



# GUARDING AGAINST *Loving the World*

21 DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL



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Welcome to the 21-day devotional journey on "Guarding Against Loving the World." In a world filled with distractions, temptations, and competing desires, it's easy to lose sight of our ultimate allegiance to God.

The apostle John warns us in 1 John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

This devotional is designed to help you navigate the tension between the values of the world and the call to live in obedience to God's commands. Over the next 21 days, we will explore Scripture, reflect on insights, and engage in self-examination to deepen our understanding of what it means to love God above all else.

Each day, we will focus on a different aspect of guarding against loving the world, drawing inspiration from the teachings of Jesus, the wisdom of the apostles, and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. Through prayer, reflection, and practical application, we will seek to align our hearts with God's will and experience the abundant life that comes from loving Him wholeheartedly.

May this devotional be a source of encouragement, inspiration, and spiritual growth as we seek to honor God in every area of our lives.



# Day 1: Understanding the Command

## Scripture: 1 John 2:15-17



## Day 2: The Lust of the Flesh

### Scripture: Galatians 5:16-17

The lust of the flesh refers to the cravings of our sinful nature. These desires often lead us away from God's will and into disobedience. By walking in the Spirit and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, we can overcome the temptations of the flesh.

Self-Reflection: What are some areas of my life where I struggle with the desires of the flesh? How can I rely more on the Holy Spirit to resist these temptations? In what ways can I cultivate a lifestyle that honors God rather than indulging in sinful desires?





## Day 3: The Lust of the Eyes

Scripture: Matthew 6:22-23



## Day 4: The Pride of Life

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18









## Day 6: Seeking God's Kingdom First

Scripture: Matthew 6:33



## Day 7: The Cost of Discipleship

### Scripture: Luke 14:33

Following Jesus requires total commitment and surrender. It means letting go of anything that hinders our devotion to Him, including worldly attachments and ambitions. While the cost of discipleship may seem high, the rewards of intimacy with Christ far outweigh any sacrifices we make.

Self-Reflection: What are the things in my life that I struggle to surrender to God?  
Am I willing to give up everything to follow Jesus wholeheartedly? How can I  
embrace the challenges of discipleship with joy and perseverance?





## Day 8: Embracing Contentment

### Scripture: Philippians 4:11-12







## Day 10: Cultivating Gratitude

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18









## Day 12: Seeking True Satisfaction

### Scripture: Psalm 107:9

God alone can satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. While the world offers temporary pleasures that leave us empty and unsatisfied, God offers true fulfillment and joy that transcends circumstances. When we seek satisfaction in Him, we find lasting contentment.

Self-Reflection: Where do I look for satisfaction and fulfillment apart from God?  
How has my pursuit of worldly pleasures left me feeling empty or dissatisfied?  
In what ways can I pursue intimacy with God as the source of true satisfaction?





## Day 13: Overcoming Temptation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:13







## Day 15: Surrendering Control

### Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

Surrendering control involves relinquishing our own plans and desires in favor of God's perfect will. It requires humility, trust, and obedience as we acknowledge God's wisdom and sovereignty over our lives. When we surrender to Him, He guides us along the path of righteousness and purpose.

Self-Reflection: In what areas of my life am I holding onto control rather than trusting God? How can I cultivate a posture of surrender and submission to God's will? What fears or reservations hinder me from fully surrendering to God's leading?





## Day 16: Walking in Obedience

Scripture: John 14:15

Obedience is the natural outflow of genuine love for God. When we love Him wholeheartedly, we desire to obey His commands out of reverence and devotion. Our obedience demonstrates our faithfulness and trust in God's wisdom and goodness.

Self-Reflection: Do I view obedience to God's commands as burdensome or as an expression of love? In what areas of my life do I struggle to obey God wholeheartedly? How can I cultivate a deeper love for God that motivates me to obey Him joyfully?



## Day 17: The Fruit of the Spirit

### Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23









## Day 19: Living as Light in the World

### Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16



## Day 20: Striving for Eternal Perspective

### Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18





## Day 21: Loving God Above All Else

Scripture: Mark 12:30-31





