

DAY 3

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV

Have you ever started scrolling on Instagram or TikTok, and the next time you looked up, you realize that you had been scrolling for over an hour? It was like you started consuming content and couldn't stop. The same can be true for us in life. Sometimes we simply want more and never feel like we have enough. We want the latest phone, even though the one we currently have is perfectly functional. We're never FULLY satisfied with what we possess. There's nothing wrong with having things, but sometimes we find ourselves rarely satisfied with what we have, and constantly focused on what we could get next.

Ask God to replace your material desires that never feel satisfied with contentment. Choosing to practice gratitude for everything we have helps us to be more content.

DAY 4

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.

Matthew 6:24 NIV

When was the last time you tried to do two things at one time? Maybe you Facetimed a friend at the same time you did your homework. Or you tried to finish a reading project while you watched YouTube vids. As much as we love to multitask, it sometimes distracts us from focusing on the most important thing. Our loyalty and attention seem to bounce back and forth between one and the other. This is also the case when we focus too much on money. Sometimes we get obsessed with it. We focus all of our attention on what we want or don't have. And sometimes that can pull our attention from things that are more important. Money has the potential to become the central focus of our attention in a bad way. God loves us so much, and He wants to be the central focus of our attention.

This week, pay attention to how you feel about God and how you feel about material possessions. Which do you see as most important?

DAY 5

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:36 NIV

Imagine a luxury car...What good would it be to spend a couple thousand dollars upgrading the sound system, installing voice-command everything, and hiring your own personal driver if you never put gas in the tank? The same is true for us. What good is it for us to live a life where we chase, enjoy, and indulge in everything on earth, but neglect to keep the main thing, the main thing? Our soul surrendered to God? Our soul deserves attention and care through connection with its Creator. What's one extra step you can take this week to connect with God?

You might go for a walk in nature, spend time connecting with friends, or make time for silence and solitude to take a break from your typical routine. Whatever you choose, remember connection with God is the top priority above everything.

DAY 6

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Hebrews 13:5 NLT

Written by Cherish Faith W., age 17 from Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

I'm sure at one point you may have wanted something that you couldn't afford. Maybe it was some new shoes or a new video game. Maybe it was something more serious like a new computer that would make it easier to get your schoolwork done. It's easy to feel abandoned when it seems like God isn't providing. It feels like when you need Him the most, He's not there. But I promise He is. He sees your commitment to living out your faith. His plan for you is so much bigger than a temporary situation. Don't get me wrong, He cares about your financial problems. They're valid! But His promises to you are bigger than monetary value. So you may have to go write that long essay for English at the library instead of on a computer in the comfort of your home. You may have to get up a few hours earlier to catch the bus because you don't have a car. When you have a lack of money, it's not particularly fun.

But I promise that God has a way of using everything for His plan. God's ways are always greater than our own.