

devote **365**  
a daily devotional for youth and young adults

Youth Ministries  
United Pentecostal Church International



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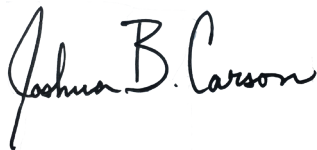


# The Devote 365 Challenge

Over the years, many youth and young adults have shared with me their difficulty in understanding the Bible and applying it to their lives. *Devote 365 2.0* was developed for youth and young adults who are looking for practical assistance in being disciples of Jesus Christ. This daily devotional will allow you to read, process, and engage with 365 new devotionals inspired by the Word of God. Time spent in the Scripture is time spent with God. Since our purpose at UPCI Youth Ministries is to “Educate and Engage,” I’m challenging you to lay down any distractions and spend some focused time with this book each day.

“But nothing that a person owns and devotes to the Lord—whether a human being or an animal or family land—may be sold or redeemed; everything so devoted is most holy to the Lord” (Leviticus 27:28, NIV).

Nothing devoted to the Lord can ever be taken back or used for another purpose. Devote yourself wholly to a relationship with God and to the purpose He has designed for you, and don’t ever look back. Go ahead, He’s waiting for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua B. Carson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joshua B. Carson  
General Youth President, UPCI

# Introduction

Above every acclaim, title, and accomplishment of the apostle Paul, his chief pursuit was the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Paul's words ring true for each one of us today, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Philippians 3:10). *Devote365 2.0* is a resource for youth and young adults all around the world to help us discover the purpose God has for our lives.

Comprised of 365 individual devotions written by experienced and called laborers, *Devote365* calls us to pray, listen to the voice of God, follow God and godly leaders, be holy, give, serve, and be a witness in our world. Each devotion is accompanied by a Scripture reading, theme, and focus verse. We have also included a Bible reading schedule at the end of the book.

We invite you to pick up your Bible or open your Bible app, find a quiet place to read your daily devotion, meditate on the Word of God, and spend some time with the Lord in prayer. If you will listen closely, He will also talk to you.

*Daily Reading* Genesis 1–3; Psalm 1

## Come Out of Hiding

Genesis 3:7–8

*Devotional* The narrative of God’s encounter with Adam and Eve in the Garden prompts several important questions. First, did Adam and Eve succumb to temptation because they had missed previous opportunities to talk to God? And why was Eve so comfortable talking with the serpent?

The less we talk with God, the easier it becomes to listen to the enemy. However, God is merciful, and even after the first couple sinned, God called to them once again. God was demonstrating His fatherly love. He knew His children had failed, so He went looking for them.

Prayer is more than telling God our problems. Sometimes prayer is hearing God’s call when we are hiding because of sins we have allowed into our lives. God calls us to leave our hiding place and find His forgiveness and mercy. Don’t let the voice of condemnation be louder than the call of grace. As this new year begins, commit to prayer. Even when you feel like hiding, God is calling you!

*Prayer* Heavenly Father, thank You for a new year and a fresh start. Guide my steps and lead me away from temptation. When I falter or fail, let me hear Your call, and lead me to an altar where I can be restored. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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*Daily Reading* Genesis 25–27; Psalm 5

Abraham Obeyed

Genesis 26:5

*Devotional* Scripture records Abraham’s life in great detail, with special emphasis on his faith. We see this faith on several occasions—his bags packed as he prepared to leave Ur; his knife lifted to slay Isaac; and altars under construction as he sought to honor God. Yet as remarkable as those moments were, each was a result of another facet of Abraham’s character: his willingness to obey. God said of him, “Abraham obeyed my voice” (Genesis 26:5). What an incredible testimony!

Abraham wasn’t called to sacrifice, explore new territory, or even to build altars; he was called to obey. The moments that became monuments to his faith were a natural outgrowth of his determination to obey God, no matter the cost.

Seven times, the Book of Revelation records the words, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith” (2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). When we commit to obeying that command, we can be assured that God will speak.

*Prayer* God, thank You for Your Word and for the fact that You are still speaking today. Give me the sensitivity to hear when You are speaking to me. Give me ears that will hear and a heart that will obey. Let my faith be demonstrated through works of obedience.

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*Daily Reading* Genesis 49–50; Psalm 9

## Family Inheritance

Genesis 49:1–2

*Devotional* Genesis 49 records the diverse character traits of the twelve sons of Jacob, patriarchs who would eventually become the twelve tribes of Israel. This family clan was established because of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s devotion to God.

A wide array of personalities and backgrounds also exists among believers today. Some were blessed with godly parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents. Other believers are the first in their family to follow God. But regardless of our family history, it is important we all have a “first-generation experience” with God. We cannot rely on the faith of our ancestors no matter what they accomplished for God. We must choose to commit to Him for ourselves.

Our true inheritance does not come from our family; it comes from our relationship with the Messiah, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17). He is our refuge, and He promises eternal glory to those who trust in Him. He is calling us to trust Him today and to participate in His plan—a plan that has a far wider scope than one’s family tree.

*Prayer* Thank You, Lord, for the conviction and correction You give to those whom You love and value. Father, help me to follow You relentlessly, withholding nothing. Lead me, Lord, as I devote my life to You and the work of Your kingdom. Give me strength to stand for You today.

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*Daily Reading* Exodus 10–12; Psalm 11

## Simple Obedience

Exodus 12:25–28

*Devotional* Have you ever heard the phrase “God wants to work through you”? If you have been attending church for any length of time, you have probably heard this statement in some form or fashion. But what does it really mean?

God is looking for someone with whom He can partner—a willing vessel who will serve as His witness. When we think of witnessing, we typically think of speaking to someone or handing out flyers. While those are good things to do, God also can demonstrate His power through our obedience to His commands.

When the children of Israel were in slavery, God purposed to free them and at the same time demonstrate His power to the Egyptians and put to shame their so-called gods. How did He accomplish this? Through the obedience of His people.

Yes, we do need to open our mouth when the Lord prompts us, but let’s not forget that our simple obedience will testify to everyone around us that God is real, especially when they see the results of that obedience in our lives. Obedience still produces miracles, signs, and wonders that will bring glory to God and transform the lives of others.

*Prayer* Lord, I know You have called me to be a witness. Help me to live in obedience to You, Your Word, the prompting of Your Holy Spirit, and in submission to those in authority whom You have placed in my life. Let me live in such a way that Your glory will shine through me.

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*Daily Reading* Exodus 31–33

## Peer Pressure

Exodus 32:1–7

*Devotional* It is easy to be caught up in peer pressure when the spiritual authority God has placed in our lives is not around. Those are the moments when the enemy comes to tempt us. Satan is trying to get our eyes off God and turn us toward the pleasures of this world.

The children of Israel discovered this firsthand when Moses went to the top of the mountain to spend time with God. Without his immediate influence, the people quickly fell into sin. Even Aaron couldn't resist the pressure of the people's wicked demands. Before long, the congregation was dancing around a golden calf, breaking God's commands and embarrassing themselves in the process.

Moses had to cut short his spiritual retreat and get back to the congregation. While he was temporarily enraged by Israel's behavior, Moses quickly turned to interceding on their behalf, and God demonstrated His mercy.

Have you or someone you love fallen into temptation? None of us are immune to peer pressure. Thankfully, we are not beyond the reach of God's mercy. If we will repent and intercede on behalf of others, God can and will restore.

*Prayer* God, keep me from temptation. I confess my weaknesses to You. Help me to avoid any setting that might cause me to compromise my commitment to You. I don't want to become a stumbling block to others through disobedience.

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*Daily Reading* Deuteronomy 28–29; Proverbs 4

## God Is a Giver

Deuteronomy 28:2

*Devotional* While there is much about God that we are not able to fully understand, there is one facet of God’s nature that is clearly displayed in the Scriptures: God is a giver. He gives life. He gives material blessings. He provides everything we need, not only to survive but to thrive. In Deuteronomy 28:1–14, God promised Israel that if they would simply obey His direction, serving Him and Him alone, He would give them everything they needed and more. Their needs would be “overtaken” by His blessings (verse 2).

God delights in giving good gifts to His children. Jesus echoed this truth in Luke 11:13 when He said our heavenly Father delights in giving good gifts to those who ask of Him. God is a giver. This is an important truth for those who desire to live more like Jesus. If He is a giver, we should be givers. Spirit-empowered giving should be a characteristic feature of our lives. We are called to give our time, talent, and treasure in the service of others and the kingdom of God. God is a giver, and He is calling us to imitate Him.

*Prayer* Jesus, thank You for all You’ve done and for all You’ve given to me. Give me the strength and the desire to give of myself and my resources in order to bless others and to serve Your kingdom. Help me to lay aside selfishness and greed and live with generosity.

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