

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE CHANGE



THE ONE LIFE
THAT CAN CHANGE
YOUR LIFE

DR. BRAD JURKOVICH

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INTRODUCTION

If you were to think of one person who has had a major impact upon your life who would it be? For me, it is Dr. Billy Graham. Dr. Graham has been a powerful preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ for decades and has been used of God to witness to millions around the world respond to the call to follow Jesus. His passion and commitment to ministry has helped to shape and focus my ministry greatly.

But while the influence of Billy Graham upon my life has been very strong, the one life that has changed me forever is the person of Jesus Christ. I'm grateful that at a young age I heard about the love Jesus has for me. I'm grateful that through Jesus I can have forgiveness of my sin and an eternal relationship with the God who created me.

The Christian life is a relationship with Jesus Christ. It's that simple. He is the One Life that can change your life today and for eternity. Once you have come to the place in your life where you recognize that He is the Son of God, that He is perfect, that His death on the cross was to pay the penalty of our sin debt of death, and that He conquered the power of death by rising from the dead three days later, then you can experience the power of Jesus in your life. And His power will change you for the better!

No matter your background, your baggage, your mistakes, or your bank account, Jesus Christ loves you and wants you to live everyday with the hope that He alone provides. He gives us hope beyond the existence we see today. He gives us hope that our lives can change and be mightily used by God in this life.

This series is an opportunity for you to discover the power of a personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus changes lives. And over the next several lessons you can learn, grow, and see what it really means for Jesus to change your life. He is the One Life that can change Your Life!

Following Jesus,

Dr. Brad Jurkovich

WEEK 1:

Jason Witten grew up in Vienna, Virginia. He grew up with two other brothers and their family life seemed fine until financial difficulties hit the family. When his father began using alcohol and drugs things became even worse. Eventually his mom took the three brothers and left for another city. They moved in with her parents and the family experienced stability and love.

Jason was very close with his brothers and he loved the sport of football. But it was in 9th grade that Jason met a young lady named Michelle who loved Jesus. That next year Jason was on a retreat with the organization called Fellowship of Christian Athletes. And it was at that retreat that Jason committed to following Jesus with his life. And he has been changed forever. Michelle would later become his wife and eventually Jason would join the Dallas Cowboys and become an outstanding tight end.

Jesus changes lives. Have you experienced the power of a personal relationship with Jesus? You can! Today you can admit your need for Jesus to forgive you of your sins and be the Savior of your life. This means that you can know for sure that you are going to heaven after your time on earth is done. And as you live on this earth you can experience the power of Jesus Christ by reading the Bible and putting into practice the teaching of Jesus.

This week we will look at various testimonies in the bible of those whose lives have been changed by the power of Jesus Christ. These real life testimonies can encourage you and help you as you follow Jesus.

MON

Key Passage of Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Who was changed in this account?

How was change possible?

What did this change look like?

Has your life been changed in this way?

TUE

Key Passage of Scripture: John 4:1-42

Who was changed in this account?

How was change possible?

What did this change look like?

Has your life been changed in this way?

WED

Key Passage of Scripture: Acts 9:1-25

Who was changed in this account?

How was change possible?

What did this change look like?

Has your life been changed in this way?

THU

Key Passage of Scripture: Acts 10:17-43

Who was changed in this account?

How was change possible?

What did this change look like?

Has your life been changed in this way?

FRI

Key Passage of Scripture: Acts 16:16-34

Who was changed in this account?

How was change possible?

What did this change look like?

Has your life been changed in this way?

WEEK 2: CHANGED FROM WEAK TO STRONG

I will never forget seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time. It was just incredible! My brother and I walked to a part of the edge of this canyon and looked down and it kept going and going and going. I asked him what time we were leaving the canyon on the next day. He said around noon. I told him that I thought we could hike down early in the morning to the bottom of the canyon and back up to the top by the time we were going to leave. He thought I was crazy but was willing to go with me.

So we got up early and chose a particular trail. There were some who chose to ride a donkey down the trail. But I thought that was silly. I felt like I was in pretty good shape! And so we began our trek down the trail. I noticed signs along the way that said, "Do not go past this point unless you have water." I remember we had a canteen of water and thought we were fine. And then we came to another sign that said, "Do not go past this point unless you have food and water." And I remembered we had packed some crackers. I thought we were fine.

But as we were not even halfway down the trail I realized that it was almost noon and we had to get back to the top. And it hit me that as far as we had gone down the trail we had to go back up. And it was super steep! I was so tired that I almost paid somebody to borrow their donkey! But I didn't have any money and I realized they were really the smart ones. So we did our best and barely made it to the top in time to go with our family. I totally underestimated the canyon. It was awesome and glorious to see. But I underestimated what kinds of challenges there were.

A lot of people see Christianity this way. They are grateful that Jesus, the glorious Son of God, came to us and died on the cross for our sins and then rose from the dead. But when it comes to following Jesus every day, they underestimate the challenges that come with following Jesus. But Jesus gives us strength and power so that when we are weak He can make us strong.

MON

Key Passage of Scripture: Luke 4:1-15

What kinds of temptations did Jesus face?

How did Jesus respond to those temptations?

What kinds of tests are you facing today?

How can you be strong in your faith today?

TUE

Key Passage of Scripture: James 1:2-12

What kinds of trials can Christians expect to face in this life?

What happens when we endure trials?

What is the promise to those who endure trials?

WED

Key Passage of Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

Did Jesus face challenges and tests while He was on this earth?

What does it mean that Jesus faced these tests yet He did not sin?

Knowing that Jesus faced tests in this life and overcame them, how does that help you today?

THU

Key Passage of Scripture: Philippians 4:10-13

What kinds of tests did the Apostle Paul face?

What was his response to his times of testing?

How did the Apostle Paul face his tests and seasons of weakness?

How is your attitude today towards the tests you face?

FRI

Key Passage of Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

What kinds of tests did Paul face?

How did he respond to these tests?

Who was the power source in his life?

How can Jesus be strong in your life today?

WEEK 3: CHANGED FROM ONE WHO LOVES LITTLE TO LOVES MUCH

Have you ever lost your keys? Is that not a sick feeling? I've lost my keys before. I will look and look and look for them. I'll have my wife and kids all looking for them. I begin to pray like never before! Losing keys is not fun! Interesting thing about keys. You don't really love them. I mean, keys are not a person. But once you lose them and then you find them, it is a major celebration! Something you didn't value much, something you didn't think was that important, something that you weren't very grateful for, suddenly became major important to your life.

A lot of people simply love Jesus little. I mean, they believe in Jesus. They attend church every now and then. But they just love Jesus a little. This is sad. I'm glad that Jesus did not love us little. He loved us with everything He had. He gave us His very life! The Christian life is a growing, loving relationship with the God of all creation through His Son Jesus Christ. Do you love Jesus little or much?

MON

Key Passage of Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

How much did the religious leaders love Jesus?

How much did the woman love Jesus?

Why did she love Jesus more than the religious leaders?

What does the forgiveness of Jesus mean to your life?

How much do you love Jesus?

TUE

Key Passage of Scripture: Mark 12:28-31

How much are you to love God?

How much are you to love your neighbor?

How can you show the love of Christ to someone today in your family, to a friend, or someone at work?

WED

Key Passage of Scripture: John 3:16

How much has God loved us?

How did God show His love toward us?

How grateful are you for what God has done?

Who can you share this message of God's love with today?

THU

Key Passage of Scripture: John 13:31-35

Does Jesus recommend that His followers love each other or does He command this?

How serious are you taking this command?

How can you show the love of Jesus to a fellow disciple of Jesus today?

FRI

Key Passage of Scripture: 1 John 4:7-11

How does love give evidence that you belong to God?

Who loved first: You or God?

How did God show His love toward you?

How can you love others the way God loves you?

WEEK 4: CHANGED FROM ONE WHO IS RELIGIOUS TO REAL

My wife's favorite ice cream is Rocky Road. I personally like Rainbow Sherbert but I'll give her credit because Rocky Road is a great flavor of ice cream. And when you buy Rocky Road ice cream, you want the full flavor. That means the chocolate ice cream with the marshmallows and nuts all combined.

But one evening my wife came home with a half-gallon of Rocky Road ice cream for our family to have following our dinner. As she was eating her ice cream cone I noticed that she wasn't too happy. I asked what was wrong and she replied, "There are no marshmallows or nuts." This was obviously not a good situation! And sure enough, there were no marshmallows or nuts to be found in the entire box of ice cream. She proceeded to write the management of the ice cream company and a few weeks later she received a letter from the top director who first, thanked her for her email because they later discovered that a particular batch of Rocky Road was made with no marshmallows or nuts at all. They corrected all of that. Second, they gave her numerous vouchers for free Rocky Road. Pretty cool deal.

But I'll never forget seeing my wife's face that night she was expecting to get the real Rocky Road ice cream, but it wasn't. It wasn't the real thing and it just wasn't the same.

God wants you and me to live the real Christian life. He is not interested in our lives being fake or hollow or missing the real thing. God wants us to be filled with the life of His Son Jesus Christ. When our Christianity is only an outside show and not overflowing from our hearts, then we are merely religious. And God calls us to be real.

MON

Key Passage of Scripture: Luke 37-54

What were some of the things that made these religious leaders think that they were real and right with God?

What did Jesus condemn as fake and phony in their lives?

Are there some things you are doing in your life as merely a religious exercise?

What is keeping you from having real relationship with Jesus that flows from the heart?

TUE

Key Passage of Scripture: James 2:14-26

Religious people sound spiritual but they fall short of genuinely meeting needs of others. How can you show your faith in Jesus is real today?

Religious people sound spiritual because they acknowledge there is a God. How can you show your belief in God is real today?

WED

Key Passage of Scripture: John 14:18-24

What is the relationship between loving God and obeying God?

A religious person says they love God but they are not interested in obeying God. How can you obey God in your life today?

THU

Key Passage of Scripture: James 4:4-10

What does it mean to have friendship with this world?

Religious people want to look good to God on the outside but their hearts are really interested in looking good to this world. How can you draw near to God today and become single minded to please God?

FRI

Key Passage of Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-32

A religious person is not concerned with the old self.

How can you demonstrate the new self, the real life of Jesus in you and through you?

WEEK 5: CHANGED FROM ONE WHO IS WORRIED TO TRUSTS GOD

I have enormous respect and appreciation for the job of a pilot. They are calm, cool and collected. They have to navigate through such a variety of circumstances. And while I believe pilots are more than qualified and more than prepared I oftentimes find myself worrying while I sit in my seat during a flight. This is really kind of humorous. I don't know how to fly myself. There is really nothing I can do about the weather. And so I need to trust the fact that the pilots not only see what is ahead but they also know how to pilot the plane through whatever may lie ahead.

The Christian life is a journey that need not be overcome by worry. When you become a follower of Jesus, you are placing your faith in the power of the One Who lived the perfect, sinless life, who died on a cross for the sins of the world and then rose from the dead. You might be facing life with enormous worry and it is weighing you down. But as you follow Jesus, begin to trust Him with all things. He can handle it.

MON

Key Passage of Scripture: Luke 12:22-34

How much does God care for those who follow Him?

What benefit is there to worry?

Are you seeking God first in all things?

What is the benefit in your life when you seek God first?

TUE

Key Passage of Scripture: Hebrews 3:12-19

How did worry keep Moses and an entire generation of Israelites from God's blessings?

What are you worried about today?

How can you replace your worry with trust in the living God today?

WED

Key Passage of Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

What were some things the Apostle Paul could have been worried about?

How did he face his worry?

How can you face your worry today?

THU

Key Passage of Scripture: Hebrews 11:8-12

What were some things that Abraham could have been worried about?

How did he face his worries?

How did God bless Abraham?

Ask God to give you the faith to trust Him today like Abraham trusted God in the face of his worry.

FRI

Key Passage of Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-16

What are some things that we can worry about as Christians living in this world?

How can we face our worry?

Ask God today to give you a passion for His glory to be revealed in and through your life.

WEEK 6: CHANGED FROM ONE WHO IS LIVING FOR THIS WORLD TO READY FOR THE NEXT

I remember watching the Super Bowl one time and a particular advertisement caught my immediate attention. It was a commercial for a free breakfast the following Tuesday at Denny's. I love breakfast at Denny's. And this time it was for free! My son wanted to go with me but I told him that might be tough since I was going to have to leave the house super early and he would still be sleeping.

Tuesday morning finally arrived and I was up early and ready to leave when I thought I would just check my son's room and see if he was awake. I pushed the door open a bit and whispered my son's name. His eyes opened and asked if it was time to go get breakfast at Denny's. I said yes. He pushes back his covers and he was already dressed to go! He had slept all night ready to get up early! That was awesome.

We can be ready and live ready for a lot of things but I want to ask you a very important question: Are you ready for when Jesus will return to this earth? Jesus rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven with a promise that He will return. This world is not all there is. You need to be ready to face eternity and you need to be ready for when Jesus returns. Because He is returning. Are you ready?

MON

Key Passage of Scripture: Luke 17:20-36

What does Jesus say some of the signs are that will be happening prior to His return?

How will most people be living prior to the return of Jesus?

What is keeping you from being ready for the return of Jesus?

TUE

Key Passage of Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Will real peace ever happen on this earth without the return of Jesus?

How are you to live prior to the return of Jesus?

As a Christian are you destined for wrath or salvation?

How can you encourage someone today about the hope of Jesus?

WED

Key Passage of Scripture: 2 Peter 3:3-13

What is God's passion for mankind?

In light of this world being temporary, how are you to live your life today?

Will you have to struggle with sin in the new heaven and earth?

While you still have the opportunity, who do you need to talk to about their relationship with Jesus?

THU

Key Passage of Scripture: John 14:1-6

What does Jesus say He will do for all who follow Him?

What is the future place for all who follow Jesus?

Does Jesus give us any other option to get to heaven except belief in Him?

Will heaven be your home?

FRI

Key Passage of Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4

What are some of the things you will experience in heaven?

How can you share the hope of heaven with others today?



**LIVES
CHANGED
HERE**