WALK IN HIM: A 5-Day Devotional from Colossians 2:6–7

Day 1 — The Christ You Received

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:6–7, Colossians 1:15–20, John 1:12–13, Romans 10:9–10

Paul says, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him." That is simple language, but it says something massive. The Christian life begins with receiving **Christ Jesus the Lord**. Not merely receiving ideas about Jesus. Not admiring his moral example. Not borrowing religious language so we can feel a little more respectable. We receive Christ himself.

That matters because a lot of people want a version of Jesus they can manage. They want a Savior who forgives but never rules, comforts but never confronts, helps but never commands. Paul does not give us that option. The one we receive is **Christ Jesus the Lord**. He is the promised Messiah, the crucified and risen Savior, and the reigning Lord. He does not come in pieces.

That means Christianity is never just about "asking Jesus into your heart" in a vague and sentimental sense. It is about trusting the real Christ revealed in Scripture. It is about receiving him by faith as the only hope for sinners. It is about bowing to him, resting in him, and belonging to him.

This is where spiritual life starts. It does not start with your discipline, your effort, your moral improvement, or your church background. It starts with Christ. If you have him, you have life. If you do not have him, no amount of religious activity can make up the difference.

And this is why Paul begins here. Before he deals with false teaching, before he warns about being taken captive, he reminds the church who they received. If you forget Christ, you will be vulnerable to anything that sounds spiritual. But if you know the Christ you have received, a lot of religious nonsense starts to lose its shine.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you received the real Christ of Scripture, or just a version of Jesus that feels comfortable to you?

2. In what ways are you tempted to think of Jesus as useful but not truly Lord?

3. Why is it so important to remember that Christianity begins with Christ, not with us?

Practical Application:
Take five minutes today and thank God specifically for who Christ is: your Savior, Lord, righteousness, peace, and hope. Don't rush it. Slow down and name the mercies that are yours in him.

Prayer:
Father, thank You for sending Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to save sinners like me. Thank You that my hope is not in my goodness, my effort, or my religion, but in Christ alone. Help me to receive Him as He truly is and to trust Him with a full heart. Keep me from false views of Jesus and teach me to love, worship, and obey the real Christ revealed in Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2 — Don’t Move On from Christ

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:6–7, John 15:4–5, Hebrews 12:1–2, Galatians 3:1–3

There is a strange temptation in the Christian life: we begin with Christ, and then slowly act as though we need something beyond him to really grow. We would never say it that bluntly, of course. We dress it up. We talk about needing something deeper, something more effective, something more advanced. But Paul cuts through all of that with one command: **as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him**.

In other words, the same Christ who saved you is the Christ who sanctifies you. The same gospel that brought you to life is the gospel that carries you forward. You do not graduate from Jesus. You do not move on from the cross. You do not outgrow your need for grace.

That is one of the great lies behind false teaching and much spiritual confusion. It tells us Christ is good for the beginning, but maturity requires something more. More rules. More experiences. More techniques. More secrets. More hype. Paul says no. The Christian life is lived **in him**.

That does not mean there is no growth. It means real growth happens by going deeper into Christ, not by drifting away from him. You grow by knowing him better, trusting him more fully, obeying him more consistently, and resting in him more deeply. The branch does not become healthy by moving away from the vine. That would be ridiculous. It lives by remaining in the vine.

A lot of believers get discouraged because they assume maturity should feel flashy. Usually it doesn’t. Often it looks like simple faithfulness. Daily repentance. Steady prayer. Opening the Bible when you’re tired. Gathering with the saints when life is busy. Trusting Christ in suffering. Saying no to sin. Saying yes to obedience. That may not look impressive on social media, but it is the real Christian life.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where are you tempted to look for spiritual growth outside of Christ?
2. Have you begun to treat Christ like the starting point instead of the center of your life?
3. What does it look like for you, personally, to “walk in him” today?

Practical Application:
Identify one area where you’ve been looking for stability, comfort, or maturity apart from Christ. Confess it to the Lord and intentionally bring that area under his rule today.

Prayer:
Father, forgive me for the ways I look beyond Christ for what can only be found in Him. Keep me from spiritual drift and from the foolish idea that I can begin by grace but continue by my own strength. Teach me to walk in Christ today with simple, steady faith. Root my heart more deeply in Him and make me content with the sufficiency of Your Son. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3 — Rooted and Built Up

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:7, Psalm 1:1–3, Jeremiah 17:7–8, Ephesians 2:19–22

Paul gives us two pictures of spiritual growth: a tree and a building. Believers are **rooted** in Christ and **built up** in Christ. One image is alive and organic. The other is solid and structural. Together they show us something we badly need to remember: the Christian life is both living and stable.

To be rooted in Christ means he is your source of life. A tree does not survive because it looks strong above the ground. It survives because its roots go deep. The same is true for Christians. What sustains you in temptation, grief, confusion, and pressure is not what people see on the outside. It is whether your soul is drawing life from Christ.

To be built up in Christ means your life is being formed on a secure foundation. You are not meant to be spiritually flimsy, easily rattled, or tossed around by every passing idea. God is building something steady in you. Brick by brick. Grace by grace. Through his Word, through prayer, through the church, through trials, through daily obedience.

The problem is that we often want fruit without roots and strength without formation. We want instant maturity. We want to skip the slow, hidden work of grace. But roots grow underground. Buildings go up one layer at a time. God is not in a panic, and he is not building your life out of cardboard.

Maybe that is where you are right now. You feel weak, slow, ordinary, unimpressive. But if you are in Christ, and if you are feeding on his Word, staying near his people, and walking in repentance and faith, then God is at work. The tree may still be growing. The walls may not look finished. But the Lord is not absent in the slow work. That is usually where he does some of his best work.

Reflection Questions:

1. What do your spiritual roots look like right now? Are you drawing life from Christ or running on fumes?

2. In what ways is God slowly building stability into your life?

3. Why do you think we are so impatient with the hidden work of growth?

Practical Application:
Set aside time today for one ordinary means of grace you've been neglecting—Bible reading, prayer, gathered worship, or fellowship with another believer. Stop waiting for dramatic change and lean into faithful habits.

Prayer:
Father, thank You that You do not leave Your children shallow, weak, and unstable. Thank You for rooting us in Christ and building us up by Your grace. When I grow impatient with the slow

work of sanctification, remind me that You are faithful and wise. Deepen my roots, strengthen my heart, and make my life increasingly steady in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4 — Established in the Faith

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:7, Ephesians 4:11–15, Jude 3, 2 Peter 3:17–18, Acts 2:42

Paul says believers are to be **established in the faith, just as you were taught**. That is important. He ties spiritual stability to the faith they had already received. Not to novelty. Not to speculation. Not to religious trends. Not to whatever shiny new teacher is making the rounds. The church is strengthened by being grounded in the truth God has already given.

That may sound obvious, but apparently it needs repeating in every generation. Christians are constantly tempted by the new, the dramatic, the hidden, and the "finally somebody is saying it" kind of teaching. Sometimes the most dangerous thing about false teaching is not that it looks obviously false. It often sounds serious, intense, or profound. It promises more. More insight. More power. More results. More depth.

But Paul says real maturity is being established in **the faith**. That means you do not need a secret level of Christianity. You need to be anchored in the apostolic gospel. You need sound doctrine. You need the Word. You need the ordinary ministry of the church. You need to be taught and strengthened, not entertained and impressed.

This is one reason doctrine matters so much. Doctrine is not for arguments in a back room or for seminary guys who own too many books. Doctrine protects the church. It steadies the believer. It keeps us from confusing emotion with truth and novelty with growth.

The Christian who is established in the faith may not look flashy, but he or she will endure. There is a firmness that comes from being anchored in what God has said. And in unstable times, that matters more than ever. The world does not need Christians who are endlessly fascinated by trends. It needs Christians who are settled, sober, discerning, and deeply shaped by Scripture.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you more drawn to what is new and interesting, or to what is true and faithful?
2. In what ways do sound doctrine and faithful teaching protect your soul?
3. Where in your life do you need greater spiritual stability right now?

Practical Application:
Choose one passage of Scripture or one doctrinal truth you need to be more grounded in, and spend time reviewing it carefully this week. Don't chase novelty. Dig deeper where God has already spoken.

Prayer:
Father, establish me in the faith. Keep me from being naïve, gullible, or unstable. Guard me from the kind of spiritual curiosity that wanders away from Your truth. Give me a love for sound doctrine, a hunger for Your Word, and a teachable heart. Make me steady in Christ and useful in Your church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 — Abounding in Thanksgiving

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:7, Colossians 3:15–17, 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, Luke 17:11–19, Romans 1:21

Paul ends this passage with thanksgiving. Not as a polite extra. Not as the nice closing touch. As a mark of genuine spiritual health. The life rooted in Christ, built up in Christ, and established in the faith will be a life **abounding in thanksgiving**.

That says a lot. Real spiritual maturity does not make a person proud, harsh, and impossible to be around. It produces gratitude. A thankful Christian knows what he deserves and what he has received. He knows that every mercy comes from grace. He knows Christ did not owe him salvation. He knows forgiveness was purchased at a cost.

That kind of gratitude changes a person. It makes worship warmer. It makes complaining harder to justify. It makes envy look foolish. It softens harshness and steadies the soul in trial. Gratitude does not deny pain, but it refuses to let pain become the whole story.

Thanklessness, on the other hand, is not a minor attitude problem. It reveals that we have lost sight of grace. We start acting as though God has done very little for us. We become experts in what is missing and blind to what is ours in Christ. That is dangerous ground.

The gospel gives us better things to say. In Christ, your sins are forgiven. In Christ, you are reconciled to God. In Christ, you are no longer condemned. In Christ, you belong to the Father. In Christ, there is grace for today and glory to come. A heart that really sees that cannot stay cold forever.

So if your thankfulness has grown thin, do not just try harder to sound grateful. Go back to Christ. Look again at the cross. Look again at the mercy of God. Gratitude grows where grace is remembered.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does your level of gratitude reveal about the condition of your heart right now?
2. How does remembering the gospel strengthen thankfulness?
3. What specific mercies in Christ do you need to stop overlooking?

Practical Application:
Write down five specific reasons you can thank God today, each tied directly to Christ and the gospel. Use that list in prayer and rehearse it when your heart drifts toward complaint.

Prayer:
Father, thank You for every mercy You have given me in Christ. Forgive me for grumbling, entitlement, and spiritual forgetfulness. Lift my eyes again to Your grace. Fill my heart with

gratitude that is real, steady, and overflowing. Let thankfulness shape my words, my worship, and my daily life, so that others can see the goodness of Christ in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.