

A FREE E-BOOK FROM GRACE ANSWERS

Resolved

*Living in What
Jesus Finished*

A nine-day reading plan



Brandon Ball

GRACE ANSWERS

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BEFORE YOU START

How to Use This

One reading a day for nine days. Each one takes five to seven minutes.

Start with the anchor verse at the top of the page. Read the day straight through. Then stop at the two questions at the end and give them a minute before you close the book. They aren't a test. They're there to help you notice what the passage is showing you.

Each day ends with one line to carry into the rest of your day, and links if you want to go further: the original message on video, a verse study where one exists, and Ask Grace for the questions this raises.

Reading with a group? The guide at the back turns the nine days into three conversations.

This book is free. Send it to anyone you think needs it: a friend, your small group, the person starting another year on willpower.

NINE DAYS

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DAY 1 • 6-MINUTE READ

Resolved to Live

The One Resolution That Doesn't Start From Scratch

ANCHOR VERSE

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

ROMANS 8:2 NKJV

Every New Year's resolution I've made had something standing in its way. You resolve to lose weight, and ice cream still tastes good. You resolve to get to the gym more, and then you get there and remember it's full of heavy things you're supposed to push away from you. I don't have any of that at my house. Nobody resolves to make less money. A resolution, by its nature, is a decision to go after something you don't have yet, against resistance you can see coming.

This reading plan borrows the word and turns it around. For the next nine days, we're resolving to live in what Jesus has given us, on purpose, with more clarity than we had last year. Nothing on this list is a new thing to chase.

Halfway Across the Lake

Paul describes the posture in his letter to the Philippians.

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13–14 NKJV

Paul leaves his failures behind him, and his résumé too. Neither one gets to tell him where he stands, and what he reaches for is the call of God in Christ Jesus, a Person he has, and he presses toward knowing that Person more fully.

If you've swum halfway across a lake, keep going, because it's just as far back as it is to the other side. Maybe that's where you are, halfway across and paddling back toward an old covenant of rules and effort because the water feels deep. The far shore is grace, and in Christ you're already standing on it, so the swim is just your mind catching up.

A Pop Quiz

I once gave a room full of people a pop quiz. On a scale from zero to a hundred, how right with God are you? I counted to three, and they answered together. A hundred.

Ask the same question to people headed to lunch after church and you'll often hear something else. They hesitate. They aim low, because saying a hundred feels prideful. Seventy-one. Maybe eighty-five on a good week.

That answer breaks my heart a little, because any number under a hundred assumes you're part of your own salvation, that some percentage of your standing with God rests on you. The New Covenant says it's Jesus, all of it. You're perfectly right with God because of what Jesus did, and you can't add to that or take away from it. That's where your resolve for this year starts.

Living Free

Paul opens Romans 8 with the line the rest of the chapter stands on.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

ROMANS 8:1 NKJV

He goes on to explain what God did that the law couldn't do. He sent His own Son and condemned sin in the flesh. The condemnation went somewhere, and it fell on Jesus, so it isn't coming back around for you.

Our family loves Disney, and I'm the backpack guy. In the morning I hardly notice it. The kids are running ahead, and the bag on my shoulders is just part of the outfit. By noon the jackets have come off and gone into Dad's backpack, along with whatever we bought on the way, and four or five hours in I'm barely enjoying the park. At some point I'm asking why Camden isn't carrying this thing.

Living free means putting down what Jesus carried for you. Some of us walk around with our own forgiveness strapped to our shoulders, as if keeping ourselves forgiven were our job. It's His job, and He finished it. The weight does more than hurt, too, because it drains the joy out of everything else you came to enjoy.

A Mind That Can Finally Rest

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

ROMANS 8:6 NKJV

Your mind is a problem solver. Hand it something broken and it'll work on it day and night. So if you believe your standing with God is broken, your mind will spend the whole year trying to fix it, and it can't, because the problem was solved at the cross. When your righteousness rests on your own effort, your behavior is all you can think about. When it comes as a gift, your mind is free to think about Christ.

I broke a lot of bones as a kid. I was a product of the eighties. Stair jumps from the fifth step, then the sixth, then the seventh, until something gave. BMX rides eight miles from home while my mom thought I was circling the block. Hands, wrists, legs. Not once did a doctor look at a broken bone and hand me a Band-Aid.

Our best effort next to sin is a Band-Aid on a broken bone. Christ didn't come to patch us up. He made us new, and Paul says so to every believer in Rome.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

ROMANS 8:9 NKJV

If you've received Christ, God has placed you in the Spirit, and this year your mind gets to catch up to where you live.

Christ in You

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

ROMANS 8:11 NKJV

The Spirit who raised Jesus lives in you. That's the strength you carry into a new year, and it won't make every day easy. Some of what grace leads you into will stretch you thin, like forgiving the person who hurt you, staying kind when you'd rather win, or telling the truth when it's expensive. You'll face it from a place of life, with Christ in you, instead of chasing a life you're afraid you don't have.

Nine Days, One Direction

Over the next nine days we'll resolve to live, to rest, to belong, to sit at His feet, to resist, to stand, to guard, to believe, and to be comforted, one resolution a day. Each one starts with something Jesus finished and asks you to live inside it this year.

So start with the quiz. Answer it the way Scripture answers it. Then let this be the year you stop arguing with the hundred.

SIT WITH THIS

1. Before today, what number would you have given on the zero-to-a-hundred quiz? Where did that number come from?
2. What are you carrying into this year that Jesus carried for you? What would it look like to put it down?

CARRY THIS

You don't have to climb to a hundred. In Christ, you're there.

GO DEEPER

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Resolved to Rest

Moving Into a House That's Finished

ANCHOR VERSE

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

HEBREWS 4:10 NKJV

You don't make a resolution to fall asleep tonight. You'll get there eventually. Nobody writes "let winter turn into spring" at the top of a New Year's list, because the seasons change on their own. We save our resolutions for the things that push back.

So it might sound strange to resolve to rest. Rest sounds like the easiest thing in the world. The rest Hebrews talks about has resistance, though, and most of it comes from inside your own head. God has given you rest in Christ. The resolve is to stay there when your mind keeps handing you a hammer.

Ten Spies and Two

The writer of Hebrews reaches back to Israel at the edge of the Promised Land. Moses sent twelve spies to look the land over, and all twelve came back agreeing it was beautiful. God had promised it to them. Two of them, Joshua and Caleb, said we've got this, because if God promised it, it's ours. The other ten saw the giants and said we can't, and they spread that report through the whole camp.

That's a picture of an old covenant. Measured by your effort, you'll lose to the giants every time. The promise was never about your strength. God gave it so He could do the impossible, and only two out of twelve believed Him.

Hebrews names what kept the rest of them out.

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

HEBREWS 3:19 NKJV

It wasn't greed. It wasn't cussing or a bad temper or any of the behavior we usually blame. Those things matter, but they aren't what kept a generation wandering in the wilderness. They understood the promise in their heads, and their hearts didn't line up with it. The disobedience was unbelief.

The Same Good News

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

HEBREWS 4:2 NKJV

Their good news was a land. Ours is the finished work of the cross. They heard about it and didn't respond to it, and hearing about Jesus can work the same way. You can know the story, sing the songs, and still live as though your sin were unresolved. As long as you think it's unresolved, you'll keep working to resolve it, and you won't rest.

Receiving is different from hearing. The moment you received what Jesus did, you walked into the rest this chapter describes. Verse 3 says it in the present tense: "we who have believed do enter that rest."

The Seventh Day

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

HEBREWS 4:9 NKJV

The word for rest in that verse is a Sabbath rest. Under the old covenant the Sabbath was a day. God commanded it, and on the seventh day you stopped working. That day was a shadow of something you and I

would get to live in. Go back to Genesis and you'll find where it started. God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, "because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:3). He rested because the work was done, and nothing was left for Him to add.

On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). Finished means finished. The work that saves you is complete, and in Him the seventh day has come to you. Here's how I'd put it. Resting is when you stop trying to create what God has called complete.

I'm not trying to create peace in my life, because God has given it to me. I'm not trying to manufacture love or make myself joyful. Those are the fruit of the Spirit, and they grow from the inside. Joy is different from happy, too. Happy comes from the same root as happen, and when something good happens to you, you tend to be happy. Joy can stay with you in a storm, because it comes from God on the inside of you.

Hammer and Nails

Picture your dream home. Maybe you've watched one of those dream-home episodes on HGTV and wondered what it would be like. Now imagine someone

hands you all the money you could ever want and an expert architect to build it to your specs. The builders go to work, and one day it's done and you move in.

How foolish would you look if you pulled out a hammer and nails your first night and started driving nails into perfectly good drywall? Somebody asks what you're doing, and you say, "I'm just making sure it's stable. I want to know this wall will hold." You're putting nails where the builders put nails and painting walls that just got a fresh coat.

That's what a lot of us do with our salvation. When you stepped into Christ, you didn't move into something almost finished that's supposed to get better and better. Your spirit is the finished product, without spot or blemish. Your behavior and your thoughts are still catching up, and that's real, but the house is done.

Urgent About Rest

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

HEBREWS 4:11 NKJV

Diligent means urgent. That can sound like a contradiction, working hard to rest, but the writer is talking about staying in what's yours. And what was their dis-

obedience? Go back to the last word of chapter 3 and you'll find it. Unbelief. So the urgency here is an urgency to keep trusting what God said.

The urgency should feel as real as a road trip after a few too many Cokes. At first you're picky about where you stop. You want a Buc-ee's and nothing else. Then a sign says the next Buc-ee's is 312 miles away, and your standards start to drop. Just give me a Texaco. A little later you'd settle for a tree.

That's the kind of urgency Hebrews has in mind. Guard your rest, and keep your mind from talking you out of what your heart knows is true. The wrestle is about staying where Christ has put you.

A Year in a Finished House

Resolving to rest still leaves plenty of work this year. You'll go to your job, raise your kids, and clean up the messes life hands you. What changes is where you work from. Some days staying in rest will mean turning off the voice that says you're behind, and that takes more resolve than any gym membership.

So when your mind hands you the hammer tomorrow, set it down. The walls are standing. You live here.

SIT WITH THIS

1. Where are you still holding a hammer, trying to make sure something Jesus finished is stable?
2. What usually talks you out of rest in an ordinary week? What would it look like to guard it in the week ahead?

CARRY THIS

The house is finished. Put the hammer down and live in it.

GO DEEPER

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Resolved to Belong

Trading the Heavy Load for an Easy Yoke

ANCHOR VERSE

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

MATTHEW 11:28 NKJV

A low phone battery stresses me out more than almost anything in my day. You know the little red bar that shows up around ten percent, and your day is ruined until you find a charger. Some of you are daredevils. You'll ride it down to one percent just to prove it can be done. I'm the other kind. If I'm under seventy percent, I'm looking for a plug. "Honey, we've got to stop at a gas station." You've got seventy percent. "I know, but what if the apocalypse breaks out?"

We track our kids on Life360, and the app shows me their batteries too. When one gets low, we call. They know their battery's low. We just want to make sure they're not about to go off the grid.

A low battery does something to your peace. You watch the number drop, and your anxiety climbs with it.

A Charge That Doesn't Drain

Here's the good news for a new year. Your union with the Father doesn't run on a battery. There's no range of righteousness. You don't climb to forty this week because you had a great prayer life, and you don't drop back to thirteen because you missed a few devotions. Pray, and give yourself to the Word, by all means. You'll do it from a full charge, because "it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).

Hebrews 4 told us Israel missed the rest God promised. Jesus was offering that same rest long before the cross, if you listen for it. Some of His words press the full weight of the law on the people listening. Others let a little grace leak through, a glimpse of what was coming. Matthew 11 is one of the glimpses.

An Easy Yoke

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

MATTHEW 11:29-30 NKJV

The rest Jesus promises here is bigger than a better Monday or a quieter vacation. It's a picture of the New Covenant, the day the heavy load of earning your right-

eousness would come off your shoulders. He hadn't gone to the cross yet, so He tucked it inside the words.

A yoke joined two oxen so they could share one load. The load Jesus had in mind was righteousness by your own effort, and it was crushing the people He talked to. Sin had to be paid for, and somebody had to carry that weight. Jesus says to stay yoked to Him and let Him carry it, and He's more than able. You end up enjoying His presence with no threat hanging over it, because He's the one guaranteeing it.

Wrestle long enough under the other yoke and you get tired. You get worn out. And you start asking the question the disciples asked a few chapters later.

The Sons Are Free

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

MATTHEW 18:1 NKJV

Who's the greatest? Who's wrestling the best? Who's the best striver in the group? To hear Jesus' answer, back up a few verses. They'd just come down from the Mount of Transfiguration, where Jesus was revealed as the Christ, and when they got to Capernaum the collectors of the temple tax found Peter.

Jesus asked him a question first. Do the kings of the earth collect taxes from their sons, or from strangers? Peter said from strangers.

Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free."

MATTHEW 17:26 NKJV

Sons of an earthly king are free from his debts, and strangers aren't. Sons of God are free from sin, and strangers aren't. A son belongs in his father's house, and nobody charges him rent to live there. Then Jesus sent Peter to the sea to catch a fish, and in its mouth was the coin to pay the tax for both of them.

I was raised on that story as proof that God will meet your financial need. God cares about your needs, and He's able to supply them, but that's a different story. Jesus didn't ask Peter how many yards he'd mow or how many tents he'd build before the tax was paid. He provided the payment Himself, and the debt He came to cancel was far bigger than a temple tax.

Like a Little Child

Then He answers the question about who's greatest.

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 18:2-3 NKJV

We usually turn this into a lesson about being kind to kids. We should be good to children, and atheists believe that too. Jesus is pointing at something bigger. Access to God was about to change. Under the old covenant the people watched a priest go in for them, and even the priest couldn't relax, because if he got his clothing or his procedure wrong, he died. A new covenant was coming, where righteousness would be counted by faith alone.

Children come to their father's table hungry and expectant, with nothing to bring, because they belong there. That's the humility Jesus means in verse 4, and that's who He calls the greatest in the kingdom.

He follows it with one of the strongest warnings He ever gave, aimed at anyone who causes one of these little ones who believe in Him to sin. In context, the sin is turning away from Him and back under the weight of

the law. Jesus guards the people who trust Him like a child, and He takes it seriously when someone tries to load the old yoke back on their shoulders.

Charged for the Year

So check your battery this week. When the old anxiety shows up and tells you you're slipping, that you'd better pray harder to get your number back up, remember who's carrying the load. Taking His yoke will sometimes mean stepping out of a ranking game the people around you still play, at work and even at church. Let them keep score if they want to. You're a son or a daughter of the King, and the tax has been paid.

Come to Him tired. He'll give you rest.

SIT WITH THIS

1. When do you feel your spiritual battery running low? What usually convinces you it's draining?
2. Where do you see a "who's the greatest" ranking at home, at work or at church? What would resting like a child look like there this week?

CARRY THIS

Your union with the Father doesn't run on a battery. In Christ, you're fully charged.

GO DEEPER

[Watch the original message](#)

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Resolved to Sit

The Burden That Moved to Jesus' Shoulders

ANCHOR VERSE

But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.

LUKE 10:42 NKJV

It's easy to memorize a menu. If you've worked in a restaurant, you can probably recite one in your sleep. Explaining how the food tastes is a whole other thing. My wife knows how to cook, and the way she cooks, it's a miracle I've lost any weight at all. You can know every ingredient on the page and still have no idea what the meal is like.

Scripture works the same way. You can quote what Jesus said and miss why He said it. Today we'll look at a few of His heaviest words, and then at one of the gentlest, and watch the burden move.

Sitting in Moses' Seat

The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.

Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

MATTHEW 23:2-3 NKJV

Did Jesus mean that? Yes. Earlier in Matthew He said your righteousness had to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees or you wouldn't enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20). God's presence was on the line. Before the cross, Israel lived under the law, and Jesus pressed its full weight on the people listening.

Then He says what the law does to people.

For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

MATTHEW 23:4 NKJV

Under law, the burden of righteousness sits on your shoulders. Under grace, it sits on Jesus' shoulders. Matthew 23 tells us the requirements of the old covenant, the load people carried before the cross. Jesus came to lift it, and a few chapters later He carried it to the cross.

Back Out Into the Storm

Paul writes to believers who were tempted to pick that load back up.

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

GALATIANS 5:4 NKJV

Not long ago I woke up to a massive storm in Birmingham. I'd forgotten to move some things around in the backyard, and I knew stuff was blowing into the pool. How foolish would it be to tell my wife, "Babe, I'm heading out there. I'm going to build a tent in the backyard where I'll be safer"? You'd think I'd lost my mind. The house is the safe place, and I'd have known that half asleep.

Choosing law over Christ is like that. The Spirit has sealed you inside, safe from the storm, and you step back out into the wind and say you can build your own shelter.

"Fallen from grace" has been borrowed by the news. A powerful executive makes a mistake, loses his job, and we say he fell from grace. Paul means something else. He's talking about leaving grace for the law. And notice the direction. You don't fall up. If I jumped off a platform and started falling up, we'd all agree something

special was happening. Falling from grace means moving from the higher place to a far lower one. Grace is the superior covenant, and Paul wants you to stay there.

A Gift With No Strings

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8–9 NKJV

Say I offer you a gift worth a hundred dollars, but first you have to hand me a hundred dollars. Did I give you anything? What if I offer you the same gift and ask for a hundred and ten back? Now you've paid more than it's worth. A gift comes with no strings attached, or it isn't a gift. Paul puts it this way.

And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace.

ROMANS 11:6 NKJV

The Pharisees wouldn't lift a finger to help anybody carry the load. Jesus carried all of it, and because of Him you're made right with God without lifting a finger.

Law and grace are two different operating systems. The code that runs a Mac won't run a Windows PC, and if you try to merge the two, nothing good comes out. One

covenant was written on stone for the flesh. The other is written on the heart. You can't blend them and expect the life of God.

Martha, Martha

Luke tells a story that shows both systems in one house. Jesus came to the village where Martha and her sister Mary lived. Mary sat at His feet and listened. Martha was distracted with much serving, and she was irritated. She asked Jesus if He cared that her sister had left her to do the work alone, and she wanted Him to tell Mary to get up and help.

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things."

LUKE 10:41 NKJV

Many things. That's what the law hands you. Did you say it the right way? Did you bow correctly? Did you keep all ten commandments? No? Did you keep nine? Then we add the tithe on top. I gave eight percent, does that count? James says if you keep the whole law and stumble in one point, you're guilty of all of it (James 2:10). Martha's list could fill a week, and it would still come up short.

Mary chose the one thing. She sat at the feet of the One who would carry the whole load, and when Martha complained, Jesus defended the sister who sat still.

A Debt Nobody Calls About

A while back I had some dental work done, and the bill came to fifteen hundred dollars. I didn't have fifteen hundred dollars. My dentist said to call him later and we'd work it out. A month went by, and every time my phone rang I wondered if it was him. If I saw him in public, I'd tell him I loved my smile and keep walking.

That's a fifteen-hundred-dollar debt, and it weighed on me. Think about the weight of sin you had no way to pay back. It's been paid in full, and God isn't going to call asking where His payment is. Yet a lot of believers sit by the phone afraid to talk to Him.

Choosing Mary's part will sometimes disappoint the Marthas around you, who'd rather you got up and helped with the many things. Let them be disappointed. Jesus is enough, and what you receive at His feet will not be taken away from you.

SIT WITH THIS

1. What's on your "many things" list right now, the things you feel you have to get right to stay close to God?
2. Who around you is carrying Martha's load? How could you point them toward the one thing this week?

CARRY THIS

Jesus is enough. Sit at His feet, and let the many things wait.

GO DEEPER

[Watch the original message](#)

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Resolved to Resist

How to Be Undevourable

ANCHOR VERSE

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

JAMES 4:7 NKJV

I grew up in the eighties and nineties, when a fistfight in the hallway wasn't unusual. In middle school there was a kid on my football team who decided he was against me. I didn't want to fight him. I'm a lover, not a fighter. The whole team wanted to see it, though, so we all went down to the bathroom, the crowd gathered, the fists came up, and we swung. I'm calling it a draw.

Fights make us anxious, and for a lot of believers the idea of fighting the devil is the most anxious fight of all. We picture a fair fight, two equal powers trading punches, and we're not sure who's winning. Today's resolution is to resist. Before we talk about how, we need to know what kind of fight this is.

The Most Unfair Fight

Light and dark aren't evenly matched. Walk into a dark room and flip a switch, and the dark is gone without a struggle. The cross decided the match between Jesus and the enemy in the same way.

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

COLOSSIANS 2:15 NKJV

The verse before says Jesus wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us and nailed it to His cross (Colossians 2:14). The accusations were the enemy's weapons, and Jesus took them. So don't fight the enemy as if the cross hadn't happened. You couldn't beat him on your best day. You don't have to, because Jesus did, and then He turned to people like you and said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

Undevourable

Peter still tells us to stay alert.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 PETER 5:8 NKJV

Whom may he devour? That's the question. The devil makes a lot of noise, and he looks dangerous. James gives the instruction, "Resist the devil," and Peter says the same. Maybe someone has told you that you've got to resist the devil, and you thought, like how?

Peter answers in the next verse. Resist him, "steadfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:9). Steadfast means firm, immovable, not budging. When you're tempted to sin, stand firm in your righteousness. That's how you become undevourable.

Here's where the enemy works. He can't touch your heart, because it's sealed by the Holy Spirit, but your mind is another story. It's connected to what your eyes see and what your skin feels and everything you take in all day, so your mind is up for grabs. Your spirit is perfect, and your thoughts can still be pulled around.

A while back my family bought some malted milk balls, and I loved them so much I wrote a song about them with the help of an AI music tool. Now it's an earworm. I go to bed singing about malted milk balls. Whatever you give your mind to, your mind is going to replay, and what you think about ends up steering how you live.

Don't Stare at the Donut

Resisting something doesn't come from obsessing over it. I've lost a good bit of weight, and I didn't get there by thinking about everything I shouldn't eat. A chocolate donut with sprinkles and a drizzle, eight seconds in the microwave, and I'm standing there saying, "Don't eat it, Brandon. Don't eat it." The more attention I give the donut, the more likely I am to eat it.

What works is looking at the life I'm heading toward. My joints feel good. My pants fit better. When my attention is on the prize, the donut loses its grip.

The enemy works the same way. You don't resist the devil by fixating on him or his schemes. You anchor your mind in Jesus, His finished work, and who you are in Him. When your attention is on who you are in Christ, the enemy loses his grip on your thinking.

The Empty House

Some of us were taught to be afraid of a passage like this one.

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

MATTHEW 12:43–44 NKJV

The spirit brings back seven more, and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Read that with no context and you'll spend your life wondering if your house is next. Look at who Jesus is talking to. The Pharisees had just said He cast out demons by Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24). He calls them a brood of vipers, and right after the story He says, "So shall it also be with this wicked generation" (Matthew 12:45). It's a warning to the generation rejecting their Messiah, a house swept clean on the outside and empty on the inside.

When I was in high school my buddy Blake and I got the giggles in biology class. The teacher said the word chloroform, and for some reason we lost it. She warned us in front of the whole class, which only made it worse, and the two of us got kicked out. She didn't throw the whole class out. Her correction was aimed at two boys,

and the rest of the room knew it. Jesus aimed this warning at the people refusing Him, and believers don't have to sit in that chair.

You aren't an empty house. You're a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), and when you believed, you were "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13). God has delivered you from the power of darkness and moved you into the kingdom of His Son (Colossians 1:13). An abandoned house draws vandals and squatters. Yours is occupied.

Standing Firm This Year

So this year, resist from the right place. Submit to God, and that starts with agreeing with what He says about you. Stand steadfast in the faith. Some days that will mean turning off what you've been feeding your mind, even something you enjoy, and that can be harder than any fight in a middle school bathroom. You'll do it from a house that's occupied, against an enemy who's been disarmed.

The lion can roar. He can't eat you for lunch.

SIT WITH THIS

1. What's been playing on repeat in your mind lately?
Where did it come from, and what would you rather give your attention to?
2. Is there someone in your life who's afraid of the enemy? What could you share from today that would help them stand firm?

CARRY THIS

The enemy is disarmed, and your house is occupied. Stand firm in who you are.

GO DEEPER

[Watch the original message](#)

[Ask Grace a question about today's reading](#)

DAY 6 • 7-MINUTE READ

Resolved to Stand

What You're Wearing Changes How You Stand

ANCHOR VERSE

For as many of you as were baptized
into Christ have put on Christ.

GALATIANS 3:27 NKJV

In Alabama we don't get much snow, so when we do, it's an event. If you lived around Birmingham in 2014, you remember Snowmageddon. People sat in their cars for eight hours. Kids slept at school. Half of us were looking for the Rapture. Back then I drove a rear-wheel-drive car, and when the snow started coming down I left the office and tried to get home. We live up a hill, and my car kept going sideways. I made a run at it, couldn't get any momentum, and had to admit my car wasn't going to make it up that hill.

My father-in-law wasn't far away. His front-wheel-drive car was lighter than mine and far better in the snow, so I parked mine, got into his, and hours later we made it home. When it snowed again in January 2025, I was

itching to take out our son's four-wheel-drive Jeep. My car wasn't going anywhere, but the Jeep was equipped for exactly that kind of day.

How your car is equipped changes how confident you feel on the road, and Paul says something like that about you in Ephesians 6.

Kept in the World

Yesterday we saw that resisting the enemy starts with standing firm in the faith. It's amazing to me how many believers put more faith in the devil's power than in God's. Jesus knew this world wasn't an easy place, and when He prayed for us, He could have asked the Father to take us home the moment we believed. Listen to what He prayed instead.

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

JOHN 17:15 NKJV

He also said His sheep would not perish, "neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28). So who gets the credit when the evil one can't get to you? The One holding you does. Jesus is your security detail, and He doesn't loosen His grip because you had a bad week.

Put On Christ

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

EPHESIANS 6:10-11 NKJV

Paul tells us where to find strength, and it's in the Lord and His might. Then he tells us to put on armor. What armor? He answers that in another letter. "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." The armor of God is Jesus. Putting it on is your part, and your part is trusting what He did for you.

When an armored car pulls up to a bank, nobody sends a guy on a bicycle to pick up the money. Something valuable is going inside, so they send steel that nothing can get through. Something valuable lives in you, the Spirit of Christ, and that's why you're rolling armored today.

The Real Wrestling Match

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 6:12 NKJV

The Greek word for wrestle here shows up only once in the New Testament. It means a wrestling bout, a contest. Paul says the contest isn't against what you can see. Jesus didn't come to overthrow Rome. The resistance to your identity comes from what you can't see, the accusations and lies that tell you God isn't really with you. If you were a real Christian, you wouldn't have that problem. What door did you leave open? That's how the enemy keeps score, and he wants you staring at his numbers instead of at Christ.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

EPHESIANS 6:13 NKJV

Look at the order in that verse. The armor is taken up, everything is done, and then you stand. The "all" you've done is put on Christ, and He's the One who did everything, so you stand firm in what He did.

Each Piece Points to Him

Read the armor slowly and you'll see Jesus in every piece.

The belt of truth is Jesus, who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). **The breastplate of righteousness** is Jesus too, because Christ became our righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30). You wear His, and the enemy's darts don't get through it.

Feet shod with the gospel of peace. Paul spent years around Roman soldiers, and their sandals had nails in the soles to grip the ground when it got slippery. Christ "Himself is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14), and that peace keeps you on your feet in an unstable world. Remember the disciples in the boat, professional fishermen panicking in a storm, while Jesus slept. The storms will keep coming. There's something inside you that can say, "I have peace," while the wind blows.

The shield of faith. Faith is trust in what Jesus has done for you. With it you "quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6:16), and most of those darts are accusations that you haven't done enough.

The helmet of salvation is Him as well. Jesus is able to save to the uttermost, "since He always lives to make intercession" for those who come to God through Him (Hebrews 7:25). He's a constant reminder before the

Father that you've been made righteous. And **the sword of the Spirit** is the word of God, every word of which points to the One John calls the Word: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Paul didn't invent this picture. He'd spent decades in the scrolls, and Isaiah, hundreds of years before Christ, described the Messiah the same way.

For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head.

ISAIAH 59:17 NKJV

Can you picture Paul reading that in the scrolls and seeing Jesus? From the breastplate to the helmet, the armor was always about Him.

Dressed for the Year

So get dressed every morning by remembering who Christ is. He's your truth, your righteousness, your peace, the One your faith rests on, your salvation, and the Word of God. Then pray, "in the Spirit," as Paul says next (Ephesians 6:18), with a heart and mind lined up with His. Some mornings the news, the bills or your own failures will shout louder than anything you know about Jesus, and getting dressed will take real resolve. Do it anyway, because the armor you're wearing is the same as it was yesterday.

You're equipped for the hill. Jesus did everything, and you get to stand.

SIT WITH THIS

1. Which piece of the armor do you most need to remember this week? What accusation has it been answering lately?
2. Who do you know who's sliding sideways on a hill right now? How could you remind them what they're wearing?

CARRY THIS

Jesus is your armor. He did everything, so today you get to stand.

GO DEEPER

[Watch the original message](#)

[Verse study on this passage](#)

[Ask Grace a question about today's reading](#)

Resolved to Guard

Keeping the One Message That Can't Be Replaced

ANCHOR VERSE

That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

2 TIMOTHY 1:14 NKJV

We guard a lot of things without thinking about it. Most of us locked the front door last night. If you have a safe, the jewelry and the expensive watch go in it. Other things we don't guard until it's too late. I don't think about the remote until it's gone and I'm turning the house upside down to find it. A password doesn't get much thought until someone hacks the account and drains it.

When Abbe and I go grocery shopping, she puts her purse in the little seat at the top of the cart where the kids used to ride. If I'm pushing, I've learned I can't look away, and she's trained me well enough that I only slip about one visit out of ten. When I do, she corrects me.

And then there's my spot on the couch. We have three cats, and any time I get up, a cat takes my place. Our son took it over too before he left for college, and I've noticed that when he's home, he's back in it the minute I stand up. I should guard it better, but the cats don't seem to care what I think.

What if we guarded the gospel with that kind of attention?

Not Gaining, Remaining

That's been the thread of this whole plan. A typical New Year's resolution is about gaining something you don't have. In the New Covenant, God isn't inviting you to gain more of Him. The challenge is to remain in Him. We haven't been chasing more life, more rest or more strength against the enemy. We've been remembering what's ours and standing firm in it, one resolution at a time.

Today's resolution is to guard the message that tells you what's yours. Get the gospel wrong, and you lose sight of what the cross did. If you don't know what the cross means, Christ means less and less to you.

One Gospel

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

GALATIANS 1:6-7 NKJV

How many gospels are there? One. Paul is stunned that the Galatians would trade grace for something that only looked like good news.

In *The Little Mermaid*, a seagull finds a fork, calls it a dinglehopper, and shows Ariel how to brush her hair with it. She doesn't know any better, so she does it. Calling a fork a hairbrush doesn't make it one, and a preacher calling something the gospel doesn't make it the gospel. When a message puts the weight back on your shoulders, you can know that's a dinglehopper.

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

GALATIANS 1:8 NKJV

We match punishment to danger. A traffic violation gets a fine. Taking a life can bring the harshest penalty a court can give. Paul uses the strongest language he has here, because he can't think of anything more danger-

ous than a distorted gospel. When you misrepresent the truth, people get hurt, and the Galatians were getting hurt.

That Good Thing

Near the end of his life, writing from prison, Paul tells Timothy what to hold on to. He describes God as the One “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:9). Jesus abolished death and brought life to light through the gospel (2 Timothy 1:10). Then Paul hands it to Timothy.

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 TIMOTHY 1:13 NKJV

That good thing is the message that life is now available by faith in Christ. You don't guard it alone. You keep it by the Holy Spirit who lives in you, which is exactly what verse 14 says.

Itching Ears

In his last letter Paul tells Timothy to preach the word, to convince, rebuke and exhort. Convince the church that the gospel is true. Warn the people who would twist it. Comfort and encourage believers with what it means for them. Then Paul tells him why.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

2 TIMOTHY 4:3–4 NKJV

An itch has to be scratched, and a scratch always feels better when someone else does it. I can wash my own hair, but when they do it at the salon, there's nothing better. Itching ears go looking for teachers who'll scratch the itch, who say what we wanted to hear and make us feel important. Before long there's a stack of them, all pointing at how to get ahead, and almost none pointing at what Jesus did.

The gospel shows you how to stand firm in what Christ has done, which is a far better gift than a plan for getting ahead.

A Guard Around Your Ears

Preachers carry this charge, and so does every believer. You guard the gospel with what you listen to, what you repeat, and what you let into your head on a Tuesday morning. When someone hands you a fork and calls it a hairbrush, you can smile and set it down.

Guarding it will sometimes mean walking away from a teacher you enjoy or a message that felt good. That's a real loss. What you're keeping is worth more than any of it, because God gave His own Son to make it true.

SIT WITH THIS

1. What messages have been scratching your ears lately? Do they point you to what Jesus did, or to what you need to do?
2. How could you guard the gospel in your conversations this week, at home or with a friend who's hearing a different message?

CARRY THIS

There's one gospel, and it's yours. Guard it like the treasure it is.

GO DEEPER

[Watch the original message](#)

[Ask Grace a question about today's reading](#)

Resolved to Believe

Keeping It as Simple as Jesus Made It

ANCHOR VERSE

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.”

MARK 5:36 NKJV

The building where I pastor used to be a golf shop, and when we bought it there were two small restrooms. We gave both of them to the ladies. You're welcome. The men's room ended up in the back corner by the warehouse, and you can't get there by cutting through the auditorium. If you're a guy visiting for the first time and you need it, there are six different signs to follow, around one corner and down another hallway. Six turns later you find it. Good luck finding your way back to your seat after that.

Now picture a different visit. You ask where the men's room is, and someone says, “I'll show you,” and walks you there. That's the easiest trip you'll take all day. You

don't have to figure anything out. You can relax and enjoy the view along the way, the nice walls, the playground, the ladies' rooms you didn't know about.

That's the life of grace. You aren't handed five or sixteen or fifty-nine turns to make. Someone walks you there.

The Simplicity That Is in Christ

Paul worried that believers would trade that walk for a maze.

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3 NKJV

Notice what's at risk. Their hearts were secure. Their minds could still be pulled off course. The word for simplicity carries the idea of singleness, one thing and not a pile of things. Paul says the people in Corinth were putting up with "another Jesus," "a different spirit" and "a different gospel" (2 Corinthians 11:4), and they were tolerating it very well.

We love complicated. Take the air you're breathing right now. I could describe it as a shifting gaseous suspension of diatomic nitrogen and paramagnetic oxygen, about seventy-eight and twenty-one percent, with trace

amounts of argon and neon, all governed by pressure gradients and atmospheric circulation. Got all that? All you really need to know about air is that you breathe it in. You just receive it with every breath, and nobody makes you pass a chemistry test first.

Grace works that way. It was complicated for God to solve the problem of sin. It took thousands of years of preparation and the death of His Son. For you, the gospel is a simple truth to believe, the way you breathe air you didn't make.

Towers and Bridges

So many of us keep trying to build a tower when Jesus has built a bridge. A tower is the old project of Babel, people stacking up their effort to reach God. It doesn't work. Jesus tore down everything you thought you deserved by your own building and told His sons and daughters to receive what He did in their place. Stop building the tower and walk across the bridge He built with a cross.

Here's a question I keep asking. We readily accept that Adam's one sin made us sinners. Why do we hesitate to believe that Christ's one sacrifice made us righteous?

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

ROMANS 5:18 NKJV

One act brought condemnation. One act brought the free gift. Hebrews says it this way: "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).

Counting to a Billion

Humans like a process. If you counted one number every second, it would take you about eleven and a half days to reach a million. A billion would take more than thirty-one years. Those are human measures, and they take time. If you're trying to count your way to right standing with God, adding good deeds and subtracting mistakes, you'll still be counting when you die.

Paul skips the counting.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 5:1 NKJV

The word peace carries the sense of being joined together into a whole. You and God are one. That's done, and you received it by believing.

Only Believe

Mark tells about Jairus, a ruler of a synagogue, whose little girl was dying. He found Jesus and begged Him to come heal her, and Jesus started out to do it. Along the way He was interrupted, and while He was still speaking, people came from Jairus's house with the worst news a parent can hear. "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" (Mark 5:35).

Jesus heard it and turned to the father. "Do not be afraid; only believe."

That's the New Covenant in two words. Jesus went to the house and raised the girl, and He didn't hand Jairus a list of steps first. That isn't a promise that every prayer for healing ends the way Jairus's did. Faithful people have prayed and still said goodbye. What Jesus guarantees is Himself, with you in either outcome. John wrote

that we can have boldness on the day of judgment, “because as He is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17). How is Jesus right now? Righteous, holy, blameless. So are you. If those words sting a little, sometimes that’s your inner Pharisee, the voice that still holds on to your résumé. We all have one, and it hates the word blameless.

Believing on a Busy Day

Believing will sometimes mean giving up the comfort of a formula, the list of turns that made you feel in control. Let it go. You’ve been walked to where you need to be, and Jesus didn’t need your directions to get you there.

So this week, when someone hands you six more signs to follow, take a breath. Remember the bridge. Do not be afraid. Only believe.

SIT WITH THIS

1. Where have you made your walk with God more complicated than Jesus made it? What would “only believe” look like there?
2. Who do you know who is still counting, adding good deeds and subtracting mistakes? How could you walk them to the bridge instead of handing them more signs?

CARRY THIS

Stop building the tower. Jesus built the bridge, and you only have to believe.

GO DEEPER

[Watch the original message](#)

[Ask Grace a question about today's reading](#)

Resolved to Be Comforted

Overcoming Is Not the Same as Every Outcome

ANCHOR VERSE

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

JOHN 16:33 NKJV

Let me tell you a lie. If you'll show up at church every Sunday from now until Easter and bring one family with you, I'll give you ten thousand dollars. Pretend for a second that I had billions and that was a drop in the bucket. You'd be there next week, even if you had to drive three hours. And if you owed nine thousand dollars, you'd start living like the debt was gone, because you took me at my word.

Hope built on a lie still feels like a blessing until Easter comes and the check doesn't. That's the danger of toxic positivity, the kind of preaching that promises everything will turn up roses if you just do the right things.

Read the Psalms. Some of them celebrate. More of them grieve. Life is sometimes marvelous and sometimes tragic, and God is present in both.

For eight days we've stood on what Jesus finished. On the last day, we need to be honest about the world we're standing in.

Overcome Isn't Outcome

Jesus said the anchor verse above to His friends the night before the cross. In Him, peace. In the world, tribulation. Be of good cheer, because He has overcome the world.

Overcoming isn't the same as every outcome going your way. Jesus didn't promise you'd come out on top in every circumstance. There's one guarantee He made good on, and it's the one that matters most, your right standing with God and His life in you forever. The rest of life will have high days and hard ones, and He'll be with you in both.

Remember the prayer from Day 6. Jesus didn't ask the Father to take us out of the world. He asked Him to keep us from the evil one. God often leaves you in the situation and strengthens you there, and that's its own kind of rescue.

Paul learned that at the end of his life. Writing his last letter before his execution, he said that at his first defense nobody stood with him and everyone deserted him. Then he wrote, “But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me” (2 Timothy 4:17). Feeling lonely doesn’t mean you’re alone, and Paul’s last letter is proof.

When the Flesh Quits

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7 NKJV

Read the verse carefully. The messenger is from Satan, and it was sent to keep Paul from being exalted, from becoming widely known while the revelations of grace poured out and people came from everywhere to hear what Jesus had done. Paul pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave, and the answer he got was better than the one he asked for.

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 NKJV

Some years back I was in Big Sky, Montana, with a group of pastors. We were glamping, because I like a fire and I like a toilet. The first night we sat around a bonfire in a huge field, staring into the flames and telling stories. When it was time for bed I turned away from the fire and walked toward my tent, watching the ground while my eyes adjusted. Then I looked up, and for the first time in my life I saw the Milky Way. It had been there all night. I just couldn't see it as long as that little fire was in my eyes, and the moment I turned away, the whole sky opened up.

Christ's strength is like that. It's always there. It becomes most obvious when you stop staring at your own.

So bring on the guy doing forty-five in the left lane. Bring on the smoke alarm chirping at two in the morning, the toddler asking "why?" seventeen times in a row, and the Chick-fil-A bag with no Chick-fil-A sauce in it. "For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). The presence of problems doesn't mean the absence of God.

Watching the Bobber

When I fly-fish, I put a little float on the line. Here in Alabama we call it a bobber. When a fish hits, the bobber goes under, and you set the hook. One day I was out

with dozens of pastors, and I was the only one who caught anything. All anybody wanted to know was where I caught it and what bait I used. The next morning everybody was at my spot with my bait, staring at their bobbers.

We can treat God like that fish. We watch for the bobber to drop, some visible blessing, and then everybody wants to know which prayer worked and which words to repeat. You don't need the right bait. The sign that God is blessing you went down the moment the Spirit of God moved into you.

The God of All Comfort

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 NKJV

You don't comfort the team that just won the Super Bowl. Comfort is for people in tribulation. God promises to comfort you in yours, and then He sends you to comfort somebody else.

Paul lived his own sermon. “For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears” (2 Corinthians 7:5). I love seeing Paul’s humanity there. Then the next verse says God, who comforts the downcast, comforted him “by the coming of Titus” (2 Corinthians 7:6). God sent a friend, and He still sends them.

Standing on What’s Finished

So here’s the last resolution. Let God comfort you, and then go be a Titus for someone. Most of the time you won’t know you’re being used. You’ll text someone or show up at their door with no idea they were close to collapse, and God will have timed it perfectly. Being that person will take some of your time and some of your comfort, and it’s worth it.

On Day 1 you took a quiz and learned the answer is a hundred. You’ve resolved to live, to rest, to belong, to sit, to resist, to stand, to guard, to believe, and to be comforted, and every one of those started with something Jesus finished. Take that into the year. The world will still bring tribulation. Be of good cheer. He has overcome the world, and you’re standing in Him.

SIT WITH THIS

1. Where has toxic positivity left you disappointed with God? What does Jesus' promise in John 16:33 offer you instead?
2. Who could use a Titus this week? What's one way you could show up for them?

CARRY THIS

In the world you'll have tribulation. In Christ you have peace, and He has overcome.

GO DEEPER

[Watch the original message](#)

[Verse study on this passage](#)

[Ask Grace a question about today's reading](#)

FOR GROUPS

Reading Together

The nine days fold into three conversations. Everyone reads three days on their own, then you meet. Each conversation takes about forty-five minutes.

Keep it honest rather than impressive. Most of us start a new year tired of our own resolve, and the best groups make room for that.

Three ground rules. Anyone can pass on any question. Listen more than you fix. What's shared here stays here.

A simple rhythm. About ten minutes to open, twenty-five for the questions, and ten to pray for one another.

CONVERSATION ONE

Live, Rest, Belong

Read Days 1 to 3

Open. What resolution have you made more than once? What usually stopped it?

1. Before today, what number would you have given on the zero-to-a-hundred quiz? Where did that number come from?
2. Where are you still holding a hammer, trying to make sure something Jesus finished is stable?
3. When do you feel your spiritual battery running low? What usually convinces you it's draining?

Close. Pray for one another, especially for anyone tired of trying harder.

CONVERSATION TWO

Sit, Resist, Stand

Read Days 4 to 6

Open. Which of these three days surprised you most, and why?

1. What's on your "many things" list right now, the things you feel you have to get right to stay close to God?
2. Is there someone in your life who's afraid of the enemy? What could you share from today that would help them stand firm?
3. Which piece of the armor do you most need to remember this week? What accusation has it been answering lately?

Close. Pray for one another.

CONVERSATION THREE

Guard, Believe, Be Comforted

Read Days 7 to 9

Open. Where has someone's comfort reached you in a hard season?

1. What messages have been scratching your ears lately? Do they point you to what Jesus did, or to what you need to do?
2. Who do you know who is still counting, adding good deeds and subtracting mistakes? How could you walk them to the bridge instead of handing them more signs?
3. Who could use a Titus this week? What's one way you could show up for them?

Close. Read John 16:33 aloud together, then pray for one another.

WHERE TO GO NEXT

Keep Going

You've just spent nine days living in what Jesus finished. Let the rest of the year start there too.

He Was Already There

Prayer through the finished work of Christ. The next book from Grace Answers, coming January 2027.

[See all books](#)

The Faith We Lost

Faith was never supposed to be a tool. You were handed one anyway. Read the first chapter free.

[Get chapter one](#)

Ask Grace

Questions about these readings, or anything else in the Bible, answered through the finished work of Christ. Anonymous, any time.

[Ask a question](#)