

Daily Devotions: Called to Belong

Welcome to the What On Earth Am I Here For Series. This week's devotions will be on, "Called to Belong."

Day One

Points to ponder: I was planned for God's pleasure.

Verse to Remember: "The Lord takes pleasure in his people." (Psalm 149:4a)

You were made to bring enjoyment to God. He chose to create you and He made you to love you. You don't need to be doing something spiritual to bring pleasure to God. Any activity can be an act of worship when you do it for Jesus. You bring God joy when you are you-and when you use the gifts He has given you for His glory and purposes. This should be our goal- passionately pleasing God in all we do.

Question to consider: What common task could I start doing as if I were doing it directly for Jesus?

Prayer: God, thank you for loving me so much. Lord I ask that you would help to glorify You in all that I do. Please help me to serve passionately. Here I am, Lord.

Day Two

Point To Ponder: God smiles when I trust him.

Verse To Remember: "The Lord is pleased with those who worship him and trust his love." Psalms 147:11

The Bible says that you can earn the smile of God by the way you trust Him. It also says that without faith it is impossible to please God. More than anything, God wants you to learn to trust Him. And when you trust Him, it brings Him worship and glory.

Question to consider: Since God knows what is best, in what areas of my life do I need to trust him most?

Day Three

Point To Ponder: The heart of worship is surrender.

Verse To Remember: "Surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes." Romans 6:13b

The ultimate act of worship is surrender to God. It is a daily commitment to give yourself entirely to God — in response to His love and mercy. Surrender means to love and trust God to obey Him. That, in essence, is the heart of worship . It is offering yourself to God and saying, 'use me in any

way you see fit'. Will you consider surrendering to God? Or will you instead yield to fear, pride or money? In the end, we all surrender to something.

It's easier said than done, to give yourself up to God, your control over life and all else. But life is so much more beautiful under God's control.

Question To Consider: What area of my life am I holding back from God?

Prayer: Lord, I pray that you lead me and guide me. I surrender all that I am to you, withholding nothing. I give myself away, so you can use me. May your will for my life prevail, for I know I'm called to be in your family.

Day Four

Point To Ponder: God wants to be my best friend.

Verse To Remember: "Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him." (Psalm 25:14)

The idea of being best friends with God may seem a foreign concept to us. The truth is that God wants a close relationship with us, not just a casual acquaintance. It's why He made us in His image. So how do you develop a friendship with God? It's the same way you develop any friendship, through time and conversation. Stay aware of His presence and converse with Him throughout the activities of the day.

Question to consider: What can I do to remind myself to think about God and talk to him more often throughout the day?

Prayer: Lord, I come before you, just as I am. I ask father, that you forgive me where I have neglected you, and that in my quest of drawing closer to you, you draw closer to me. I pray that you continue to choose me, as I continue to choose you and I invite you into my daily activities, as I bath, do my chores and have spare time I pray that you are with me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day Five

Point To Ponder: I'm as close to God as I choose to be.

Verse To Remember: "Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you." James 4:8

Nothing is more important than developing a friendship with God. That relationship is why we were created. If you miss that, you miss the purpose of life. The truth is we are close to God as we choose to be. We can't blame anyone else. The Bible says if we draw closer to Him, He will draw close to us. Developing a friendship with God is possible, but you have to pursue it. Make it your number one priority to know and love God.

Question to consider: What practical choices will I make today in order to grow closer to God?

Day Six

Point To Ponder: God wants all of me.

Verse To Remember: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)

Worship needs to be real and not just lip service. God looks at the attitude of our hearts. We also need to worship God as He truly is and as He represents himself in the Scriptures. In other words, as you tell God that you love Him and as you worship Him - be authentic and focus on what is true about Him. Do it with everything that you have - your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Question to consider: Which is more pleasing to God right now -- my public worship or my private worship? What will I do about this?

Lord help us to feel your presence. I hunger for you and just want to have an encounter with you. Thank you for your love for me. Teach me as well to love others, In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day Seven

Point To Ponder: God is real no matter how I feel

Verse To Remember: "For God has said, 'I will never leave you; I will never abandon you,'" (Hebrews 13:5).

Troubles in this life come and go. There are times when God feels distant and far away. We could allow these times and circumstances to discourage us. Instead, God wants us to learn to trust him by faith — to trust in His Word, His promises and His character. Remember what He has already done for you.

Question to consider: How can I stay focused on God's presence, especially when he feels distant?