



## Wednesday

YOURSELF: PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

Sometimes I have a hard time believing God could love somebody like me. I say stupid things, I hurt other people, I mess up time and time again. Nonetheless, God still loves me. He grants me freedom from myself. Even when I can't find it in me to forgive myself, He forgives me. If the maker of the world decides to let go of my sin, who am I to keep holding on to it? Of course there are lessons to be learned from my mistakes, but dwelling on them and letting them define me defies God's will for my life.

If I am constantly looking behind me and what I've done in the past, it's going to be very difficult to ever move toward my goals. God doesn't want us to live a life full of regret and unhappiness, He sent His son for that very reason. I chose these verses from Philippians but if this is something you are really trying to work on I highly suggest reading the rest of chapter 3. This week, start allowing God to free you from your mistakes through scripture, praise and prayer.

-Haley Smith

## Thursday

PERFORMANCE: PSALM 86:10

Maybe you're like me and have already had several quarter-life crises. Maybe it's triggered from too much stress, care for your work, or just high expectations, but most people at some point have felt the pinch of wondering if you can do it all, and if you can do it well. Performance anxiety, much? God gives us freedom from worrying about how much we'll accomplish, because He works through us. He alone does great and glorious deeds-- not you, no matter how full your to-do list is. While you can do good in this world, you can't ever accomplish your way to a miracle!

Linger in the grace of this truth: God does truly glorious deeds, not you. The weight of the world is not all on your shoulders! Consider the ways you have tried to accomplish and "fix" while neglecting to turn to God. Take a moment to pray for forgiveness, wisdom, and trust today.

-Olivia Ledbetter

## Friday

FEAR: 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

This world we live in is a very scary world. There is evil all around us waiting to hurt us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If you start to really think about the evil in this world, you can start to get scared for everything that is around us. However, as Paul writes to Timothy, God has not given us a spirit of fear. Rather, He's given us a spirit of power, love and self-discipline. What this means to me is that when I fear something other than God, then that fear is a sin. I've often seen this happen in college where I fear the results of an interview or I fear an upcoming test. When I realize that I've been fearing those, though, I try to always pray and ask God to take away that fear. In the name of Jesus, I command that fear and Satan to flee from that situation. That tends to give me a spirit of peace, which I wholeheartedly believe is from God. That way, it doesn't matter to me whether the interview goes poorly or if I do well on the test. If I trust God, then He'll make all things work for good. I have no reason to fear.

-Hunter Bethea

## Monday

PERFECTION: HEBREWS 10:14

Often times, people tell me that following Jesus seems like a lot of rules. Sometimes, I think it myself - usually about the time I take a look at the size of Leviticus. Looking at the law, it seems like it takes a lot to get close to God. You have to be nearly perfect. And when you're not perfect, you have to find a perfect sacrifice. Month after month, year after year people went in search of this perfection, often missing out on the whole point behind finding it - being close to the Lord. But striving for perfection was thrown out the window with the introduction of Jesus. We, as humans, will never be perfect and, knowing this, God sent Jesus to be the final, flawless sacrifice. Jesus is the bridge that allows an imperfect human like me to get close to the Lord. Not to say striving for perfection is a bad thing. In fact, quite the opposite, we want to model our lives after Jesus. But often times I find myself consumed with the image that comes with it. When have I valued perfection over a connection with God? Where do I need to admit my mistakes and accept His grace? The original law and my imperfections under it are many, but Jesus's sacrifice is bigger and for that, this week and always, I will praise Him.

-Alexi Bolton