

## 5-Day Devotional: “In The Beginning...God” - Genesis 1:1

### Day 1: The Foundation of Everything

#### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:1
- o John 1:1-3
- o Colossians 1:15-17

#### Devotional:

There's something profound about firsts - first steps, first words, first days at school. They mark beginnings that shape everything that follows. But Genesis 1:1 shows us something remarkable: before the first anything, there was God.

Think about your own existence. You can trace back to your birth date - that moment when you came into being. Your parents can trace back to their birth dates, and their parents to theirs. Everything in our experience has a starting point. But not God.

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1) These words declare that before anything else existed, God was. He is eternal, self-existent, and the foundation of all reality.

God never came into existence because He has always existed. Before space, before time, before matter, before everything - there was God. He wasn't created, He wasn't born, He didn't evolve. He simply is. This truth sets Christianity apart from every human philosophy and religion that tries to explain God's origin. He has no origin. He is the origin of everything else.

This simple yet profound truth confronts a major problem in our culture: we often make everything about us. We want to be at the center of our own universe. But Genesis 1:1 reminds us that everything begins with God, not us. He is the source of all things, and everything exists because of Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16).

Because this is true, our lives are not our own. We were created by God, for God, and to glorify God. Recognizing this shifts our focus from self to Him. Instead of asking, “What do I want from life?” we should ask, “How can I live for God's glory?”

**Reflection Questions:**

- How does knowing God has always existed change your view of Him?
- What does it mean for your life that God existed before everything else?
- In what areas of your life are you tempted to place yourself at the center instead of God?
- How might this truth affect your trust in God's wisdom and plan?

**Practical Application:**

Spend some time in prayer today acknowledging God as the foundation of your life. Ask Him to reveal any areas where you've been prioritizing your own desires over His will.

**Prayer:**

Eternal God, You are the beginning of all things. Before anything else existed, You were. My mind struggles to comprehend that You have always been, yet my heart rejoices in this truth. Help me to trust You more deeply, knowing that Your wisdom and understanding are truly infinite. Thank You that You who existed before time know and love me personally. Give me a deeper sense of wonder at Your eternal nature as I go through my day. Help me to see You as the center of my life, not myself. Align my heart with Your purpose and remind me that I was created for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 2: The Self-Existence of God

### Scripture Reading:

- Genesis 1:1
- Exodus 3:13-14
- Isaiah 40:28
- Psalm 90:2

### Devotional:

"In the beginning, God..." These four powerful words set the stage for all of Scripture and all of existence. Unlike us, God has no beginning. He has always been. This concept, known as God's self-existence or aseity, is foundational to our understanding of who God is.

When Moses asked God for His name in Exodus 3, God responded, "I AM WHO I AM." This means He is eternal, unchanging, and completely independent. Unlike us, God doesn't need air to breathe, food to eat, or rest to recover. He is self-existent. He is not dependent on anything or anyone for His existence. He simply is.

This truth should fill us with awe and wonder. The God we worship is not a created being, but the uncreated Creator of all things. He is the source of all life and existence. Everything we see, touch, and experience finds its origin in Him.

### Reflection Questions:

- How does God's self-existence challenge the way you see yourself and your need for Him?
- In what areas of life do you need to trust more in God's sufficiency instead of your own efforts?
- In what ways does God's eternal nature impact your daily life and decisions?

### Practical Application:

Meditate on Exodus 3:14 today. As you go about your day, remind yourself that God is—always present, always faithful, and always enough.

### Prayer:

Lord, You are the great I AM. You have no beginning and no end. While I am weak and dependent, You are self-existent and all-sufficient. Remind me throughout this day that You are the great I AM, the source of all life and being. Help me to trust in Your strength and not my own. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 3: The Self-Sufficient God

### Scripture Reading:

- Genesis 1:1
- Acts 17:24-28
- Psalm 50:7-15
- Isaiah 40:12-17

### Devotional:

We live in a world of dependencies. Plants need soil and sun. Animals need food and water. Humans need air, water, food, shelter, and relationships. Everything created needs something else to exist. But Genesis 1:1 introduces us to the only being who needs absolutely nothing: God.

Not only does God exist independently of all things, but He also needs nothing outside of Himself. As the Creator of all things, He is the source of everything that exists.

This attribute of God challenges our human tendency to think we can offer God something He needs. The truth is, God is complete in Himself. He didn't create the universe or humanity because He was lonely or lacking in any way. Instead, creation is an overflow of His love and glory.

Understanding God's self-sufficiency should lead us to profound gratitude. Every good gift in our lives comes from Him (James 1:17). Our very existence is a gift of His grace. We don't sustain God; He sustains us. This truth frees us from the burden of thinking we must somehow make ourselves indispensable to God and instead allows us to rest in His all-sufficient grace.

This also means that we desperately need God. He is the source of all life, all goodness, all satisfaction. When we try to find these things anywhere else, we're looking in the wrong place.

### Reflection Questions:

- How does God's self-sufficiency change how you view His love for you?
- In what ways do you sometimes treat God as if He needs something from you?
- How might this truth change your approach to serving God?
- In what areas of your life do you struggle to depend fully on God?

### Practical Application:

Make a list of things you're tempted to rely on instead of God (e.g., money, relationships, skills). Pray over each item, acknowledging God as the ultimate source and asking for grace to depend on Him.

**Prayer:**

All-sufficient God, I confess that I often live as though You need something from me. Thank You that Your love for me flows from Your abundance, not Your need. Help me to serve You with joy, knowing that You delight in me not because You need me, but because You chose to love me. Thank You that I can depend fully on You because You depend on nothing. Help me to rest in Your sufficiency and to find my satisfaction in You alone. In Jesus name, Amen!

## Day 4: God is Involved and Personal

### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:1
- o Psalm 139:1-18
- o Isaiah 45:18-19
- o Matthew 6:25-30

### Devotional:

The God of Genesis 1:1 isn't a distant cosmic force or an impersonal "higher power." He is not a distant Creator who set the world in motion and stepped back. He is personally involved in His creation. He walks in the garden with Adam and Eve, He calls Abraham His friend, He leads Israel as a pillar of cloud and fire. Ultimately, He becomes incarnate in Jesus Christ, entering fully into our human experience.

The Hebrew name used in Genesis 1:1 is Elohim - a personal, relational God who creates with purpose and intention. This same God who spoke the universe into existence knows your name and numbers the hairs on your head.

Think about this: the all-powerful Creator who exists outside of time and needs nothing chose to create you and desires relationship with you. He didn't have to create anything at all, but He chose to create a universe that would include you. This means your existence isn't an accident or a cosmic coincidence - it's the intentional choice of a personal God.

This personal nature of God means that when we study His creation, we're not just learning about what He made - we're learning about who He is. The order, beauty, and complexity of creation reflect His character and nature.

### Reflection Questions:

- How does seeing God as personal rather than distant change your approach to prayer?
- What does it mean for your sense of purpose that God intentionally created you?
- In what areas do you need to be more aware of God's presence and activity?

### Practical Application:

Keep a journal this week. Each day, write down at least one way you've seen God's involvement in your life or the world around you.

**Prayer:**

Loving Father, I am amazed that You, the Creator of the universe, care about the details of my life. Thank You for Your constant presence and involvement. Open my eyes to see Your hand at work in my life and in the world around me. Help me to live in constant awareness of Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 5: Living for the Glory of God

### Scripture Reading:

- Genesis 1:1
- Revelation 4:11
- Psalm 96:1-9
- 1 Corinthians 10:31

### Devotional:

Genesis 1:1 begins the Bible by showing us who God is, it also shows us how we should respond to Him. The God who existed before everything else and created everything else is worthy of our complete worship, trust, and obedience.

If everything begins with God, then everything should be for God. Revelation 4:11 reminds us that we were created for His glory. Our greatest purpose in life is to know Him, worship Him, and make Him known.

Our modern world often tries to push God to the margins - making Him just one interest among many, one priority among many. But Genesis 1:1 won't let us do that. If He is the God who existed before everything and created everything, He must be central to everything.

As we conclude our reflection on Genesis 1:1, we're faced with a crucial question: Is God central in our lives?

Making God central isn't just about attending church or reading the Bible, though these are important. It's about orienting our entire lives around Him. It means seeking His will in our decisions, large and small. It means finding our identity in Him rather than in our accomplishments or relationships. It means living for His glory rather than our own.

This centrality of God is not meant to diminish us, but to fulfill us. We were created by God and for God. When we live with Him at the center, we're living as we were designed to live. This doesn't mean life will be easy, but it does mean we'll have a solid foundation to face whatever comes our way.

### Reflection Questions:

- Are you living for your own glory or for God's?
- How can you glorify God in your daily life this week?
- What competes with God for first place in your life?

- What practical steps can you take to make God more central in your daily life?

**Practical Application:**

Make it your goal today to glorify God in everything you do—your work, your conversations, and your thoughts.

**Prayer:**

Sovereign Lord, You are the beginning and end of all things. Forgive me for the times I've pushed You to the margins of my life. I acknowledge that You deserve the central place in every aspect of my existence. Help me to continually reorient my life around You, finding my purpose, identity, and satisfaction in You alone. May my life reflect the truth that in the beginning, and in every moment since, You are God. In Jesus' name, Amen!