

ECHO CHURCH
No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God.

Lock In

A 6-Day Devotional on Waking Up and Stewarding What God Already Gave You

Week of Monday, October 12, 2026

On Sunday we heard Paul do something remarkable: he took two letters written years apart and let them preach to one another. Romans 13 woke us up to the moment, and Second Timothy called us to tend what God already placed in our hands. This week we slow all of that down and let it work on us one day at a time. Give each morning a few unhurried minutes. Read the passage, sit inside the reflection, and then answer the questions honestly, because honesty is where locking in actually begins. The goal is not to feel more motivated. The goal is to live awake, under grace, in faithful response to the God who called you.

**One line will walk with us all week: Grace did not remove your responsibility.
Grace is what makes faithful obedience possible.**

Know What Time It Is

There is a difference between having faith and living awake to it.

Romans 13:11 NKJV

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

Paul does not open by appealing to your guilt. He opens by appealing to what you already know about the time you are living in. The word he uses is *kairos*, and it does not mean the hours on your phone. It means a weighted season, a moment heavy with the purposes of God, and Paul says this is exactly that kind of moment. Then he says it is high time to awake out of sleep, and the word for awake is the same word you would use to shake someone who slept through something they could not afford to miss.

Here is what makes this personal. Paul is writing to people who already believe. He never tells them to get saved again. He tells saved people to wake up. That means it is entirely possible to have genuine faith and still be asleep to the seriousness of living it, because possessing faith and walking in daily alertness are not the same thing. You can be wide awake physically and sound asleep to the responsibility God has laid on your life.

So before you do anything else this week, come alert. Not anxious, not frantic, just awake. The hour you are living in is too significant to sleep through, and the salvation you are waiting on is nearer today than it was the day you first believed.

You cannot keep living like you have unlimited tomorrows.

REFLECT

Where in your life have you been spiritually asleep while assuming your faith has it covered?

If you truly believed this moment was weighted with God's purpose, what would you stop postponing?

PRAY

Father, wake me up. I have mistaken having faith for living it, and I have slept through hours You called significant. Open my eyes to the moment I am actually in, and let me live alert to You. Amen.

DAY TWO | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Stop Scheduling Obedience for Later

We have made peace with postponement.

Romans 13:11 NKJV

"...knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep..."

If we are honest, most of us are not refusing God outright. We are just scheduling Him for later. We will get serious about prayer next week. We will deal with the conflict eventually. We will start serving once life settles down. We will surrender that habit when we finally feel ready. We know exactly what we are supposed to do, and somewhere along the way we started treating knowing as if it were the same thing as doing.

But Paul will not let us live there. Knowing the time, he says, now it is high time. Not someday. Now. Some of us are not waiting on another word from Heaven; we already have more revelation than we have obeyed. What we are actually waiting on is a feeling, a convenient season, a moment when obedience will finally cost us nothing. That moment is not coming, and Paul knows it.

The danger of postponement is that it never feels like rebellion. It feels reasonable. It feels like wisdom, like timing, like waiting on God when it is really just waiting on ourselves. But a delayed yes is still a no for today, and today is the only day you have been given to obey in.

Some of us do not need another revelation. We need to respond to the one we already received.

REFLECT

What is the one clear thing God has already told you to do that you keep rescheduling?

What are you actually waiting on before you obey, and is it something God ever asked you to wait for?

PRAY

Lord, forgive me for dressing up delay as wisdom. I have more of Your word than I have obeyed. Give me the courage to answer what You have already made clear, today and not someday. Amen.

Take It Off, Put It On

Awakening is never only about what you quit.

Romans 13:12 NKJV

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

Paul changes the picture from sleeping to getting dressed, and the logic is simple. The night is almost over and the day is almost here, so take off the clothing of darkness and put on the equipment of light. The Greek holds two deliberate motions: one word means to strip off and lay aside like an old garment, and the other means to clothe yourself with something new. Both of them matter, because real awakening is never only about what you quit.

This is where a lot of us get stuck. We announce what we are going to stop, and then we leave an empty space where the old thing used to be, and before long something worse moves into that space. You cannot simply say, I am going to stop being distracted, without deciding what obedience is going to take the place of that distraction. Rejection without replacement is just a vacancy, and vacancies never stay empty for long.

And notice Paul does not hand you ordinary clothing. He calls it armor, the gear of a soldier, because this is a real struggle. But the confidence was never that you have become stronger than the enemy. The confidence is the victory and authority of Christ, settled long before you ever stepped into the fight. Some of us keep asking God to equip us for war while refusing to take off the very things that keep tripping us.

You cannot win by emptying your hands. You win by filling them with something better.

REFLECT

What have you been trying to quit without putting anything godly in its place?

What specific obedience could take over the space the old habit used to fill?

PRAY

God, I have left empty spaces where old things used to live, and I have wondered why they keep coming back. Teach me to put on Christ in the exact place I am putting sin off. Clothe me for the day. Amen.

The Respectable Sins Count Too

We measure complacency by the loud sins and ignore the quiet ones.

Romans 13:13 NKJV

"Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy."

Watch what Paul does in this verse, because it is easy to read right past it. He names the loud, obvious sins we expect, revelry and drunkenness, lewdness and lust, and then he sets two more right beside them: strife and envy. Conflict and jealousy, listed on the same shelf as the scandalous things. That placement is deliberate, and it should make all of us a little uncomfortable.

We have a habit of measuring our spiritual condition only by the dramatic failures. As long as we have avoided the headlines, we assume we are walking in the day. But a man can avoid drunkenness and quietly nurse envy for years. A woman can keep a spotless public image and still leave a trail of conflict behind her everywhere she goes. A person can perform every religious duty on the calendar and still tolerate attitudes that flatly contradict the character of Christ.

Paul's concern was never whether we look religious. It is whether our lives actually reflect the daylight of God's kingdom. Which means locking in was never about becoming busier or adding more to your plate. It is about refusing to live carelessly with the things God has already called you to walk away from, including the respectable sins nobody else can see.

Being locked in does not mean doing more. It means refusing to live carelessly with what God called you to.

REFLECT

What quiet sin have you excused because it never made headlines, envy, strife, a critical spirit?

Where does your private character not yet match your public image?

PRAY

Father, search the quiet places. I have measured myself by the sins I avoided and ignored the ones I kept. Expose the envy and the strife I have excused, and teach me to walk in the daylight. Amen.

Stop Making Provision for the Flesh

Temptation rarely ambushes us. Usually we arrange for it.

Romans 13:14 NKJV

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

Paul brings the whole thing to its center here. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh. That word provision is *pronoia* in the Greek, and it means forethought, planning ahead, making arrangements. And that one word exposes something most of us would rather not look at directly.

Our problem is usually not that temptation ambushes us out of nowhere. Our problem is that we quietly arrange the conditions that make disobedience easy. We hold on to the relationship we already know keeps pulling us under. We refuse to set the boundary we know full well we need. We build a schedule with no margin left for prayer, for Scripture, for the people we are responsible to, and then we act surprised when we have nothing left to give them. We did not fall by accident. We made provision.

So here is the hard grace of this verse. You cannot keep making room for the very thing you are asking God to remove. Locking in is not leaning harder on your own willpower until you finally muscle your way through. It is intentionally ordering your whole life around Christ, closing the doors you have been leaving cracked open, and refusing to plan for the sin you say you want to leave behind.

You cannot keep making room for what you are asking God to remove.

REFLECT

What condition in your life are you quietly arranging that makes disobedience easier?

What is one door you have been leaving cracked open that it is time to close for good?

PRAY

Lord, I have been making provision for the very things I keep praying You would take away. Show me the doors I have left open, and give me the resolve to close them. I order my life around You. Amen.

Tend the Flame He Already Lit

God gave the fire. You are the one who tends it.

2 Timothy 1:6 through 7 NKJV

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

After a week of waking up and getting dressed, Paul hands us the last piece. Stir up the gift of God which is in you. That phrase is a single word in Greek, *anazopureo*, and it appears nowhere else in the entire New Testament. It means to rekindle, to fan into flame, to tend a fire until it burns bright again. So picture a fire that is already lit but has been left alone too long, the coals still warm but the flame gone low. Paul is not telling you to go find a gift you never had. He is telling you to tend the one God already placed in you.

This is the revelation I do not want you to miss on the last day. The fact that God gave the gift never canceled your responsibility to keep it burning. Divine gifting and human responsibility are not rivals; they were always meant to work together. God gives the fire, and you are the one who tends it. Some of us keep begging Him to send a fresh fire when He is plainly telling us to tend the flame He already lit.

And He did not leave you unequipped. He did not give you a spirit of timidity that shrinks back from responsibility. He gave you power to witness faithfully under pressure, love to keep the gift pointed at people instead of your own ego, and a sound mind, the disciplined judgment and self-control to carry your assignment all the way through. You already have everything you need. The only question left is whether you will tend what He entrusted to you.

**You keep asking God to send another fire when He is telling you to tend the flame
He already gave you.**

REFLECT

What gift or assignment has God already placed in you that you have let grow cold?

What is one concrete way you will tend that flame this week instead of waiting for a fresh one?

PRAY

God, thank You for the fire You already lit in me. Forgive me for letting it burn low while I waited on another one. I take responsibility for what You entrusted to me. Give me power, love, and a sound mind, and help me tend the flame. Amen.

ECHO CHURCH

A CLOSING WORD

Six days ago we started with one honest word: wake up. Since then you have named what you were postponing, decided what obedience would replace, faced the quiet sins and the open doors, and remembered the fire God already lit inside you. None of it asked you to manufacture anything. You did not have to create the light; you only had to wake up and walk in it. You did not have to invent the gift; you only had to tend what He already gave. So lock in before you are locked out, not because God's grace is running out, but because His grace was never meant to become your excuse for spiritual indifference.

If He has already made plain what obedience looks like, the only thing left to decide is whether you will lock in.

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