

# Devotional Passages by Session

New City Church Retreat

Jacques Boulet

September 22-24, 2017

## 1. Session 1: Faith Alone & Scripture Alone

### *(a) Scripture for Thought*

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

### *(b) Pray through Scripture: Hebrews 11*

Hebrews 11 is all about faith modelled in the lives of Old Testament believers. As you read through this keep in mind the rich, multidimensional faith that was presented in session one. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where your faith needs strengthening. Pray about those aspects of faith and ask God for the grace you need to grow in faith and maturity. What practical steps can you take or who can you ask for advice?

## 2. Session 2: Grace Alone & Christ Alone

### *(a) Scripture for Thought*

“For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.” (Romans 3:22-25)

### *(b) Pray through Scripture: Hebrews 9:1-10:25*

The letter to the Hebrews is written to people who knew the Old Testament really well. Throughout the letter the author (identity unknown) builds the argument that Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, is far superior to anything that has come before, whether prophets, priests, kings, or sacrifices. I have chosen Hebrews 9:1-10:25 so that you may be edified (literally ‘built up’) through knowledge of what Jesus has done on the cross and what it means. (If you are eager to learn more, you can read the original instructions for the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16.)

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through this passage and pray through what He reveals to you. Praise God for the wonder of His mysterious ways.

### 3. Session 3: Glory to God Alone

#### *(a) Scripture for Thought*

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 1:24)

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”  
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

#### *(b) Pray through Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17*

Read this passage, keeping in mind everything that we have read and heard over the weekend, and ponder it in prayer on your own in silence for a few minutes. Ask the Holy Spirit what areas of your life can be devoted to God’s glory.

Write down some ways that you can give glory to God in your own life this coming year. Make an effort to choose at least one or two ways and ask someone to keep you accountable. Some examples are:

- Forgive anyone you’re holding a grudge against.
- Read through the whole Bible (whether for the first time or for the 50th time), a few chapters a day.
- Get up early to pray every day.
- Give up on a worldly habit and give that time to God instead, whether for volunteering, praying, studying Scripture, calling your parents, etc. “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15–16)
- Keep a sabbath day holy to God by doing no work one day per week. This is to recognize that God is sovereign and is able to provide for you.
- Examine your dreams and priorities. Reconsider any that are centered around your glory instead of God’s glory.
- Examine your regular entertainment. Reconsider anything that is not building you up. “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)
- Share the Christian faith with one or more of your non-Christian friends.
- Learn to do your regular work and chores diligently and without complaining. Rather, ask for grace in trying circumstances and thank God for what He is doing.
- Learn to bear with and be kind and generous with a difficult person at work, in your family, etc. “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” (Luke 6:27–29)
- Return the first-fruits of God’s blessings to you by tithing to your local church.