

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

SINGLES EDITION

30 DAYS TO BUILD

A Better Name THE BULLDOZER

Here is a Daily Devotional to enable you to make the most out of this sermon. You may use it for your personal growth or in your Life Group.

November 17: Grace for My Mess.

Read Romans 3:19–24. We don't get right with God by defending ourselves; we're made right by grace.

- How do you usually respond to other people's messes? Do you go into fix-it mode, listen mode, or judgment mode?
- Share a time you fell short of your own standards. How did you feel? What did you do to try to clean up the mess you'd made?

- Where are you tempted to compare yourself and feel “righteous” (Read verses 19–20 again)? What helps resist that?
- What would depending on grace (not performance) look like this week?
- Who could you show mercy to, as God has shown you?

Faith Builder Prayer: Make Romans 3:24 your confession and prayer: Thank God that you’re justified by grace.

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip: “You can’t build a happy home when you start with an unhappy heart.”

November 18: Lay It Down.

Read Hebrews 12:1–2. To build a healthy future, clear the site, lay aside

weights (old burdens) and sins (present traps). Fix your eyes on Jesus and travel lighter.

- What two things does Hebrews 12:1 tell you to lay aside?
- What “weights” from your past still feel heavy today?
- What sins (habits/patterns) still trip you up?
- Read 1 John 1:9. What step of confession will you take this week?
- What boundary or habit will help you keep your eyes on Jesus daily?

Faith Builder Prayer: Make 1 John 1:9 your prayer today. Confess and receive cleansing today in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip:
“The evidence of unrighteous ego is unyielded rights. Unyielded rights in

your life are the things that you refuse to let go of.”

November 19: Leave What Holds You.

Read Isaiah 43:18 and Philippians 3:13–14. Shame, generational patterns, insecurity, and unforgiveness don't get to write your future. By grace, release the past and press toward God's call.

- Which grips you most: shame, generational bondages, insecurity, or unforgiveness?
- What past event needs God's healing today?
- Who do you need to forgive? List names and what happened; pray and release everyone on your list.

- What “forward” habit will help you press into God’s goal this week?
- Which truth from Scripture will replace your old narrative?

Faith Builder Prayer: Pray Philippians 3:13–14. Pray for God’s help to forget what is behind and press on toward His call.

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip: “If you store up bitterness from past conflicts, you will bring that toxic emotion into your marriage.”

November 20: New Mind, New Way.

Read Ephesians 4:20–24. Change endures when the Spirit renews your mind: throw off the old, be renewed, put on the new.

- Put “throw off,” “be renewed,” and “put on” in your own words.
- Which step is hardest for you right now? Why?
- Where do you see old-nature patterns resurfacing?
- What truth will you meditate on to renew your thinking this week?
- What “new nature” action will you practice daily for 7 days?

Faith Builder Prayer: Meditate on Ephesians 4:23–24. Pray this prayer: “Holy Spirit, renew my thoughts and attitudes. Clothe me with the new self in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip: “When you have a disagreement with someone, you are faced with a choice between ‘hurt you’ and ‘virtue’. Choose virtue!”

November 21: Healing My Picture of Home.

Read Proverbs 17:22 and Psalm 30:11. God heals distorted views of family and turns mourning into dancing. Let Him restore joy and teach you what healthy love looks like.

- What kind of family environment were you raised in?
- Did that environment give you any false views of what a godly and healthy relationship, marriage, or family should be like?
- How did your upbringing shape your expectations about marriage?
- Where do you need Jesus to heal and re-train your heart?

- What joy-practice (gratitude, celebration, service) will you add to your life this week?

Faith Builder Prayer: Pray Psalm 30:11. Ask God to turn your mourning into dancing. Pray for Him to heal your heart and restore His joy in your life.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:
“It's not the content of your bank account that makes a good marriage. It's the content of your hearts.”

November 22: Expectation Reset.

Read Proverbs 24:14. Hope must be anchored in wisdom, not fantasy. Unchecked expectations create frustration. Wise expectations create growth.

- What does it mean to have an expectation or to expect something?
- List expectations you have about relationships. Which are shaped by Scripture and wisdom?
- List expectations you have about marriage. Based on the truths you are learning in this sermon series, which of these expectations about marriage need adjusting? Are your expectations based on society's views of marriage, your experience, or God's wisdom?
- Where do you need to grow in order to match your hopes?
- Which verse will you hold as your "anchor of hope" this month?

Faith Builder Prayer: Make Proverbs 24:14 your prayer in faith.

Pray: “Lord Jesus, root my expectations in Your wisdom and truth. Thank You, Lord! Amen.”

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip:

“When expectations exceed experience, it results in frustration.”

November 23: My Expectation Is in God.

Read Psalm 62:5–8. The safest place for your deepest hopes is God Himself. Shift your weight from people and timing to His faithfulness and you’ll find rest.

- As a single man or woman, it can be easy to place your expectations or hopes in things or people. Have you ever had an expectation that everything would be better if you were married or in a relationship?

- Have you ever been in a situation where the thought of someone else's affection and attention became your hope?
- What are some ways you can place your expectation in God when you are feeling lonely, insecure, and impatient?
- What does “waiting in silence” for God look like for you this week (verse 5)? Which daily rhythm do you need to practice more to anchor your soul in Him: Word, worship, prayer, or service?
- Who can you encourage with the hope you're receiving from God?

Faith Builder Prayer: Make Psalm 62:8 your prayer. Acknowledge your position in the Lord. Cover your future family with His promises.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

“When you give up your own way to God, you surrender your rights to Him. You don't demand your own way.”

Get counseling at Agape House!

The Counseling Ministry at Agape House is concerned about the holistic well-being of all church members. We have professional counselors to attend to your needs.

Please fill out a **Communication Card** or a **Getting Married** form at the Welcome Center and you will be contacted within the week.

“In the multitude of Counselors, there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14