

Making a Name for Ourselves

A 5-Day Devotional from Genesis 11:1-4

Day 1 – When Unity Leaves God Out

Read: Genesis 11:1; John 17:17–23; Psalm 133:1–3

Devotional:

Unity sounds like a good thing. “Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.” (Gen. 11:1) In a world divided by politics, culture, and conflict, this verse feels like a dream come true. But Genesis 11 reminds us that **unity without God becomes uniformity in sin.**

The people of Babel were united in their ambition, but not in obedience. They shared one language, one purpose, one goal—but none of it centered on the glory of God. They used the gifts of communication and cooperation, which God intended for His glory, to rebel against Him instead.

Jesus also prayed for unity—but of a different kind. In John 17, He prayed that His people would be one “as we are one,” united in truth, holiness, and mission. True unity flows from being set apart by the Word of God and drawn together by the Spirit of God.

Our culture celebrates agreement and tolerance, but Scripture reminds us that **it’s not enough to be united; we must be united around the truth.** Without truth, unity collapses into compromise.

Reflection Questions:

1. What kinds of “unity” does our world celebrate that might actually draw us away from God?
2. How can you help cultivate Christ-centered unity in your home, church, or relationships?

Practical Application:

Pray for unity rooted in God’s Word, not personal preference. Look for one way this week to encourage biblical unity within your church family.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for calling Your people to unity in truth. Guard me from compromising truth for the sake of peace. Make me a person who builds unity around Your Word and Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 2 – The Danger of Settling

Read: Genesis 11:2; Genesis 9:1; Hebrews 11:8–10

Devotional:

“They found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.” (Gen. 11:2) What seems harmless at first glance is actually rebellion in slow motion. God had commanded Noah’s descendants to “fill the earth” (Gen. 9:1), but instead of spreading out in obedience, they settled down in comfort.

Sin doesn’t always shout defiance—it often whispers *contentment apart from God*. The people of Babel didn’t hate God; they simply ignored Him. They preferred security to surrender, convenience to calling. But rebellion always begins with a refusal to trust that God’s will is better than ours.

We do the same today. We “settle” spiritually when we stop pursuing God’s mission and choose comfort instead. Maybe it’s avoiding a hard conversation, staying silent about your faith, or neglecting your spiritual growth. But faith, like Abraham’s, always moves forward—it trusts God enough to go where He leads.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where might you be “settling” in your faith instead of trusting God to lead you forward?
2. How can you identify areas of comfort that have become spiritual complacency?

Practical Application:

Ask God to reveal one area of your life where obedience has given way to comfort. Take one concrete step of faith this week—perhaps serving, sharing the gospel, or re-engaging with Scripture.

Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for the times I’ve chosen safety over obedience. Teach me to follow You with courage and faith, even when it feels uncertain. I want to keep moving in step with Your will. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3 – When Ingenuity Becomes Idolatry

Read: Genesis 11:3; Romans 1:21–25; Colossians 3:23

Devotional:

“Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” (Gen. 11:3) What a scene of creativity! Humanity is discovering new technology, designing, building, and working together. None of this was inherently sinful—it reflected the image of a creative God. The problem wasn’t the bricks. It was the **pride** behind them.

The phrase “Come, let us” echoes through the text—it’s man’s rallying cry of self-sufficiency. Humanity unites not in worship, but in independence. They used God’s gifts to glorify themselves. And that’s still our temptation today—to use our talents, careers, and creativity for self-advancement rather than divine purpose.

Romans 1:25 says that fallen humanity “exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped the creature rather than the Creator.” That’s the danger of ingenuity apart from God—it becomes idolatry. But when surrendered to Him, our work, ideas, and gifts become acts of worship.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you use your creativity, skills, or career to glorify God rather than yourself?
2. In what ways might “good things” in your life have become ultimate things?

Practical Application:

This week, approach your work as worship. Before each task, pray: “Lord, let this honor You.” Redirect every accomplishment back to the Giver of your gifts.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for making me in Your image—a creator, a thinker, a builder. Keep my heart humble so that my work glorifies You and not myself. Help me use every talent as an act of worship. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 4 – The Religion of Self

Read: Genesis 11:4; Isaiah 14:13–14; Philippians 2:5–11

Devotional:

“Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves.” (Gen. 11:4)

Here we see the full anatomy of false religion—security apart from God (the city), salvation apart from God (the tower), and glory apart from God (the name).

Humanity’s tower was not just a building project—it was a belief system. It represented man’s attempt to reach heaven without God, to control his destiny, and to make himself immortal. It’s the same lie the serpent told Eve: “*You will be like God.*” (Gen. 3:5)

Every false religion—from ancient temples to modern self-help—teaches that man can reach God by effort. But the gospel declares the opposite: **we can’t climb up to God; He came down to us.** Philippians 2 shows us Christ humbling Himself, taking on flesh, and being exalted by the Father. Babel reached up in pride; Jesus stooped down in grace.

Reflection Questions:

1. What “towers” of self-salvation might you be building—achievements, image, success?
2. How does Christ’s humility expose and heal our pride?

Practical Application:

Surrender one area where you’ve been striving to control life apart from God. Replace self-reliance with prayerful dependence.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You came down to save me. You accomplished for me what I could never reach on my own. Tear down every tower of pride in my heart and build in me a spirit of humility and trust. You alone deserve the glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 5 – The Gospel Reversal of Babel

Read: Genesis 11:9; Acts 2:1–11; Revelation 22:1–4

Devotional:

The story of Babel ends with judgment. God scattered the people and confused their language. What they tried to build for security and fame ended in frustration and failure. But the story doesn't end there—because **the gospel of Jesus Christ reverses Babel.**

At Babel, man said, “Let us go up.”

At Bethlehem, God said, “I will come down.”

At Babel, language divided the nations.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit united them as the gospel was heard in every tongue.

At Babel, people tried to make a name for themselves.

At Calvary, Jesus made Himself nothing—and God gave Him “the name above every name.” (Phil. 2:9–11)

The grace of God gathers what sin scatters. In Christ, God is building a better city—a heavenly one whose builder is God Himself (Heb. 11:10). The redeemed will one day stand before the throne, every language praising the same Lord, bearing His Name forever (Rev. 22:4).

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the gospel unite what sin divides in your own life and relationships?
2. What does it mean for you to live under Christ's Name instead of making your own?

Practical Application:

Live as a citizen of God's city. Use your words, gifts, and influence to gather—not scatter—people toward Christ.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to do what I could never do—to bring me near when sin had scattered me far. Help me live for Your Name and Your kingdom alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.