

5 Things

that will never be perfect in
this life



and the hope we have in Christ

A Devotional

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Life rarely unfolds the way we hope. People disappoint us, the world feels broken, our past can weigh heavy, our bodies grow weak, and even our faith can falter. Yet Scripture gently reminds us that these imperfections are not the end of the story—they are invitations to look beyond ourselves to Christ. In every struggle, God meets us with what we need most: His grace, His forgiveness, His strength, and His unchanging faithfulness. As we face what will never be perfect in this life, we can rest in the One who is.



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1. People

People will always disappoint us—from casual encounters to our closest relationships—and yet we're often surprised when they do. We carry expectations that others will be thoughtful, attentive, and selfless, but Scripture reminds us that no one is perfect, including ourselves (Romans 3:10, 23).

In a world where everyone falls short, *grace* is the answer. God has lavished his grace on us through Christ, not because we deserve it, but because of his great love. As recipients of that grace, we are called to extend it to others—bearing with them patiently, releasing our unrealistic expectations, and trusting God to do the work of transformation in their lives. When we choose grace over frustration, we reflect the gospel to a watching world.

Read my full article here:



Is there someone in your life that you struggle to love unconditionally because they've disappointed or hurt you in the past?

What are the expectations you hold of this person or these people that you feel they are not meeting?

What are your expectations based on—your feelings? or Scripture?

Could there be more to their story than what you know or understand that may be contributing to their behavior? Sometimes learning someone's backstory can help us have more compassion, even though it does not always excuse their behavior.

Read and reflect on Romans 3:9-28. What perspective do you gain from this passage?

Look up Colossians 3:12-14 and Ephesians 4:32. What is the reason we should show grace to people, to forgive, and to bear one another's burdens?

Can you remember a time when you disappointed someone, and they showed you great grace? Have you ever thanked them for that kindness?

**The above verses do not mean that violent or harmful behavior should be excused or ignored. Please seek help if you are being physically harmed by someone else's behavior.*

2. The World

Every day we are confronted with the brokenness of our world—corruption, violence, disasters, and deep human suffering—and it can feel overwhelming. Scripture reminds us this is not how God created the world; sin has fractured what was once good, affecting all of creation and every human heart. Though in John 16:33 Jesus tells us, “In this world you will have trouble,” he does not leave us without hope. The same God who judged the world in Noah’s day also provided a way of rescue, and he is still sovereign today, patiently working toward his promise to make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

Though the world will never be perfect in this age, its brokenness is not permanent. One day Christ will return, creation will be restored, and those who belong to him will be gathered into his kingdom. Until then, we are called to *trust* him in what we see and feel—to live with hope, love others well, share the gospel faithfully, and remember that this world is not our forever home.

Read my full article here:



When you feel overwhelmed, fearful, or sad about the state of our world, remember that it belongs to God.

Re-read the story of Noah in Genesis 6, and then read 2 Peter 3. What similarities to our current world do you see?

What evidence do you see from the above passages of both the justice and grace of God?

Do these Scriptures fill you with fear or with hope? Why?

Write out 2 Peter 3:8. Why is this important to remember?

What will the day of the coming of the Lord be like (2 Peter 3:10)? Are you prepared for that day?

Read Hebrews 1:1-3, Colossians 1:17, and Psalm 75:3 (ESV). How can you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus when the world seems like it's falling apart?

What are we specifically told to do in 2 Peter 3:11, 14, 17-18?

Describe the new heaven and new earth that is promised to believers in Christ (Revelation 21:1-7).

Make a list of ten blessings you have been given in this life. Give thanks and praise to God for your physical life and for His creation.

3. Our Past

No matter what our past holds—whether marked by obvious mistakes or hidden shame—we all carry the weight of sin and need a Savior (Romans 3:23). We may feel too broken, too guilty, or even self-sufficient, but the truth is that our salvation doesn't depend on our past or our performance—it rests entirely on the love and work of Christ. When we confess our sins, God's *forgiveness* is immediate, complete, and final, and in Christ we are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17), no longer defined by what we've done or what's been done to us.

Even when we struggle to forgive ourselves or release lingering shame, God's forgiveness is the only one that ultimately matters, and it is enough to free us to move forward in faith. That same grace also empowers us to forgive others—not excusing sin, but releasing bitterness and entrusting justice to God—so that we can walk in the freedom and joy Christ has secured for us.

Read my full article here:



What in your past do you feel hinders you from growing in your relationship with Christ?

Read the story of the apostle Paul's conversion in Acts 9:1-31, then read what he wrote in 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

Now record what Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12-14.

What in the above verses gives you hope?

Look up Revelation 21:5. What is God doing in Christ? Do you believe this includes you?

Read the context surrounding 2 Corinthians 5:17, from verse 11 through verse 21. Who is the only one who can make us right with God (v. 21)?

Look up Colossians 3:13. Why must we forgive others?

List three differences you see (or hope to see) in your new life vs. your old life. Then write out a prayer thanking God for releasing you from your past and making you a new creation in Christ.

4. Our Bodies

Our bodies are wonderfully designed by God—capable of healing, feeling, thinking, and carrying us through life. Yet because of the fall, they are also marked by weakness, pain, disease, and eventual decay. Whether through everyday fatigue or serious illness, we are continually reminded that our physical bodies are temporary and not as they were originally intended to be. But Scripture gives us hope: though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being *renewed* day by day in Christ, who supplies grace for every weakness (2 Corinthians 4:16; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

Our ultimate hope is not in preserving these bodies but in their future transformation, when God will make all things new and give us imperishable, glorified bodies in his eternal kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:51–55; Revelation 21:4–5). Until that day, we are called to honor God with our bodies, care for them without idolizing them, and trust him in both strength and frailty as his power is made perfect in our weakness.

Read my full article here:



Do you have a physical limitation? Has it hindered or strengthened your relationship with Christ?

Are you generally healthy yet fear growing old or becoming disabled?

Do you know anyone personally who has lived a life of faith despite disease, disability, or other limitations? What have you learned from their example?

Read the following passages: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and John 9:1-3. What do these two stories have in common?

Look up 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. In the New International Version, our troubles are referred to as "light and momentary." Do you believe this is an accurate description?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5. What will our mortal bodies be swallowed up by? What has God given to believers as a deposit that guarantees what is to come?

5. Our Faith

Like the desperate father in Mark 9 who cried, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief,” we often find our faith shaken by fear, uncertainty, and overwhelming circumstances. Yet Scripture reminds us that faith is trust in God’s character, not the strength of our feelings, and even the greatest biblical figures—Abraham, Moses, Peter—struggled with doubt and failure.

The good news is that God is not limited by the weakness of our faith. He meets us in it, sees our hearts, and receives even mustard-seed faith when it is placed in him. *Jesus* is the One who strengthens our faith, forgives our unbelief, and remains faithful even when we are not.

As we’ve seen throughout this series on the five imperfections in this life, the answer is never perfection in us, but perfection in Christ. In every struggle, he is the constant, trustworthy One we are invited to turn to again and again.

Read my full article here:



We can try to please God through our outward behaviors, doing things like going to church, volunteering, and making financial donations. What does Hebrews 11:6 say is necessary to please God?

Read the following verses. Who gives us our faith?

1 Timothy 1:13-14

Hebrews 12:2

2 Peter 1:1

In 2 Peter 1:3-11, what does Peter encourage his readers to add to their faith? What can cause us to become “nearsighted and blind” (v.9)?

Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks:

(2 Timothy 2:11-13) If we are faithless, he remains _____, for he cannot deny who he is.

(Ephesians 2:8-9) For it is by grace you have been saved, through _____—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

When your faith feels weak, or you are having trouble trusting God in your circumstances, what will you remember about God to help you?