

# Daily Practices

Week of 9/27/21 - 10/1/21

## DAY 1 // DAILY PRACTICES

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to the presence of God with you right now.

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 10:1-5

**1** The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

**2** Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death. **3** The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. **4** A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. **5** He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

**DEVOTIONAL:** The first half of the book of Proverbs shows us the ways of wisdom and how things should work without the effects of sin. Solomon, who was the wisest man to ever live, tells us that in the way of wisdom, hard work should lead toward flourishing. Diligence and prudence should lead toward riches. As followers of Jesus who are seeking to live out kingdom values on earth as they are lived in heaven, then we should work diligently and prudently for the work God has given us to do. This theme is consistent throughout scripture. When we work, we are actually partnering with what God is doing to redeem humanity. This is why, even though we live in a world marred by sin where hard work doesn't always lead toward riches, we should still work hard for the glory of God. As we partner with God in his work, through our work, we need to connect our purpose in employment to his mission in the world. How are you partnering with God through your work?

**RESPONSE:** Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit's prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.

## DAY 2 // DAILY PRACTICES

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to the presence of God with you right now.

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 10:9-12

**9** Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out. **10** Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, and a babbling fool will come to ruin. **11** The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. **12** Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

**DEVOTIONAL:** One who lives in integrity doesn't need to worry about keeping up with a double life. It is so easy to act differently around different people. We want to be liked, we want to be important, we want to be accepted, so it's tempting to change our behavior around people in order to feel more connected to that person or group. But there isn't much more that can be so damaging to the soul. When we live with different masks on, we aren't living holistic lives. Our souls fracture into different pieces. God's way of wisdom is for us to live in integrity—to live as one person, as one in wholeness. He wants us to be honest and open, rather than concealing different parts of ourselves. How can we truly give and receive love if we are only presenting parts of us? In order to truly be loved by others (which will sometimes mean that we are challenged by them), then we need to truly be ourselves. How are you working to live more holistically, in integrity, among the separate segments of your life?

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## DAY 3 // DAILY PRACTICES

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to the presence of God with you right now.

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 10:15-19

**16** The wage of the righteous leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin. **17** Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray. **18** The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool. **19** When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Wealth in the wrong hands can lead to wickedness. Part of the role of being a disciple of Jesus is to steward what we have been given well. One of the main ways that we can steward what we have well is to listen and learn in humility. No one has all the right answers, so we must open our hearts to instruction. We must listen before we speak, and then when we speak, we must speak in honesty. How is this tied to our money? Humility and honesty are key to stewardship. If we aren't humble with our finances, then we will believe that we earned what we have, rather than believing that we have been given what we have. As followers of Jesus, all that we have has been given to us by God, who owns everything anyway. We will be more likely to be generous if we see that we have been generously given everything that is ours. And then how is honesty tied to this? If we aren't honest with our lips, then we won't be honest with our money. Where our heart is, there will our money be. If our hearts lead us to lie with our mouth, then our hearts will lead us to be deceptive with our money. The way of wisdom, or the way of the kingdom, is to be honest with everything that we have. How do you need to be more humble and honest with what God has given you?

**RESPONSE:** Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit's prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.

## DAY 4 // DAILY PRACTICES

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to the presence of God with you right now.

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 11:1-5

**1** A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight. **2** When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. **3** The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. **4** Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. **5** The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.

**DEVOTIONAL:** “A false balance” meant that someone had tipped the scales to lead toward injustice. “A just weight” meant that equality and justice were measured properly. A false balance was so dangerous because it concealed injustice without people knowing. When the standard for justice is off, then all things will be measured according to that unjust standard. Following the way of wisdom should lead us as Christians to pursue justice even when no one is looking. Our way of wisdom has a standard and that standard is Jesus. He is our measure of justness. Naturally, following Jesus’ standard should lead toward a flourishing society. But unfortunately, until all is made right, injustice will infect the hearts of humanity. We see this in the example of Jesus. He pursued what was right. He pursued justice, yet it cost him his life. We should be prepared to pursue justice in spite of the world drowning in injustice. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to “false balances” around you.

**RESPONSE:** Take a few minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit’s prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.

## DAY 5 // DAILY PRACTICES

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 11:18-21

**18** The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward. **19** Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die. **20** Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the Lord, but those of blameless ways are his delight. **21** Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.

**DEVOTIONAL:** The way of wisdom presented by Solomon is not just an idealized way to live. It's a way that faces the reality of life. Here, he starts to turn from some of the idealism that he speaks about in the first part of the book. In the face of injustice, Solomon promises that evil will not win in the end. The evil one will not go unpunished. Oftentimes it feels like evil prospers; but in the kingdom of God, evil will not win in the end. Even if it feels like it is gaining ground for a season, it will not prevail. We can have hope that the kingdom will be established and the idealized way of wisdom will become the idealized way forward. Until then, we hope for that future day. We sit in this present darkness knowing that Jesus understands what it's like to experience the darkness and evil of the day. We have a savior that cares for us and has provided a righteous way forward through our faith.

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**SILENCE:** Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.