



OUR PRACTICAL FAITH

Authentic Faith: A 7-Day Devotional

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Day 1

Authentic vs. Counterfeit

Bank tellers are trained to detect counterfeit currency in an interesting way. Rather than studying every possible fake bill, they spend most of their time learning the authentic one. When you know the real thing intimately—its feel, its markings, its subtle details—anything false immediately stands out.

The same principle applies to our spiritual lives.

God Himself is the ultimate standard of authenticity. Scripture reminds us, “I am the Lord, and I do not change” (Malachi 3:6). In a world where everything seems to shift and evolve, God remains constant.

When we become deeply familiar with His character—His goodness, His faithfulness, His truth—we begin to recognize when something in our lives is out of alignment with Him.

The goal of the Christian life is not to spend all our time chasing down error. Instead, it is to know God so well that the counterfeit becomes obvious.

Authenticity begins with intimacy.

Reflection Question:

Do you spend more time worrying about what is wrong in the world, or learning who God truly is?

Scripture

Malachi 3:6

Day 2

Encounter or Routine?

Going to church can be a wonderful thing. But church attendance alone does not guarantee a genuine relationship with God.

The real question is this: are you simply attending a service, or are you encountering the presence of the Almighty?

A church building can host powerful moments of worship, teaching, and fellowship. But our relationship with God was never meant to be limited to a single place or a weekly event.

God desires something deeper—a living, ongoing relationship with His people.

That means prayer in the quiet moments of the day. Gratitude during ordinary tasks. Honest conversation with God when life becomes difficult.

Faith was never meant to be confined to a Sunday morning routine.

It is meant to be lived.

Reflection Question:

Do you primarily experience God during church activities, or throughout your daily life?

Scripture:

John 4:23–24

Day 3

The Christian Mask

It is possible to look spiritual on the outside while feeling disconnected on the inside.

Religious activity can sometimes become a mask—something we wear to meet expectations. We say the right words, attend the right gatherings, and perform the right behaviors. Yet our hearts may still be distant.

Jesus warned about this kind of outward religiosity when He spoke about those who honored God with their lips while their hearts were far from Him.

God is not impressed by performances.

He desires sincerity.

Authentic faith allows space for honesty—honest questions, honest struggles, and honest prayers. We do not need to pretend before God. He already knows us completely.

The good news is that authenticity is exactly what He welcomes.

Reflection Question:

Are there areas where you feel pressure to appear spiritual instead of being honest with God?

Scripture:

Matthew 15:8

Day 4

Disrupted Rhythms

Think about your morning routine.

Most of us have a rhythm: the sequence of tasks that prepares us for the day. When everything runs smoothly, we move through it almost automatically.

But when something interrupts the routine—oversleeping, forgetting something important, or running behind schedule—you immediately sense that something is off.

Why?

Because you are deeply familiar with your normal rhythm.

The same is true spiritually. When we cultivate consistent time with God, we begin to recognize when our spiritual rhythm is disrupted.

Moments of prayer, reflection, and Scripture reading anchor us. They help align our hearts with God before the busyness of the day begins.

Authenticity grows through rhythm.

Reflection Question

What daily rhythms help keep your heart aligned with God?

Scripture:

Psalm 5:3

Day 5

Authentic Relationships

Authenticity is not only important in our relationship with God; it also shapes our relationships with others.

Sometimes we interact with people according to expectations rather than genuine connection. We follow social scripts—what we think we are supposed to say or do—rather than responding with sincerity.

Healthy relationships thrive on honesty, trust, and genuine care.

This begins closest to home: with spouses, family members, and close friends. Authentic relationships allow people to be known and valued for who they truly are.

As followers of Christ, we are called to love others sincerely—not out of obligation, but from a transformed heart.

Authentic love reflects the heart of God.

Reflection Question:

Where in your relationships could greater honesty and authenticity bring healing or growth?

Scripture:

Romans 12:9

Day 6

Your True Identity

One of the greatest struggles people face is understanding who they truly are.

The world constantly offers competing definitions of identity—success, status, appearance, achievements. Yet these are fragile foundations.

Scripture offers something far more secure.

Through Christ, believers become new creations. The old life defined by sin and separation from God is replaced with a new life rooted in His grace.

Our identity is no longer determined by our past mistakes or our own limited understanding of ourselves.

Instead, it is grounded in what God declares to be true.

Understanding this identity is not an instant revelation but a lifelong journey of discovery.

The more we know Christ, the more clearly we understand who we are in Him.

Reflection Question:

Do you tend to define yourself by your past experiences or by what God says about you?

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 7

Knowing Jesus, Knowing Yourself

Jesus described a profound relationship between Himself, the Father, and those who follow Him. He abides in the Father, we abide in Him, and through the Holy Spirit He abides in us.

This union changes everything.

Because of Christ's finished work, believers are restored to relationship with God. Scripture even says we are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).

This means our lives are now connected to His life.

The more we study Jesus—His character, His authority, His compassion—the more clearly we begin to understand our own identity in Him.

Authenticity grows from that relationship.

And as we learn what Scripture declares about Jesus, we can respond with humble confidence:

Because we belong to Him...

“Me too.”

Reflection Question:

What aspect of Jesus' character do you want to understand more deeply?

Scripture:

John 14:20, 15:5