

TENSIONS

WEEK 5

DAY 1: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-12

Paul reminds the Christ-followers in Corinth of the core-essentials of the salvation that only comes through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gospel is all or nothing. As we allow and prompt our flesh to die and yield to being made new in Christ, take time to reflect on Paul's words and check your heart. Do you believe each part of the message we've been given? This is the same message Paul brought to the Corinthians with urgency. It's the same message five hundred brothers witnessed after the resurrection of Jesus.

DAY 2: READ LUKE 1:1-4, JOHN 21:30-31 & 2 CORINTHIANS 4

Sometimes, we can slip into this mentality that scripture wasn't written for each of us. The Bible (and the work of Jesus, therein) becomes this sterile list or collection of impersonal letters. This is not the case, though. We get to read the beautiful heritage of the living presence of God throughout the lives of people who have witnessed Him, heard His words and believed. These words are still alive and still meant for us so we, too, will believe. Take time today to reflect on the long history of God's work in the lives of your family and your heart. Specifically, who do you need to tell about the way you've seen God alive and at work? Do it.

DAY 3: READ JOHN 20

As people of Jesus' resurrection, we live in a place of tension between what our flesh believes is possible, probable or natural and what our God, Author of the universe has done, is doing and has promised to still do. We may not have the proof we think we need, but just like all those before us, we trust because we have heard the truth and witnessed it to be true as the living Holy Spirit demonstrates both God's authority and Jesus' saving blood in and around us. We weren't alive at the time of Jesus, but we've all seen His work and the ways He moves and speaks to us. How have you seen Him at work after the resurrection?

DAY 4: READ JUDE 1-16

This letter from Jude has some seriously sharp wording toward other Christians regarding the misuse of the Gospel's truth. As Christians, we cling to the feet of Jesus and trust in the truth of the Bible. Jude warns us against other people perverting "the grace of our God," trusting instead in their own natural instincts and understandings instead of yielding to the truth of the Bible and the Holy Spirit for discernment. Take time today to test everything and remind yourselves of the very insidious nature of false teaching among believers. Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment and clarity on how to address it with the love of Christ and righteous scriptural truth.

DAY 5: READ JUDE 17-25

Jude's description sounds a lot like our current time, right? Look at verses 20-23. Let's challenge ourselves to hold closely to this behavior so we, as people of Christ, might better weather the tension between the one truth of Christ and the false, broken, perverse "truths" of everything else. As Christians, let's seek obedience to the Trinity so we can, as a result, be bound together in unity, as children of God, covered in the blood of Jesus and led by the living Holy Spirit.

DAY 6: READ PSALM 19

Let's rejoice and give God glory for hearing the truth. While we struggle with sin and putting our flesh to death, let's still choose to love the truth of His word and live by His word. Today, try to memorize and repeat verses 7-11. Let's be able to say it from an earnest heart.

DAY 7: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:8-11

In our personal spiritual walks with Jesus, it can be easy to let ourselves believe the lies of the devil and resort to comparison. Paul once sought to destroy the work of Christ; he was not one of the twelve disciples; Paul didn't meet Jesus until after the resurrection. By the grace of God, though, Paul yielded to the truth and allowed Christ to use him in world-changing, salvation-proclaiming ways. No matter what you're going through or who is seemingly stronger, more well-respected, more talented, has more resources or has more opportunity, give it all to Jesus. He can use someone like Paul for His greater glory, so he can use your willing heart and body too. Give it all to God and be eager to seek His glory and no one else's.