

Devotions 2026: October 12 to October 18

For daily devotions I am going to start using 60 days of prayer published by Guideposts.

Monday: Unseen Courage

Psalm 31:24 - Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

Unseen courage is choosing to keep going, to keep believing, to keep showing up even when you feel tired or unsure. As Norman Vincent Peale wrote, “Do not be afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create that fact,” There is something deeply hopeful in knowing that small acts of faith can shift how you see and live your days. That steady, faithful persistence is its own kind of strength.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, fill me with Your steady courage. Help me trust that what I am doing today matters.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: The Gift of Looking Back

Psalm 77:11 - “I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.”

When the future feels uncertain, your past can become a source of strength. Think back to the moments when God showed up for you. Those memories are not just comforting but reminders of His steady presence in Your life. The same faithfulness that carried you then is still with you now.

Prayer: God bring one moment to mind today; a time You came through, and let it be enough to steady me now.

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Wednesday: Guided Through the Unexpected

Psalm 37:23 - The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.

Some days, following God feels like striding confidently down a clear road and more like a series of small, barely noticeable turns. A nudge here. A closed door there. A strange little detour that makes no sense until much later. But even in the odd, patchwork way life unfolds, God is steadying your steps.

Prayer: Dear God, help me trust You in the small clues, the odd turns, and the unfinished map. Keep my feet steady, even when Your guidance comes in unexpected ways.

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Thursday: The Gift of a Willing Heart

Psalm 51:10 - Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

There are seasons when what you most need is not answers or direction but simply a clearing. David did not ask God to fix his circumstances in this verse. He asked to be made new on the inside. That request is always available to you. You do not have to arrive at God with everything sorted. You can come exactly as you are and ask for what only He can give; a heart that is clean, willing, and ready to begin again.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, clear what has accumulated in me and make my heart willing and open to You.

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Friday: A Different Way to Lead

Matthew 20:26 - "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant."

The world tends to measure greatness by how many people serve you. Jesus measured it the other way around: True leadership, by His definition, is about bending toward others; in small moments, in daily choices, in the willingness to put someone else's need before your own comfort. That kind of greatness does not always look impressive from the outside. But Jesus sees it clearly.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, shape my heart to lead the way Jesus did; through service, not status.

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Saturday: Knowing When to Step Back

Galatians 6:5 - For each one should carry their own load.

There are moments when giving comes easily. You offer your energy, your care, your presence without hesitation. But what begins as generosity can become something heavier, where a little turns into too much. You might not notice it right away; it happens quietly, inch by inch. God does not ask you to give in ways that leave you depleted or unseen. Healthy boundaries are not a lack of love but a way of honoring what He has entrusted to you.

Prayer: Dear God, give me wisdom to know when to give and when to step back. Help me care for others without losing myself in the process.

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Sunday: When All the Work Is Finished

Genesis 2:2 - By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Notice what this verse does not say. It does not say God rested because He was tired. It simply says He rested, as part of the design; woven into creation itself, not added later. Rest existed before anyone needed it. You may be waiting to feel like you have earned a pause, but it was there from the beginning. You are allowed to stop, even if everything is not finished.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach me that rest is not something I earn. Help me receive it as the gift You designed it to be.

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