

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Like Me / Week 1

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with **unfailing kindness**.

JEREMIAH 31:3B NIV

DAY 1

Sometimes we can get so wrapped up in comparing our skills and our stuff with other people's skills and stuff that other people's success can make us feel like we can't keep up. We think that if someone has more than us—more talents or more things—then somehow, we aren't good enough. As real as this can feel, the reality is it's just not true. It's a lie we are telling ourselves.

The truth is, God loves you so much, just the way you are. That's true no matter what you do or don't do, what you have or don't have! **Today, instead of feeling like you are playing catch up to everyone else, remind yourself that God has always loved you exactly as you are with a love that never ends.**

No one can serve two masters...you cannot serve both God and money.

LUKE 16:13 NIV

DAY 2

Money can be a useful tool, but when it goes from being a tool to being something that controls you, that's when it becomes your master. A good test to see who's in charge—you or your stuff—is to take an honest look at how generous you are.

Does the idea of giving something away make you want to cling even tighter to it? Are you afraid that not being able to buy something or have something will impact your value or your worth as a person? Ask God to help you see your money and your things the way He sees them—as tools that can be used to serve others. And the next time you're feeling like you aren't enough because of what you have or don't have, **remember that your worth doesn't come from what you do or don't have. It comes from the God who made and loves you.**

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be **pleasing to you**, or Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

PSALM 19:14 NIV

DAY 3

Our words are powerful. Sometimes it can be tempting to use our words to tear people down in an effort to build ourselves up. This can be especially tempting when we compare ourselves to others—when we look at them and don't feel like we measure up. But this approach is not good for us, and it's not good for the person on the other end of our comparison.

So instead of tearing down and comparing, try saying something that builds the other person up. Building someone else up isn't just good for them; it gives us a dose of self-confidence ourselves. **When we look for the best in others and speak up about it, it helps us see the best in ourselves, too. And that is pleasing to God.**

Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—**like chasing the wind.**

ECCLESIASTES 4:4 NLT

DAY 4

Chasing the wind sounds exhausting, doesn't it? It seems like a lot of effort with no real guarantee of success. That's exactly what it's like when we choose to chase after what others have. It's exhausting because there will always be someone with more stuff, more talent, more money, more intelligence, more athleticism, more...everything. In other words, that wish list of what we want that others have? It will never go away.

The good news is that we don't have to keep chasing, keep running, or keep living this way. We can choose to be content with what God has given us and find peace. **Today, when you feel comparison start to create unhappiness, remember that God didn't create you to chase the wind.** He made you to chase Him and He is worth running after!

"To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One.

ISAIAH 40:25 NLT

DAY 5

Having stuff is nice. For a little while, getting that new phone, new pair of shoes, new car, new anything, seems to make us happy. But the truth is, that feeling never lasts. The satisfaction we get from the things we have today will eventually wear off over time.

That's why God offers something different—something that lasts. God offers His presence at all times, and that never gets old or worn out. Like this verse says, there is nothing and no one equal to Him. No one compares. **Today, ask God to help you find contentment and fulfillment in Him alone.**

Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; **you are worth more than many sparrows.**

LUKE 12:7 NIV

DAY 6

Fun fact: There are an estimated 7.8 Billion people on planet earth and each person has an average number of 100,000 hairs on their head. I'm no math expert, but multiplication says that that is a lot of hair! Jesus said God knows about every single hair on your head. Big or small, nothing goes unnoticed to God.

Do you believe that God knows you personally (even the tiniest of details) or do you worry He doesn't even know your name? **Pray about it, and think about how much God says you are worth to Him.**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

ROMANS 12:2 NLT

DAY 7

It can be easy to fall into the comparison trap. But this verse is laying out the importance of us guarding our hearts from comparing. Read this verse when you wake up and as you go to bed to help you memorize this verse. This helps so when you do start comparing, you can use this to combat those thoughts.