROSS BECAUSE JESUS PRAYED AND RECEIVED GOD’S PLAN FOR HIS LIFE.

*And so O Lord, if you, the Wholly Holy Son of God needed to pray, how much more do I? Teach me how, and light a fire of prayer in me that will never go out.*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another . . .*

Polls say church attendance is in decline. In most churches, “committed” Christians attend about twice a month. But there are several reasons for remaining faithful to gather together.

How else can you spur other brothers and sisters on toward love and good deeds? When else will you see them? And have you ever attended church when someone encourages you with a timely word, and it was just what you needed to hear?

Consider a trip to the gym. More often than not, you go because you know you need it. And a church is God's gym! How else do you learn to love unless you are around unlovely people? How else do you learn patience until yours is put to the test? Every time you are at church you are lifting spiritual weights, strengthening muscles of the heart and soul that can be strengthened nowhere else.

Faithful church attendance can be difficult and countercultural, but it's easier to count the cost when you consider the benefits. So we say with joy, “Oh magnify the LORD with me, let us exalt his name together!” ([Ps. 34:3](#)).

*With King David I declare this day, “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord!”*

**Aug. 22**

**Embrace the Cross**

**Luke 9:23**

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

We've been looking this week at characteristics of a disciple. A disciple follows, listens, prays, seeks community. But there's one other characteristic—self-denial.

This begins when we abdicate the throne of our lives. Nate Saint chose this kind of life. He was one of five American missionaries who were martyred in Ecuador in 1956, trying to share the gospel with the Auca tribe.

Years later, an American hired a pilot to fly over that same jungle where the men had given their lives. The passenger kept pointing to various spots on the ground, asking "Is that where Nate Saint died?" Finally, toward the end of the flight, the pilot turned and said to the passenger, "I was at a chapel service at Wheaton College when Nate Saint surrendered his life to Christ. Sir, THAT is where Nate Saint died!"

Our crosses are not simply trials or hardships. A cross comes from following after Jesus. It comes from bearing disdain because we have embraced "The Way."

*Give me courage, O Lord, to surrender to my daily crosses. Grant me strength to shoulder the beam, submit to the nails, and be silent before the abuse, knowing in the end that it will best serve my soul.*

**Aug. 25      Jesus Was Kind With Us      John 1:43-51**

*“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.*

Have you ever met a person who chose Jesus because someone debated them on Facebook, or argued with them for their lifestyle choices? Likely not! In this style of evangelism, we are trying to win the argument rather than the person.

Nathanael was cynical and disrespectful. But Jesus saw both the best and the worst in him, and yet loved him just the same. Even though Nathanael abrasively spoke to Jesus (v. 48) our Lord did not respond to insult with injury.

When we get defensive when sharing Christ, it reveals how little we really believe in the power of the gospel to transform others. Phillip certainly believed—he was faithful with a simple invitation to Nathanael—“Come and see.” Jesus then immediately affirmed Nathanael with gentleness and love. How can we do that when sharing our faith with a cynic?

To offer a gentle answer, we must first be flooded by the reality that we've *already received one*. We show kindness when witnessing to others because Jesus was kind with us.

*I confess, Great God, too often I lead with pride instead of humility. I want to be seen as right! But in all my sharing your love with others, help me to show that YOU ALONE are right—and I'm just a sinner like everyone else.*

**Aug. 26**

**Lead with Kindness**

**Luke 19:1-10**

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

When he walked through the crowds and climbed up into a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus, Zacchaeus did so all alone. Like all who build their empires by taking advantage of others, he was rich, but also isolated. He was an outsider looking in.

But Jesus did not come for the righteous. He did not come for good people who feel no need for Him, but for humble sinners who know that without Him, they are doomed.

And when Jesus tells Zacchaeus to come down from the tree, Zacchaeus is still a crook. Before Zacchaeus does anything good, Jesus reaches out to him in kindness. And it turns Zacchaeus around. What took a lifetime to accumulate, one sentence of devotion begins to liquidate. He says “Behold Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” Look closely and witness the miracle—it’s a camel passing through the eye of a needle.

Who do you know like Zacchaeus? They don't need your condemnation, they need the kindness of Christ—and He delivers it to them through you.

*Father, let me not wait to show love and kindness, but to share it with those who don't deserve it. Help me stop hauling water to the sea by loving only those who love me. And thank You for Your kindness in my life.*

**Aug. 27**

**Before and After**

**John 9:25b**

*One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!*

Your calling is to share your story with others who don't believe. But sometimes the story gets blurred. Sometimes we are long-winded, or fuzzy about details. Sometimes we speak in Christianese, or act superior as we tell our story. And for goodness sakes, don't start your faith story with the strangest experience you've ever had with God.

Instead, share your before and after story, like the man born blind in John 9:1-41. After Jesus healed him, the Pharisees grilled him, trying to stop the "Jesus Movement" dead in its tracks. They threw many questions at him, but there was one fact he held onto throughout his ordeal. "I was blind, but now I see!" And they couldn't refute that.

People may and will refute your doctrine of creation, your view of scripture, your love for the church. But they cannot refute your experience, the before and after of your life and how your life has changed. Lead with that! Distill your testimony down to 100 words or less, able to be told in 60 seconds or less.

*I confess, O Lord, that I am often timid to share my faith. Grant me courage, and help me to rehearse in my mind daily the before and after of my life—what life was like before I met you, and how You've changed me since. Help me to share my story today!*

## **Aug. 28 Evangelism Involves Forgiveness Mt. 18:21-35**

*Peter asked “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

What’s the best method for sharing Christ? Sharing your story is imperative. Sharing scripture, like the “Roman Road” is powerful. A tract like “Steps to Peace with God” can be very helpful. But one of the best methods for demonstrating the love of God for another is simply to forgive them.

In Peter’s day, if someone sinned against you once or twice, you must forgive them. But after the third time, forgiveness was no longer required. Peter showed he was willing to go beyond the law and forgive seven times. He likely thought he was being generous!

But even this was not enough. According to Jesus, if we want to be his disciples, then we can’t place limits on the number of times we are willing to forgive those who injure us.

Forgiveness involves wanting the best for the offender. It includes exchanging our daydreams of our enemy’s demise for new daydreams, ones in which he is humbled into repentance in such a way that his salvation becomes reality.

*Father, form the words of Jesus on my lips and my heart—“Forgive them, for they know not what they do.”*

**Aug. 29**

**See the Scars**

**Luke 24:48-53**

*When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up his hands and blessed them.*

Imagine you're Jesus and about to ascend into heaven. You look around at this ragtag group of followers that seem to get it wrong more than they get it right. Wouldn't you have doubts? But Jesus didn't. He didn't trust the disciples to grow the church, He trusted the Holy Spirit inside the disciples! What a difference!

Sometimes sharing your faith can feel like a well-rehearsed sales pitch. But Jesus wanted to leave his followers with a different motivation for sharing their faith, something other than closing a sale or "putting a notch" on their Bible.

As Jesus led his followers to Bethany, He might've had in mind the good times there with his close friends. How could He leave one final, lasting memory with his disciples that would convince them to go the distance for him?

As Jesus blessed them one more time, He lifted up His hands toward them, and they saw the scars in His hands. That in itself provided all the motivation they needed to go and make disciples. "Because," they must have figured, "after all He's done for us, there isn't anything we wouldn't do for Him."

*Show me Your scars, Lord. They will remind me of Your great love for me, and motivate me to tell others about You.*

**Sept. 1      Stewardship, Not Lordship      Genesis 1:28**

*God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."*

We often think of the 10 Commandments as the first and foremost things God has instructed us to do. They are important, but even long before sin, God had given mankind two commands.

The first command was to "be fruitful and increase in number." Why was this a command? Isn't it just part of the natural process anyway? Tim Keller says "Human beings 'filling the earth' means something far more than plants and animals filling the earth. It means civilization, not just procreation." In other words, God doesn't merely want more individuals of the human species; He also wants the world to be filled with human society.

And that's where the second command "fill the earth and subdue it" comes in. It's a call to stewardship, not lordship. We aren't to "lord" it over creation. There is no violent intent here to subdue the earth. Rather, we are to bear God's image by bringing order and function as "sub-creators" here on earth. We are to lovingly tend the world that God has made, as His representatives. God owns the world, but He has put it under our care to cultivate it.

*Father, forgive me for the times I try to "lord" it over that which You own. Give me a heart of love for Your world, that I might care for it and all of its inhabitants in a Christ-like manner.*

**Sept. 2**

**Connecting Work and Faith**

**Gen. 2:15**

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

Work is not a result of the fall; here God gives Adam a purpose before Adam ever sinned. Yet many Christians fail to connect the dots between their vocation and their spiritual life. Following Jesus leads us to see our work not as a way to make a living, nor as a means to climb the ladder of personal success, but a calling from God to serve Him by loving our neighbor.

So a call to work is also a call to competence. One of the best ways to glorify God in our work is to do our work well. We must autograph our work with excellence everyday. This honors and speaks to the excellence of Jesus.

And when we work in a competent way, we help others flourish. So even so-called secular jobs—education, engineering, finance, technology—even these glorify God when we do them as unto the Lord. Col. 3:23-24 says “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance.” Even the simplest of tasks are fraught with eternal significance when we perform them in response to God’s calling on our lives.

*Father, take my life’s work and use it for Your glory, to point people to Jesus. As Moses prayed in Psalm 90:17, “Lord, establish the work of our hands.”*

**Sept. 3**

**Semper Fidelis**

**1 Cor. 4:2**

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

Has your Christian life been successful? It depends on your definition of success. How does God judge the success of a Christian? Some might look at your won-loss record with regard to sin; much as with a football coach. And if you don't have a winning record, they might want to "ship you out."

The church at Corinth would have been almost impossible to pastor, so deep were their divisions. And as Paul wrote to them, he did not see himself as worthy of acclaim and superstardom, just one to be regarded as a servant of Christ.

Paul saw the ultimate definition of a successful Christian as "one who has been faithful." Faithful to the truth of the gospel. Faithful in giving. In loving. In serving.

Whether you see exciting results or not, the bottom line is that you be faithful. You've been given a trust—the gospel itself. Now keep doing life the way Jesus would do it. That's faithfulness. Despite the number in the wins column, let the record show today—"I choose to do it Your Way, O Lord." It is that life of which the Lord will say: "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).

*Lord, do such a work in my heart that I long to hear those words of yours above anything else I could ever hear. May I leave a legacy of "Semper Fidelis"—always faithful—to the name of Christ.*

**Sept. 4   Gifts Build Up the Body of Faith   1 Peter 4:10**

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

One thing we stress during a building campaign is "Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts." None of us have all the gifts; and we are not all gifted in the same fashion. But, we are ALL gifted in one way or another. And if the church, the body, is to function properly, ALL the members need to use their gift—to serve one another.

A gift is not something we earn by our merit. A gift is given to us—freely. It's not a gift if we pay for it. It's not a gift if we earn it. It is bestowed on us TOTALLY by the grace of God. The gifts are not given to us so that we will have a spiritual superiority complex, nor to draw attention to ourselves. They are given that others might say "Look at how great God is!"

It's also good to remember we don't own our gifts. We are simply stewards of them. They are all for use in the body of faith, to build it up and strengthen it. Can you imagine what Woodridge would be like if every member used their spiritual gifts to serve one another? Let it start today, and may it start with you!

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.*

*Take my moments and my days;*

*let them flow in endless praise,*

*let them flow in endless praise.*

Sept. 5

It's Impossible!

Luke 16:13

*"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

This is a radical statement by Jesus that we have tried to disprove over and over! Finances are something we all think about on a daily basis. Still, many Christians get suspicious when a church starts talking about money. We think, *This is my money; mind your own business.*

But this stems from a failure to understand that all that we have is God's, including our money. Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." And if everything we have is God's, then we are stewards of *his* money and we'll have to give an account to him of how we used it. If money becomes our master, it'll always lead to a fear of loss, resentment in our families, and ultimately a despising of God. It is impossible to serve both God and money.

The only way to experience true freedom and contentment in finances is to become extravagantly generous just like our Father: "For God so loved the world, that he *gave* his only Son." Now *that's* extravagant giving!

*Father, help me take the next step and allow You to shape my heart to treasure new things. Help me change the flow of my money so the love of my heart will change.*