

## ACTION STEPS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday</b>  <b>Action Step 1</b>	You may wish to spend some extended time in prayer, asking God to isolate the areas of your life that are being held captive by Satan's lies
<b>Tuesday</b>  <b>Action Step 2</b>	Pray for, and seek out, an accountability partner or an accountability group
<b>Wednesday</b>  <b>Action Step 3</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>  <b>Action Step 4</b>	Don't let this day go by without spending some time giving thanks to your God, your Creator, and your Savior
<b>Friday</b>  <b>Action Step 5</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>  <b>Action Step 6</b>	Not sure what God has for your life?  FIRST—Keep praying SECOND—Ask those around you where they see God working in your life
<b>My biggest area for prayer and work this week</b>	

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

# LIES



For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.  
 ~ 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

## MONDAY

### **READ: Ephesians 1:15—2:10; 1 Timothy 1:14-17**

In the 1970s, David Berkowitz went on a killing spree in New York City. Killing six and injuring many more, he was finally arrested and sentenced to 365 years in prison. After more than a decade rotting in prison, he began to read God's Word. One night, in his jail cell, he was flooded with the presence of God and surrendered his life to Christ. Now, for more than 25 years, he has been actively serving in ministry to his fellow prisoners, leading dozens to Christ.

In the early 1990's, no name was more synonymous with evil than Jeffrey Dahmer. Known to have beaten, raped, killed, and then even eaten 17 men and boys, his name will go down in infamy. Yet, in 1994, Dahmer accepted the Lord in prison and received forgiveness for his many sins. He would teach a Sunday School class for the next 6 months before being murdered in prison.

1. If you have bought into the lie that God cannot change you nor do great things in and through you, how do the stories of Paul, Berkowitz and Dahmer debunk that lie?
2. Ephesians 1:18-20 tells us that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to us. How does this further debunk the lie that there is no hope for you to change?
3. Satan will lie and say that we are the exception to the rule. Yet, Ephesians 2:3 states that ALL have followed their sin-nature, while verses 4-6 tell us that ALL can receive God's mercy and grace. How does this further combat Satan's lies?

### **PRAYER (Note: Check Actions Steps on back for more)**

- ◆ Thank God that He can save everyone and transform them all as well
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, buying into Satan's lies that you cannot change and/or there is no hope for you
- ◆ Ask God to fill you with the truth of His word
- ◆ Ask God to do a mighty work in and through your life

## SATURDAY

### **READ: Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-20**

52 year-old Jethro once bought a new radio, brought it home, placed it on the refrigerator, plugged it in, turned it to WSM in Nashville (home of the Grand Ole Opry), and then pulled all the knobs off! He had tuned it to all he ever wanted to, or expected to, hear! There was no going back now.

It seems obvious that Jethro's willful choice has made it impossible for him to develop, grow, or change his musical tastes. If we are to see any change in our lives, we must take an opposite approach. Change is essentially willingness to grow and eagerly standing on tip-toes for a better view of what tomorrow may bring. This means that when you are willing for God to work in your life and even expectant of it, you greatly increase the amazing things God can do in, and through, your life.

1. What was Paul like in Acts 8 and the beginning of Acts 9?
2. By the end of Acts 9, what was Paul like?
3. In Acts 9:11, we find Paul praying. How does this show, despite his faults, that he is seeking God to work in his life?
4. Do you think God desires to answer prayers for His guidance and direction in your life?

### **PRAYER (Note: Check Actions Steps on back for more)**

- ◆ Thank God for His power to remarkably change your life
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, being like Jethro—lacking the desire or willingness to see change in your life
- ◆ Ask God to bring change and transformation into your life
- ◆ Ask God to guide you down the path He has for your life

## FRIDAY

### READ: Luke 22:54-65; Acts 5:26-42

A man from the back mountains of Tennessee found himself one day in a large city, standing for the first time outside an elevator. He watched as an old, haggard woman hobbled on, and the doors closed. A few minutes later the doors opened and a young, attractive woman marched smartly off. The father hollered to his youngest son, "Billy, go get your mother."

I am sure that we would all love to see change in ourselves and in those around us. However, as we noted in our pre-Thanks-giving devotions, Satan and our own false thoughts often keep change from happening. Today, however, you read about a man who most definitely was made new by the power of Christ.

1. What kind of man do we see in Peter in Luke 22?
2. What kind of man do we see in Peter in Acts 5?
3. The difference comes from the fact that between Luke 22 and Acts 5, Peter truly embraced who Christ was and was filled with the Holy Spirit. How can embracing Christ and being filled with His Spirit change your life?
4. Where do you need the Spirit's power to go to work in your life?

### PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for the power of His Spirit
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, relying on your own power instead of the Spirit's power
- ◆ Ask God to transform you from the inside out
- ◆ Ask God to guide you toward a closer more intimate walk with Him

## TUESDAY

### READ: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; 2 Corinthians 10:1-5

As someone who has had the privilege of serving and ministering in several locations, I have met many people with amazing stories of transformation. Former prostitutes, former drug addicts, former Hell's Angels, former homosexuals, former unfaithful spouses, and more. The key word for all of those is "former." What they were is now totally gone. They have been transformed by Christ.

In our Scripture from 1 Corinthians 6, we encounter another such group of "formers"—prostitutes, homosexuals, adulterers, drunkards, swindlers, the greedy, slanderers, and more. Yet, what does Paul say to them? *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God* (V. 11). Praise the Lord!!

1. Is there anything you are dealing with in your life that has not been washed away by the Lord yet? What is it?
2. If you feel powerless in this fight, what is at your disposal to fight the battle according to 2 Corinthians 10:3,4?
3. How can the Spirit of the Lord give you victory in your life?
4. How can accountable relationships with strong Christians give you victory in your life?

### PRAYER (Note: Check Actions Steps on back for more)

- ◆ Thank God for His power to cleanse, sanctify, and justify
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, not allowing His power to go to work in your life
- ◆ Ask God to fill you with His Spirit
- ◆ Ask God for the strength to allow others in your life to hold you accountable

## WEDNESDAY

### **READ: Genesis 3:1-13; John 8:42-47**

Circus showman P.T. Barnum once ran an animal museum in lower Manhattan. People enjoyed the exhibit so much they would stay for hours, preventing others from entering. Finally, Barnum devised a way to rid the place of customers who overstayed their welcome. Over the cage of a tigress and her cubs he hung a large sign which read, "Tigress." Over a doorway next to the cage he hung another sign: "To the Great Egress." Thinking they would see another curiosity, people walked through the door and out onto the street!

Similarly, since the beginning of humanity, Satan's only power over us is deception. He cannot force us to move anywhere or do anything. He can only lure, and trick, and lie.

1. Have you been guilty of buying into Satan's lies?
2. How can knowing and studying God's truth help you combat Satan's lies?
3. How often do you study God's Word?
4. If you are not consistently instilling God's truth into your heart and mind, what can help you begin to do so?

### **PRAYER**

- ◆ Thank God for His Word which is a light to your feet and a lamp to your path
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, following Satan's lies more consistently than following God's truth
- ◆ Ask God to give you a deep and abiding hunger for His truth and His Word
- ◆ Ask God to strengthen your resolve to fight off Satan's lies with His truth

## THURSDAY

### **READ: Psalm 100; Psalm 150**

A great way to forget about Satan's lies is to focus on God's goodness and give Him thanks. Erma Bombeck writes, "An estimated 1.5 million people are living today after bouts with breast cancer. Every time I forget to feel grateful to be among them, I hear the voice of an eight-year-old named Christina, who had cancer of the nervous system. When asked what she wanted for her birthday, she thought long and hard and finally said, 'I don't know. I have two sticker books and a Cabbage Patch doll. I have everything!' The kid is right."

1. What do you have to be thankful for today?
2. How have you personally thanked God for those things?
3. How have you publically thanked for those things?
4. If you lived every day remembering to be thankful, what do you think it would do for your life?
5. This day make sure to give God all the thanks that you can!

### **PRAYER (Note: Check Actions Steps on back for more)**

- ◆ Thank God for as many things as you can
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, limiting your thankfulness to just "special occasions"
- ◆ Ask God to remind you of all you have to be thankful for
- ◆ Ask God to make you a blessing to those around you this day