5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on 1 Peter: Joyful Hope in the Midst of Suffering

Day 1: Rooted in a Living Hope

Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 — Peter opens by grounding his readers in the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the foundation of a living hope, one that cannot perish, spoil, or fade, even when trials press in from every side.

Devotional:

Every instruction Peter gives, every encouragement he offers, rests entirely on one question: Did Jesus rise from the dead? If he did, then suffering is not the final word. Your circumstances do not define your identity. Your trials do not determine your future. Peter writes to people who are losing things — social standing, financial security, comfort — and he begins not with strategy but with foundation. He points them to the risen Christ before he points them to anything else. Before you assess your problems today, assess your foundation. Is it the living, abiding, risen Jesus? If so, your hope is not wishful thinking. It is anchored in the one who conquered death itself.

Reflection: What circumstances are currently threatening to shake your hope? How does the resurrection of Jesus speak directly into those circumstances today?

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where you have allowed your circumstances to define your hope more than the resurrection has. Bring it before God in prayer and ask him to reorient your perspective around the living Christ.

Day 2: Re-Identified by Grace

Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-21 — Peter calls his readers to set their hope fully on the grace that is coming to them, to live as obedient children, and to conduct themselves with reverence, knowing they were ransomed not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ.

Devotional:

There is a word Peter uses that carries enormous weight: ransomed. You were not simply improved or encouraged or given better coping mechanisms. You were purchased out of a way of life inherited from your ancestors — a life of futility — and brought into something entirely new. This re-identification changes everything. You are no longer defined by your failures, your family history, your worst moments, or your deepest wounds. You are defined by the price that was paid for you. That price was not cheap. It was the blood of Christ. When you understand what you cost, you begin to understand what you are worth to God. That knowledge is not meant to stay in your head. It is meant to reshape the way you walk through every ordinary moment of every ordinary day.

Reflection: In what areas of your life are you still living according to your old identity rather than the new one purchased for you by Christ?

Practical Application: Choose one specific habit, attitude, or pattern of thought that belongs to your old identity. Name it honestly before God today, and ask the Holy Spirit to begin replacing it with something that reflects who you now are in Christ.

Day 3: The Corporate Call to Earnest Love

Reading: 1 Peter 1:22-25 — Peter calls his readers, having been born again through the living and abiding word of God, to love one another earnestly from a pure heart, reminding them that all flesh fades like grass but the word of the Lord endures forever.

Devotional:

The love Peter describes here is not passive or sentimental. The word he uses carries the idea of intensity and pursuit. It is a love that requires effort, intention, and the willingness to engage even when your feelings are not cooperating. And crucially, this love is not addressed to isolated individuals. It is addressed to a community. The Christian life was never designed to be lived alone. The re-identification that comes through faith in Christ is not merely a private transaction between you and God. It pulls you into a body of people who are called to actively, earnestly, and consistently pour into one another. The flesh fades. Feelings fade. But the word of the Lord endures, and it is that enduring word that fuels a love that outlasts emotion.

Reflection: Are you currently engaged in a community of believers where earnest, intentional love is being both given and received? If not, what is standing in the way?

Practical Application: Reach out this week to one person in your church community with specific, intentional encouragement. Do not wait until you feel like it. Do it as an act of obedience rooted in your identity in Christ.

Day 4: Burning the Old Clothes

Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-3 — Peter urges his readers to put away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, and instead to long for the pure spiritual milk of the word, so that by it they may grow up into salvation, having tasted that the Lord is good.

Devotional:

Peter uses the image of removing clothing. It is a striking picture because clothing is something we choose. Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander are not things that simply happen to us. They are things we put on. Sometimes we wear them openly. Sometimes we take them off for church and leave them on the floor nearby, ready to step back into them when the moment suits us. And sometimes, perhaps most dangerously, we give them to someone else to wear while we stand nearby enjoying the warmth without taking the risk. Peter is not calling for any version of this. He is calling for the complete removal and disposal of these things, driven not by willpower alone but by a growing hunger for something far better. You cannot manufacture that hunger on your own. But you can ask God to create it in you.

Reflection: Which of the five things Peter lists — malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander — do you find yourself most prone to wearing, even quietly or secondhand?

Practical Application: Spend time in honest confession today. Name the specific garment before God. Then ask him to replace that appetite with a genuine longing for his word and his presence.

Day 5: Longing for the Living Word

Reading: Psalm 119:97-105 and John 1:1-14 — The psalmist meditates on the life-giving power of God's word, while John reveals that the word of God is not merely written text but a living person — Jesus Christ — who came and dwelt among us.

Devotional:

Peter's call to long for the pure spiritual milk of the word is not simply a call to read your Bible more, though faithful engagement with Scripture is essential. It is a call to long for the person to whom all of Scripture points. The word of God that remains forever, that is living and abiding, that is imperishable — this is ultimately Jesus Christ himself. When you open Scripture, you are not merely gathering information. You are drawing near to a person. And that person is good. Peter says it plainly: you have tasted that the Lord is good. The antidote to malice is not discipline alone. It is a deeper and more satisfying taste of the goodness of God. Let that taste create in you a hunger that crowds out everything lesser.

Reflection: When you engage with Scripture, are you approaching it as information to be collected or as a means of drawing near to the living person of Jesus Christ? What is the difference in practice?

Practical Application: Before you open your Bible tomorrow morning, pause and pray one simple prayer: "God, I want to know you, not just know about you. Let your word lead me to your presence." Then read slowly, and stop when something stirs your heart rather than pressing on to finish a chapter.