

ECHO CHURCH

No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God.

6-DAY DEVOTIONAL

HIM

In Him we live and move and have our being

Acts 17:28 NKJV

A Companion to the Sunday Message

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June 15 – June 20, 2026

BEFORE YOU BEGIN • How to Use This Devotional

Living In Him

This devotional is built to carry the Sunday message into your week. The message was simple and searching. Before you define yourself by anything around you, you have to return to the One you came from. Paul stood in Athens, a city full of altars and idols, and brought all of life back to one declaration. In Him we live and move and have our being. This week is an invitation to stop living near God and start living in Him.

Each day follows the same rhythm. There is a focus line to set your heart, a passage of Scripture to anchor you, a short reading to walk you deeper, a statement to carry with you, a few questions to sit with honestly, a prayer to pray, and a declaration to speak out loud. Do not rush it. The goal is not to finish the page. The goal is to return to Him.

Give yourself ten to fifteen unhurried minutes. Read slowly. Let the questions search you. Speak the declaration over your life until you believe it. And remember the heart of who we are at Echo. No games. No gimmicks. Just God. This is not about adding a little more religion to your week. It is about coming home to the source of your life.

Near Him gives you familiarity. In Him gives you formation.

DAY 1 • Monday, June 15

The Wrong Center

Focus: *Anything other than God at the center will eventually pull your life out of order.*

"for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" Acts 17:28 NKJV

We live in a generation that is constantly asking people to define themselves. Define yourself by what you do. Define yourself by what you have. Define yourself by who accepts you. Define yourself by what you survived. The voices are endless, and most of them are pointing you away from the only One who can actually tell you who you are.

Paul walked into Athens and saw a city full of false centers. Idols everywhere. Altars for every need. Spiritual language without spiritual life. And instead of only attacking their idols, he revealed the true God. He told them the God they had called unknown was the God who had been sustaining them the whole time.

That is the danger we rarely notice. The problem is not always that we have no god. The problem is that we are trying to live from something that was never able to give us life. Success cannot give you breath. Approval cannot sustain you. Control cannot define you. They make good servants and terrible centers.

So before this week goes any further, ask the honest question. What is at the center of my life right now? Because whatever sits at the center is what everything else gets arranged around. And whenever anything other than God becomes the center, life slowly begins to lose its proper order.

God is not unknown because He is hiding. Sometimes God feels unknown because we have been looking for life in everything else. The invitation today is to move Him back to the center, not as one more thing in your life, but as the source your life is supposed to come from.

Whatever sits at the center is what everything else gets arranged around.

Reflection

1. What has quietly taken the center of my life that belongs to God alone?
2. Where have I been trying to draw life from something that can only give temporary energy?
3. What would change this week if God were truly my center and not just my add-on?

Prayer

Father, I confess that I have let other things sit where only You belong. Forgive me for building my life around what cannot hold it. Today I bring You back to the center. Be my source, not my supplement. In Jesus' name, amen.

DECLARATION

God is the center of my life, and everything else finds its right place around Him.

DAY 2 • Tuesday, June 16

Near Him Is Not In Him

Focus: *You can be close to the things of God and still not be living in God.*

“so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” Acts 17:27 NKJV

The Athenians were not irreligious people. They were deeply religious. They had altars, temples, philosophies, and spiritual curiosity. What they did not have was revelation. Paul described people who had religion but not relationship. They had gods they built, but not the God who built them.

That is a sobering mirror, because it is possible to be around the things of God and still not be centered in God. You can know the songs and still not surrender. You can know the schedule and still not abide. You can quote Scripture and still try to live from your own strength. Near Him gives you the language. In Him changes your life.

Near Him lets you attend. In Him teaches you to abide. Near Him keeps you close to the activity. In Him keeps you connected to the source. The distance between the two is not measured in church attendance. It is measured in surrender. Plenty of people are near the fire who have never let it warm them.

Here is the grace in Paul's words. God is not far. Even while these people searched for a God they could not name, He was not distant. He was near. The same is true for you. The God you have been reaching for is not far from you. He has been sustaining you while you searched.

So the question this week is not whether you are close to church. The question is whether you are living in Him. Do not settle for proximity when He is offering you presence. Do not settle for familiarity when He is offering you formation.

Do not settle for proximity when He is offering you presence.

Reflection

1. In what ways have I lived near God without truly living in Him?
2. Where have I traded surrender for spiritual familiarity?
3. What would it look like to move from attending to abiding this week?

Prayer

Lord, I do not want to live near You while I am missing the life that is found in You. Thank You that You have never been far from me. Draw me past familiarity into real surrender. Teach me to abide. In Jesus' name, amen.

DECLARATION

I will not settle for living near God. I am learning to live in Him.

DAY 3 • Wednesday, June 17

In Him We Live

Focus: *God is not merely the giver of blessings. He is the source of life.*

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7 NKJV

Before God gives us assignment, He gives us breath. Before He gives us responsibility, He gives us life. In the garden, before Adam works a single day, God breathes into him. Man does not become alive because he is formed. He becomes alive because God breathes. The shape was not enough. The potential was not enough. He needed breath.

That is a word for you. You can have structure and still need breath. You can have talent and still need breath. You can have plans, a platform, and the appearance of life, and still need the source of life. Anything God forms still needs what God breathes.

This is why we cannot reduce God to help. We often say God helped me get through it, and that is true. But Acts 17 pushes deeper. It is not just that He helped you get through it. It is that He sustained your breath while you were in it. You survived what should have broken you because your life was never in the hands of what attacked you. Your life was in Him.

So stop treating God like an emergency contact and start honoring Him as your source. Prayer is not just crisis management. It is breath returning to its source. Worship is not just a song. It is the created thing honoring the Creator. Obedience is not God controlling your life. It is your life staying connected to the One who gave it.

Today, breathe differently. Live aware that every heartbeat is on loan from God. You are not self-sustaining, and that is not a weakness to hide. It is the truth that draws you back to Him every single day.

You cannot be fully alive while disconnected from the One who gave you life.

Reflection

1. Where have I been treating God as help instead of source?
2. What in my life looks alive on the outside but feels disconnected from God?
3. How would today change if I lived aware that my breath comes from Him?

Prayer

Father, You are the source of my life, not just the helper in it. Thank You for sustaining my breath even when I did not notice. I return to You as my source today. Keep me connected to the One who gave me life. In Jesus' name, amen.

DECLARATION

My life comes from God. He is my source, and I stay connected to Him.

DAY 4 • Thursday, June 18

In Him We Move

Focus: *Movement without God can become motion without meaning.*

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5–6 NKJV

Paul says we do not just live in Him. We move in Him. That word touches your direction, your decisions, your pace, and your alignment. Because it is possible to move fast and still be out of order. It is possible to be busy and not be obedient, productive and not purposeful, successful and not surrendered. It is possible to walk through open doors God never told you to open.

Notice the order in Proverbs. Trust Him. Do not lean on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him. Then He directs your paths. Many of us want directed paths without surrendered hearts. We want God to bless movement He was never invited to govern. But movement in Him starts before the step. Before I move, I seek. Before I decide, I surrender. Before I go, I acknowledge Him.

Be honest about what is actually driving your movement. Some movement is fear dressed up as wisdom. Some is ambition dressed up as purpose. Some is comparison dressed up as excellence. Some is anxiety dressed up as productivity. Some is people-pleasing dressed up as ministry. The issue is not whether you are moving. The issue is whether your movement is in Him.

Movement in Him produces a different fruit. It does not just create activity. It produces alignment. It does not just create speed. It creates obedience. It does not just make noise. It carries weight. A surrendered step may look slower, but it arrives whole.

Some people are exhausted not because they are doing too much, but because they are moving from the wrong source. When you move in Him, you no longer have to be driven by what wounded you. You can be led by the One who loves you. Bring your next step, your decisions, your relationships, and your plans under His Lordship today.

Not every step forward is progress if it takes you further from dependence on God.

Reflection

1. What area of my life has movement but lacks surrender?
2. What is really driving me right now, fear, ambition, comparison, or God?
3. What decision do I need to bring under His Lordship before I take the next step?

Prayer

Lord, I do not want to move from the wrong source. Forgive me for the steps I took without asking You. I trust You with all my heart and refuse to lean on my own understanding. Direct my paths. Lead me by Your love, not my wounds. In Jesus' name, amen.

DECLARATION

My steps are governed by God. I move in Him, and He directs my paths.

DAY 5 • Friday, June 19

In Him We Have Our Being

Focus: *Your identity is not self-created. It is God-defined.*

"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." **Colossians 3:3 NKJV**

This is the deepest part of the text. Paul does not just say we live in Him and move in Him. He says we have our being in Him. Being is identity. Being is essence. Being is the truth of who you are. And that means the believer does not have permission to let the world define what only God created.

Culture cannot define your being. Trauma cannot define your being. Success cannot define your being. Failure cannot define your being. People cannot define your being. Titles cannot define your being. Seasons cannot define your being. Your being is in Him. Paul says your truest life is hidden with Christ in God, which means it is not exposed to every opinion that comes your way.

This matters because so many believers are trying to find themselves in places that cannot tell them the truth. You cannot let rejection tell you who you are. You cannot let applause tell you who you are. You cannot let your last mistake tell you who you are. If your identity is not anchored in Him, every season will try to rename you.

When you are in pain, pain will try to name you broken. When you are in delay, delay will try to name you forgotten. When you are under attack, attack will try to name you defeated. When you fail, guilt will try to name you disqualified. But your being is not in what happened. Your being is in Him.

So return to what is true. In Him you are loved. In Him you are called. In Him you are forgiven, restored, adopted, covered, and sent. You do not have to use the world's measurements to prove heaven's truth. You do not discover who you are by escaping God. You discover who you are by abiding in Him.

If your identity is not anchored in Him, every season will try to rename you.

Reflection

1. Who or what have I allowed to name me besides God?
2. What season is currently trying to rename me, and what does God say instead?
3. What would change if I truly believed my life is hidden with Christ in God?

Prayer

Father, I have let other voices name me. Today I silence them and return to You. My life is hidden with Christ in You. Remind me who I am in Him, loved, called, and covered. I refuse every name but the one You give me. In Jesus' name, amen.

DECLARATION

My identity is hidden with Christ in God. No season gets to rename me.

DAY 6 • Saturday, June 20

In Him We Return

Focus: *Dependence is not weakness in the Kingdom. Dependence is design.*

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5 NKJV

All week long the message has been one invitation. Return. Not return to religion, but return to the life you were created to live in Him. Paul said God is not far from any of us. Even while the Athenians searched for a God they could not name, He was already sustaining their breath. God was present before they had understanding, near before they had clarity.

That is grace. The God you have been searching for is not far from you. He has been sustaining you while you were searching. So the return is not a long journey back to a distant God. It is turning your heart toward the One who has been right beside you the entire time.

Jesus gives us the picture. He is the vine. We are the branches. The branch that abides bears much fruit, but apart from Him we can do nothing. That is not an insult. It is an invitation. He is not saying you are worthless. He is saying you were never designed to be disconnected. A branch is not weak because it needs the vine. A branch is wise when it stays connected to the vine.

So return. Return from self-dependence. Return from false identity. Return from anxious movement. Return from religious performance. Return from living around God but not in God. You were never called to merely believe God is real. You were called to abide in Him.

As you prepare your heart for worship tomorrow, come back to Him. Not just His blessings. Not just His hand. Not just His provision. Him. The center is Him. The source is Him. The sustainer is Him. The identity is Him. Because in Him we live, in Him we move, and in Him we have our being.

Dependence is not weakness in the Kingdom. Dependence is design.

Reflection

1. What am I being invited to return from this week?
2. Where have I been trying to bear fruit while disconnected from the vine?
3. What does abiding in Him look like for me starting today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the vine and I am the branch. I have tried to do life apart from You and come up empty. Today I return. I choose to abide. Be my source, my direction, and my identity. I do not just need You around my life. I need my life to be found in You. In Your name, amen.

DECLARATION

I abide in Him. In Him I live, I move, and I have my being.
