

DAY 6

So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. Romans 8:6 NLT

The choices we make often lead us to one of two things: worry or peace. When we make a choice that isn't wise, it leads to worrying about consequences. What will happen when people find out? Will my parents punish me? Will my friends still want to hang out with me? Why did I do that?! On the other hand, when you make wise choices, they will bring peace. Even if it isn't an easy or popular choice, you'll find peace knowing you're walking toward the full life God wants for you.

Spend a moment thanking God for the peace available to you today. Then pray for the Holy Spirit—God's Spirit—to lead you toward good, wise choices for your life. Choices that bring peace!

DAY 7

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

When you memorize something, it sticks with you. Even if you don't realize it, verses you've kept in your mind will pop up when you need them most. They're there to help you, encourage you, and keep you walking toward the kind of full life God wants for you

To memorize this verse on the fruit of the Spirit, pick nine objects that represent each quality listed. Put the objects in order, saying the verse aloud as you do. Then mix them up and try to put them back in order to help you memorize this verse!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

STEP BY STEP / WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 NLT

In nature, a lot of creatures have big transformations. Caterpillars turn into butterflies, seeds turn into trees and flowers, tadpoles turn into frogs, and snakes and lizards shed skin and morph into what they are meant to be. When we allow God to be a part of our lives—when we choose to let our thoughts and actions show that we follow Jesus' teachings—we transform just like those other creatures God created. We become more loving, kind, patient, joyful, peaceful, and more. We become more of who God made us to be. .

Today, look at the nature that surrounds you. Pick one thing that you can tell has had a transformation and ask God to use it as reminder of the way you can be changed, too!

DAY 2

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 NIV

Have you ever felt pressured? Maybe from friends who pressured you to do something you knew you shouldn't. Or maybe from a parent or guardian to play a certain sport or do a certain activity. Maybe from another kid in class to cheat on a test. No matter how you've felt pressured, you know that it usually pushes you to do something you may not want to do. But God? Well, God will never be the one pressuring you toward anything that's not good. When God is leading you, you can trust that you're being led to the right thing.

Today, write a note to God, asking God to show you when and how to do the right thing.

DAY 3

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:12 NIV

Fact: You have never seen wind. You might have seen the wind move clouds, rain, or snow. You might have even seen a hurricane or tornado. But even with those things, you've only seen condensation, dirt, and debris in the wind; you're not seeing the actual wind. God is like wind in that way. People don't get to physically see God, but when you choose to love others and treat them kindly, people can see God in you. It's just like seeing wind sweep across a grassy field!

In what ways have you seen God in others' lives? Today, reach out to someone who shows you God in their life. Let them know how much you're encouraged by how you see God's Spirit at work in them!

DAY 4

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6 NLT

When was the last time you saw a construction site? Sometimes it can feel like different construction projects never end: roadwork on the street near your home, or the new community you see on the way to school, or the big buildings being built in your city. In a similar way, when you decide to follow Jesus, you become His own personal construction project. But unlike the construction you see happening all around you, the construction with Jesus is happening in you. Scripture promises us that the transformation we go through with the Holy Spirit, step by step to make us more like Jesus, will be made complete one day.

In what ways do you see the Holy Spirit changing you? Start a list of how you see yourself transforming in big and small ways.

DAY 5

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Colossians 3:10 NLT

Written by Katie, age 15, from Buford, Georgia, USA

If you look at yourself in the mirror, what do you see? Not what you see physically, but what characteristics do you see in yourself? What stands out about your personality when people talk to you? Do you bring joy wherever you go? Do you love your family and friends well? Are you kind and patient with people? Are you gentle with the words you use?

There's a list of qualities called the fruit of the Spirit, which are actually the fruit of God's Spirit. They are the qualities that help us become more like Jesus in our lives. love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Becoming more like Jesus by growing these qualities in our lives doesn't happen overnight. It's a process. But we can choose to become more of each of these qualities! It's kind of

like how we choose which clothes to wear each day, we can choose which of these qualities we want to be more of, too.

Today, think about where in your life you see each of these qualities. Then ask God to help you become more of the quality you feel least familiar with today.