

Men's Retreat Devotional



Aug 2026

Day 1 Holy Spirit Empowered

Ephesians 4:1-6

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. “

I have to admit, when I read the Bible, I sometimes find myself wrestling with one of two unhelpful thoughts.

The first is something like, *"Seriously, who can actually live like this? This sounds awfully close to perfection."* The second is more subtle, but just as dangerous: *"It doesn't seem like anyone really tries to live this way anymore—at least not men."*

Over the past couple of decades, I've had the privilege of counseling many men, and I've watched them wrestle with the same tension: the pull between modern ideals of masculinity and the call to a life fully surrendered to Christ. I can only speak to it because I struggle with it too.

That struggle is understandable. We are raised in a culture that prizes achievement, celebrates victory, and often defines manhood through competition, conquest, and control. Whether through combat sports, military ideals, or popular media, we are constantly surrounded by images of the "real man" - the protector, defender, disciplinarian, provider, wisdom-bearer, and leader. These identities are presented as the highest expression of masculinity and are often ingrained in us long before we ever encounter the humble, self-giving King Jesus.

As a result, the danger is that we may frequently interpret Jesus through the lens of our cultural expectations rather than allowing Him to redefine them. Instead of letting Christ shape our understanding of what it means to be a man, we assume He must fit the mold we've already accepted. In doing so, we risk creating a version of Jesus who affirms our ideals rather than allowing the true Jesus to transform them.

Paul's words in Ephesians 4 are striking because he begins with the outcome before he explains the source.

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called..." (Ephesians 4:1)

The word *worthy* can feel intimidating. It almost sounds like Paul is telling us to become impressive enough to earn our calling. But I think you know that isn't what he means. The gospel has already settled our worth before God through Christ. Paul isn't calling us to become worthy of God's love; he's calling us to live consistently with the new identity we've already been given.

So what does a "worthy" life look like? Paul answers by describing qualities that the world rarely applauds:

"...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:2–3)

If we're honest, these are not the traits many of us were taught to admire. Humility doesn't win many competitions. Gentleness is often confused with weakness. Patience can look like passivity. Bearing with difficult people feels like losing. Peace rarely earns applause in a culture that celebrates dominance and conquest. These qualities are almost anti-masculine according to the world's definition of manhood.

But they are perfectly masculine according to Jesus.

This is where many Christian men experience an identity crisis. We have spent years trying to become strong enough to survive, respected enough to matter, and successful enough to prove ourselves. Then Jesus calls us to become humble instead of proud, gentle instead of harsh, patient instead of reactive, and peacemakers instead of perpetual competitors.

Paul then gives us the reason these virtues matter.

"...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

But we really can't do this on our own and remain in community, not long term anyways. Notice he doesn't tell us to *create* unity. He tells us to preserve it. Unity already exists because the Holy Spirit has already done what no human effort could accomplish. Through Christ, we have become one family, one body, one people. We don't manufacture that reality, we simply live in it, and we either protect it or we damage it. And that changes everything.

Spiritual fruit becomes the practical *evidence* that we believe something supernatural has *already happened*. The Spirit has united people who otherwise would have remained enemies. Every act of humility says, "I believe Christ has made us one." Every act of gentleness says, "My brother is no longer my competition and he is more important to me than the difference." Every pursuit of peace says, "Our unity is more valuable than my pride."

But if we continue walking backward through Paul's argument, we discover something even more profound. None of this is possible through willpower alone. There is *"one body and one Spirit"* (Ephesians 4:4). The Christian life is not self-improvement. It is Spirit-empowerment. The very qualities Paul commands are the qualities the Holy Spirit produces. Left to ourselves, we naturally protect our reputation, defend our position, demand our rights, and prove our strength. The flesh always gravitates toward survival, status, and self-preservation.

This doesn't mean we don't protect, defend, fight, or compete. The New Testament is replete with instructions to do just those things. The difference is what we are protecting and fighting for.

The greatest evidence of spiritual maturity is not becoming more intimidating, more accomplished, or more admired. It is becoming more like Jesus for the sake of His glory and the benefit of His people.

Perhaps that is the deepest question Ephesians 4 asks every man. *Who do you want to become?*

Will your identity continue to be shaped by the survival mentality that says power belongs to the strongest, boldest, loudest, and most dominant? Or will it be redefined through Spirit-empowerment that daily teaches us to **“take up our cross,”**...

- lay down our rights because Christ laid down His.
- pursue peace because Christ made peace.
- become gentle because Christ is gentle.
- humility because Christ humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross.

...“and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

Only one of those paths is worthy of the calling you have received. And only one is evidence of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment.

PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer today and ask if there is anything you need to surrender or what fruit you need to see blossom more in your life. Be aware that this is spiritual warfare. There is an enemy who wants something very different for and from you. It is working often harder than we pray.

Day 2 Thinking and Choices

Philippians 4:8-9

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.⁹ What you have learned^[a] and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

We are not alone. I know it doesn't always feel that way. In the middle of life when circumstances are hard, choices are costly, and the weight of responsibility presses in, it can seem as though everything rests on our shoulders. We have to make the decision, project confidence, and lead the way. At times, that burden can feel isolating.

But Scripture reminds us that we are never left to fight alone.

Over and over again, God's Word calls us to pay careful attention to our thought life. We are told to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we can discern God's will (Romans 12:2). We are commanded to take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). We are instructed to think about what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise so that anxiety loses its grip and the peace of God takes root (Philippians 4:8-9). Why? Because our minds are the battlefield long before our actions become visible.

Every temptation begins with a thought entertained. Every act of courage begins with a truth believed. Every destructive habit is first rehearsed in the mind, just as every act of faithfulness is cultivated there. Before our hands ever move or our mouths ever speak, our hearts and minds have already been shaping the direction of our lives. The difficult truth in all this is that disciplining our minds isn't natural.

Left to ourselves, we replay old wounds, imagine worst-case scenarios, rehearse arguments we'll probably never have, dwell on temptation, or seek validation from people instead of resting in Christ. The world is more than willing to feed those patterns. News, entertainment, social media, advertising, and even our own insecurities constantly compete for our attention, quietly disciplining our hearts into fear, pride, anger, lust, or comparison.

Paul's is not calling us to positive thinking. He's calling us to sanctified thinking. He isn't asking us to ignore reality; he's teaching us to interpret reality through the truth of God. That requires discipline. It requires choosing what we allow to remain in our minds and what we refuse to entertain. Some thoughts deserve our attention because they lead us toward Christ. Others must be rejected because they lead us away from Him.

This is hard work. It is daily work. Sometimes moment by moment. But we're not expected to do it in our own strength. God has graciously given us two incredible gifts for this battle. First, He has given us His Holy Spirit, who continually renews our minds, convicts us when we wander, reminds us of Christ's words, and empowers us to obey. Second, He has given us one another. Christian brotherhood is not simply about sharing hobbies or attending the same church. It's about helping each other think rightly when our minds drift toward lies. Faithful

brothers remind us of God's promises when we forget them. They ask difficult questions. They pray with us. They point us back to Christ when our perspective has become clouded.

This is why biblical accountability is so powerful. It's so much more powerful than policing behavior; it's about helping one another believe what is true before sinful thoughts become sinful actions. Every day presents a choice. Will I let my mind be disciplined by my fears, my flesh, and the voices around me? Or will I intentionally fill it with the truth of God's Word and submit it to the leadership of His Spirit?

In the chapter prior, Paul closes his own testimony with the perspective that every believer needs:

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."(Philippians 3:13–14)

This is the posture of a mature Christian man. Not perfection. Not pretending the battle doesn't exist. It's not arrival. It's pressing on.

One thought at a time.

One decision at a time.

One obedient step at a time.

And every step empowered by the Spirit who is faithfully transforming us into the likeness of Christ.

PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer reflecting on the strengths and gaps in your thought life. Where do you see the need for bolstering with more Holy Spirit empowerment and the faithful accountability of brothers who are likeminded? Pray that your thoughts are what He wants. What your wife wants. What your family needs. Remember, our greatest weapon against the enemy's progress in any area of our life is repentance. Include confession and rededication where necessary.

Day 3 Past and Regrets

Romans 8:1-4

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

"There is therefore now no condemnation." Those may be some of the greatest words in all of Scripture. If I'm honest, though, I don't always live as though I believe them.

I certainly *say* I believe them. But if I listen closely to my own inner dialogue, I often hear fear, self-reliance, or shame speaking louder than grace. My thoughts reveal that I am still trying to earn what Jesus has already accomplished. I begin to believe that my standing before God somehow depends on how well I've been doing lately instead of resting in what Christ has already done for me.

But Paul doesn't let us stay there. He reminds us that our hope has never been rooted in our effort. It isn't about what I have done or failed to do. It is about what Jesus has done. I truly believe that. Yet life has a way of making that truth difficult to hold onto.

The consequences of my sin may still be present. Someone I hurt may still carry wounds that haven't completely healed. Regret has a way of resurfacing when I least expect it. Old memories can invade quiet moments or revisit me in the middle of the night. My past is real, and there are things I wish I could undo.

Then Paul quietly adds a phrase that changes everything:

"...who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

God never promises that our memories will disappear. In fact, the resurrected Christ still bears the marks of His crucifixion on His hands and feet and side as an eternal testimony to the sacrifice that purchased our redemption. The scars remain, but they no longer represent defeat. They proclaim victory.

Perhaps God intends something similar for us. He may not erase every memory of our past, but He does promise freedom from its condemnation. The pain no longer has to define us. The shame no longer has to rule us. The failures no longer have to determine our identity. The answer is beautifully simple, even if it isn't always easy: Walk by the Spirit.

It's okay to have regrets. It's okay to remember where you've been. But we were never meant to keep living there.

One of my favorite illustrations is to imagine your life experiences as a backpack full of lessons learned. That backpack is a gift. Every success, every failure, every joy, and every heartbreak has taught you something. God can use all of it.

The problem is that many of us wear the backpack on the front of our bodies instead of on our backs. When it's on the front, every step into the future is blocked by the past. Our failures stay directly in our line of sight. Shame becomes our constant companion, and yesterday dictates today. But that isn't where the backpack belongs. It belongs on our back.

On our back, it becomes a resource instead of a burden. When wisdom is needed, we can reach back, pull out a lesson we've learned, reflect on God's faithfulness, and then place it right back where it belongs. Behind us. We carry it, but it no longer carries us.

Our story has a beginning, a middle, and one day it will have an ending. Some chapters are beautiful. Others are filled with mistakes we'd gladly rewrite if we could. While we cannot change the past, we can choose what it becomes. Will we allow our heavenly Father to redeem our failures into lessons learned, wisdom gained, and resources to help others? Or will we allow the enemy to keep turning those same memories into weapons of shame and condemnation?

Paul has already answered that question. "There is therefore now no condemnation..." The only question left is "How will you walk?"

You can continue walking according to the flesh, living as though your past still owns you. Or you can walk according to the Spirit, trusting that Jesus has already fulfilled every righteous requirement on your behalf. The verdict has been spoken. The debt has been paid. The condemnation is gone.

God never wastes our past. Likewise, He refuses to let it define us. But He also gives us free will. Choose today, right now even: Regrets or lessons learned? Captivity or freedom?

PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer today focused on the blessing of grace transforming pain into strength through grace. Failure is turned into training through faith. Thank God for how He has used your past to make you uniquely you for His service. If there is anything from your past that still has a negative effect in your life or the life of your family, pray for the courage, strength, and conviction to live fully in the present and trust God with the past.

Day 4 Purpose

1 Timothy 1:15-17

¹⁵ *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.* ¹⁶ *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.* ¹⁷ *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: You and I are sinners who have received unimaginable mercy from our Savior!

But notice that Paul doesn't stop there. He says, "**I received mercy for this reason...**" God did not merely save Paul *from* his sin. He saved him *for* a purpose - that Christ might put His perfect patience [and other attributes] on display through Paul's life. The same is true for us!

One of the most significant events in the history of this world was your salvation. Think about that. That single moment affected eternity. It repurposed your past. It redefined your present and existence. It renewed and redeemed your future on this side of eternity possibly setting the groundwork for similar miracles to happen because of all that change in your life. A single moment becomes a legacy.

Throughout the Old Testament, men and women who encountered the holy presence of God often fell on their faces in reverent fear and awe. During Jesus' earthly ministry, even the demons recognized who He was and trembled before Him. Likewise, those who understood the weight of their own sinfulness, or simply caught a glimpse of Christ's divine nature often approached Him with humility and trembling, falling at His feet in worship, desperation, and holy reverence.

But when He rose from the grave, everything changed. Scripture says we now approach the throne of grace with confidence. We are no longer enemies but sons. We were once dead, but now we have been made alive, co-heirs with Christ, and seated with Him in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:4-7).

That is an astonishing transformation.

I wonder if our privileged western evangelical freedom and familiarity with these truths causes us to lose the wonder of them.

We were dead. Not sick. Not struggling. Dead.

We could not rescue ourselves any more than a corpse can raise itself to life. God moved first. He pursued us. He rescued us. He gave us life. And He continues performing that miracle every single day. Since Pentecost, countless men and women have been brought from death to

life through the power of the gospel. Heaven rejoices, eternity is changed, another son or daughter comes home...

...and often we simply continue on with our day.

There is nothing wrong with faithfully working, providing for your family, fulfilling your responsibilities, or serving those around you. In fact, those things are part of God's calling.

But our challenge is to *be available* to the ultimate purpose of His work in our lives.

The ultimate purpose is that God's incomparable character would be displayed through our lives, my life, *your life* so that He receives all honor and glory.

Imagine beginning each morning with that thought. "Today, God desires to display His patience through me."

His wisdom through me. His compassion through me. His faithfulness through me. His strength through my weakness.

Would that change the way you spend your time? The way you speak to your wife? The way you lead your children? The way you approach your work? Would you weigh your words more carefully if every conversation became another opportunity to reflect the character of Christ?

I recently had a young man tell me he left a men's ministry event after hearing a few of the men joking and speaking derogatorily about one man's ex-wife. They laughed together as though it was harmless conversation. He walked away deeply disappointed.

What struck me was that he wasn't primarily offended by what they said. He was grieved ("*disappointed*") because he expected something different. He expected to find men whose words reflected the grace, dignity, and character of Christ. Instead, he found men who sounded much like everyone else.

That conversation has stayed with me. Whether we realize it or not, people are constantly learning something about God from the way we speak. Every conversation either reflects His character or obscures it. If my purpose is to glorify God, then even my casual words become opportunities to put His patience, kindness, holiness, and grace on display.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism famously says that "man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." That is a beautiful summary of God's revealed purpose for humanity. But have you ever considered your *particular* purpose?

No one has ever been created exactly like you. No one has been entrusted with your gifts, your experiences, your failures, your relationships, your opportunities, or your responsibilities. No one else has your sphere of influence. No one else can glorify God in precisely the way you can.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the parable of the three stewards. The Master entrusted each servant with different resources, but He never prescribed exactly how they were to use them. He simply expected them to steward what had been entrusted to them faithfully. They had freedom to use their capability as only they could. But notice something else, neither were the servants compared to one another. Each was evaluated according to what he alone did with what had been placed in his care.

Much of the time, we ask, "What is God's will for my life?" Perhaps a better question in any specific season might be: **"How can I most faithfully glorify God with everything He has already entrusted to me?"** Simply asking, day after day, "Lord, how can my life put Your greatness on display today?"

The greatest purpose of your life ultimately seems to be, not about what you accomplish, but about what your life reveals about the God who showed you mercy.

PRAYER: Spend time in prayer today reflecting on your unique purpose as a husband, father, friend, leader, example, Son of God, etc. Thank God for your specific responsibilities and the unique intersection of your gifts and abilities with how God is meeting the needs of His Kingdom agenda in the unique time and place of *your existence*. Pray for the power of insight and reminders today to keep you focused on this reality - immediately and into your future. Thank the Holy Spirit that you have been pulled away from being a pawn for the Enemy and made an Ambassador for Christ! Finally, ask God for the privilege of seeing beyond the distractions that constantly compete for your attention, so that you may experience the deep fulfillment of living for His glory.

Day 5 Allies and Enemies

Psalm 1:1-3

¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the instruction of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

1 Corinthians 15:30

³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

This is probably one devotional that we could simply leave with the verses. As you read them, I'm sure others came to mind: "*Iron sharpens iron...*" "*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken...*" This theme is remarkably consistent in Scripture. God deeply cares about our relationships, our community, and where we invest our relational time and energy.

Why? Because our Creator knows us better than we know ourselves.

Sometimes we're like children dancing near the edge of a cliff or standing too close to a fire. We trust our balance, our judgment, our reaction time, and our intentions. We assume we'll know when we've gotten too close.

But wisdom rarely asks, "How close can I get?" Wisdom asks, "What direction am I headed?" One of the greatest deceptions in the Christian life is believing that our relationships are spiritually neutral. They aren't. Every relationship is moving us toward Christ or away from Him. Every conversation shapes what we believe, what we value, and ultimately what we become. That doesn't mean every friend must be a mature believer. Jesus intentionally spent time with sinners, tax collectors, and people far from God. If we isolate ourselves from the world, we abandon the very mission Christ has given us.

The question isn't whether we have relationships with unbelievers or less mature Christians. The question is this: **Who is influencing whom?** Am I entering that relationship as an ambassador of Christ, seeking to love, serve, and point someone toward Him? Or am I slowly allowing their values, priorities, humor, speech, and worldview to shape mine?

That distinction matters because Scripture reminds us that we are living in the middle of a spiritual war. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. People are never the enemy. But we do have an enemy who delights in using relationships, temptations, distractions, and compromise to slowly pull our hearts away from wholehearted devotion to Christ. Rarely does he accomplish that through one catastrophic decision.

More often, it happens in building conversations... little compromises... voices without boundaries...

One influence at a time.

Likewise, God often strengthens us through relationships. A faithful brother asks the hard question you didn't want to hear but know you needed to. A godly friend or wife reminds you of truth when your emotions are drowning it out, even if it is uncomfortable in the moment. A wise mentor helps you see blind spots you could never recognize on your own. A praying wife encourages your heart when you're tempted to quit. The church becomes a family that refuses to let one another fight alone.

That is why Hebrews urges us to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." Encouragement isn't about being nice. Sometimes encouragement can feel abrasive to your emotional state of mind or prideful position. Encouragement is better understood as participating in God's work of shaping another believer into the image of Christ.

So perhaps a helpful exercise today is to prayerfully consider the people closest to you.

Jesus gave us allies so we don't have to fight the enemy alone.

Who is sharpening your love for Christ? Who consistently encourages you toward faithfulness? Who challenges you to become more like Jesus? Who asks the *harder* question?

And what about you? What kind of ally are you?

"What kind of influence am I becoming?" "When people leave a conversation with me, are they more aware of Christ or more consumed with the world?" "Do my words cultivate hope or cynicism, grace or gossip, faith or fear?"

The truth is that every relationship becomes an opportunity to participate in God's Kingdom or to be distracted from it. Choose wisely because the people you walk with today will help shape the man you become tomorrow.

PRAYER: The challenge for today's prayer time is to humbly submit your relationships before the Lord for reflection, possible accountability, and correction where needed. You know that He intends for every relationship to be a blessing and encouragement in your life. Pray that He would show you where you need to accept His "best" to fill the space of the "so, so". Pray for your marriage and that it is strengthened with the safety, time, and conviction to be the absolute best ally it can be - for both of you!

Day 6 Vulnerability and Surrender

Philippians 1:3-6

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

By the way, your wife has been praying this exact verse and it's accompanying context about you this last month.

As we've walked through these devotions together, my prayer has never been that you would simply become a "better man." The world has countless definitions of what that means. My prayer is that you would become more like Christ.

Perhaps you've noticed a common thread woven throughout these pages. Again and again, Scripture has called us away from self-reliance and toward surrender. Away from striving to prove ourselves and toward resting in what Christ has already accomplished. Away from walking according to the flesh and toward walking by the Spirit.

Along the way, we've considered our thoughts because our minds shape our lives. We've considered our relationships because we become like those we walk beside. We've reflected on our purpose because God did not merely save us from sin; He saved us so that His glory might be displayed through our lives. We've explored humility, gentleness, unity, forgiveness, courage, stewardship, and grace because these are the qualities the Holy Spirit desires to produce within us.

At the center of it all has been one simple truth: Jesus calls us to a completely new way of living. Not simply improved behavior, but a transformed life. That transformation, however, requires something our flesh naturally resists: vulnerability.

The world tells us that strength means hiding weakness. Jesus teaches us that strength is found in surrender. The world tells us to protect our image. Jesus invites us to confess our need. The world teaches us to maintain control. Jesus asks us to trust Him enough to let go.

As you prepare for this retreat, remember that the goal is not simply to attend another event or hear another series of messages. The goal is to intentionally make room for God to do what only He can do through His Word, His Spirit, and the brothers He has placed around you. It may require allowing trusted brothers to see the places you may have spent years trying to hide. It does require believing that the Holy Spirit is both willing and able to continue transforming you into the image of Christ.

You are not walking into this retreat alone. The Holy Spirit goes before you. The Word of God will speak to you. The men around you are not your competitors; they are your brothers. Each one has his own story, victories, failures, fears, and need for grace. One of the greatest gifts you can give another man this weekend is your authenticity. Your willingness to say, "I'm still learning. I still struggle. I still need Jesus." That kind of humility creates space for God to work in everyone else as well.

Before you arrive, ask the Lord for three simple gifts. Ask Him for ears that are ready to listen, a heart that is willing to surrender, and the courage to obey whatever He reveals. Leave your pride. Leave your carefully managed image. Leave your excuses where they belong. Bring only yourself - the real you. The son whom the Father already loves. The man Christ has already redeemed. The brother the Holy Spirit is still transforming.

As you step into this weekend, remember that your purpose is not to impress anyone. Your purpose is to know Christ more deeply, reflect His character more faithfully, and leave more surrendered than when you arrived. The God who called you is faithful. The God who saved you is patient. The God who began His work in you has no intention of abandoning it now.

So come expecting Him to move. Come ready to surrender. Come prepared to discover that your greatest joy, your deepest purpose, and your truest identity are found in Jesus Christ alone.

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."(Philippians 1:6)

PRAYER: This one is on you. What has the Holy Spirit most impressed upon you this week? What are you most thankful for in this time? What are you most anxious about looking forward? How can you pray for your family while you are gone?

See you soon!