Grace Guide

NOVEMBER 2-8

“Who Am I Becoming?”

MONDAY 11/2 DEUTERONOMY 30:11-20

As Moses prepares the Israelites to enter the Promised Land, he reminds them that God's commands are neither too difficult nor too distant for them to understand and follow. They have a choice to make: they can choose the way of life that comes from loving God, walking in his ways, and keeping God’s commandments, or they can turn away from God and follow a path that leads to destruction. Moses urges them to choose life. We face similar choices every day. Our decisions, both large and small, shape the direction of our lives and influence the people we are becoming. Following Jesus is not simply a decision we make once but a way of life that requires us to continually choose his way over the competing values and priorities of the world. Each day presents new opportunities to demonstrate our love for God through the choices we make.

1. What does Moses mean when he tells the Israelites to "choose life," and how does that invitation apply to followers of Jesus today?

2. How can you recognize when your choices are being shaped more by the values of the world than by your relationship with God?

TUESDAY
11/3

EZEKIEL 11:17-21

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promises to restore his people and give them a new heart and a new spirit. Their hearts of stone, hardened by disobedience and divided loyalties, will be replaced with hearts of flesh that are responsive to God's leading. This promise reminds us that spiritual transformation is not simply a matter of trying harder to become better people. Genuine change begins with God working within us, reshaping our desires, renewing our attitudes, and teaching us to love what God loves. Through Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit, God continues this transforming work in our lives. We are not left to overcome our weaknesses through our own strength. As we open ourselves to God's presence and guidance, he gradually changes us from the inside out, helping us become the people he created us to be.

1. What does the contrast between a heart of stone and a heart of flesh reveal about the kind of relationship God desires with his people?

2. What attitudes, desires, or habits would you like to invite the Holy Spirit to begin reshaping in your life?

WEDNESDAY
11/4

MATTHEW 7:15-20

Jesus warns us about false prophets, explaining that they can be recognized by the fruit their lives produce. Just as a healthy tree produces good fruit, a life rooted in a genuine relationship with God should produce actions and attitudes that reflect his character. Jesus reminds us that appearances and words alone are not reliable measures of someone's faithfulness. What matters is the evidence revealed through the way a person lives. Thus, we need to examine our own lives. It is possible to say the right things, participate in religious activities, and appear faithful while allowing our hearts to be shaped by values that contradict the teachings of Jesus. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, the fruit of that relationship should become increasingly visible in our words, our decisions, and especially the way we treat others. The question is not simply what we claim to believe but what our lives reveal about the one we follow.

1. Why does Jesus emphasize the fruit of a person's life rather than their words or outward appearance as evidence of their character?

2. How can we distinguish between genuinely growing in Christlike character and simply trying to maintain the appearance of being a good Christian?

THURSDAY
11/5

ROMANS 15:1-7

The apostle Paul reminds us that following Jesus means learning to put the needs of others ahead of our own preferences and desires. Rather than insisting on getting our own way, we are called to bear with one another, build each other up, and welcome others just as Christ has welcomed us. Paul points to Jesus as our example, reminding us that even Christ did not live to please himself. This kind of selflessness doesn't come naturally to us. We live in a world that encourages us to prioritize our own happiness, defend our own interests, and surround ourselves with people who think and act like we do. But the Christian life calls us to something different. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we learn to see others through his eyes, making room for their weaknesses, extending grace when relationships become difficult, and seeking their good rather than simply our own. Spiritual maturity isn't measured only by what we know or believe but also by our willingness to love and serve others.

1. What does Paul's instruction to bear with the weaknesses of others indicate about the responsibilities we have toward one another as followers of Jesus?
2. What is one practical way you can build someone up this week rather than simply focusing on your own interests?

FRIDAY
11/6

PSALM 15

The psalmist begins with a question: Who may dwell in the presence of the Lord? The answer describes a person whose life is characterized by integrity, honesty, faithfulness, and justice. These qualities aren't limited to religious activities or moments of worship. They are revealed in everyday interactions, in the words we speak, the promises we keep, and the way we treat others. Our relationship with God should influence every part of our lives. It is easy to separate our spiritual lives from our work, our relationships, our finances, or the decisions we make when no one is watching. But God calls us to a life of integrity in which our actions consistently reflect our faith. Through Jesus Christ, we are welcomed into fellowship with God, and as we grow in that relationship, we are called to live in ways that reflect his righteousness. The question isn't whether we can earn God's acceptance through good behavior but whether our lives increasingly reflect the God we claim to follow.

1. Are there areas of your life where it is easier to demonstrate your faith than others? What might explain that difference?

SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
11/7-8

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Paul begins by reminding us that we, as followers of Jesus, are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved. Before speaking about how we should live, he reminds us who we already are. Because we belong to God, we are called to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and, above all, love. These qualities are not simply rules to follow or behaviors to imitate. They are the characteristics of a life increasingly shaped by Jesus Christ. Paul goes on to encourage believers to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts, let his word dwell richly among them, and approach everything they do with gratitude. His final instruction brings it all together: whatever we do, whether in word or deed, we are to do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Our faith is not meant to occupy just one part of our lives. It should influence everything we say, every relationship we nurture, every responsibility we fulfill, and every opportunity we have to serve. Becoming more like Christ means allowing him to shape not only what we do but who we are.

1. Of the qualities Paul describes in verses 12–14, which do you find most challenging to demonstrate consistently, and what might that reveal about an area where you need to grow?

2. If you approached everything you said and did as something done in the name of Jesus, what part of your everyday life might look different?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

(Colossians 3:17)