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This is a **5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide**, for spiritual reflection from my sermon on Sunday, November 1, 2026. If you would like to listen to the entire sermon, go to Facebook or YouTube.

God bless you,



Pastor Linda Smith

Sermon, "**Don't Let the Enemy Hijack Your Soul**."

> *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces*[a] *of this world rather than on Christ*.... Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

Day 1: ***Guard Your Mind***
Reading: Colossians 2:8

Devotional: The Apostle Paul wrote with urgency to believers who were surrounded by competing voices, empty philosophies, and spiritual counterfeits. That warning is no less urgent today. We live in a world saturated with information yet starved of truth. Screens, influencers, algorithms, and cultural trends compete daily for the territory of your mind. Paul's instruction is clear: *be watchful*. Spiritual captivity rarely announces itself. It arrives dressed as enlightenment, packaged as freedom, and spoken with confidence. The question you must ask yourself each morning is not what the world is saying, but whether what you are hearing is rooted in Christ.

Reflection: What voices are speaking loudest into your life right now? Are they anchored in Scripture or in culture?

Practical Application: Identify one source of information you consume daily and evaluate it honestly against the standard of God's Word. If it consistently pulls your thinking away from Christ, consider limiting or removing it.

Day 2: ***The Battlefield Within***

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-12

Devotional: Paul reminds us in this passage that our true struggle is not against people, political parties, or social movements. The real war is spiritual. The enemy does not primarily attack your circumstances. He attacks your devotion. He attacks your identity. He attacks your perception of God's truth. If he cannot steal your salvation, he will work tirelessly to disrupt your relationship with God. He knows that a believer disconnected from God is a believer who is vulnerable. The battlefield is not around you. It is within you. Every thought you entertain, every belief you adopt, and every voice you trust is either advancing your faith or weakening it.

Reflection: Where do you feel the most spiritual pressure in your life right now? Have you identified it as spiritual warfare?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today specifically for prayer, naming the areas of your life where you sense spiritual confusion or resistance. Bring those areas before God and ask for discernment and strength.

Day 3: Rooted and Unshakeable

Reading: Colossians 2:6-7

Devotional: Paul uses the image of a tree with deep roots to describe the life of a believer who cannot be easily moved. A tree that is rooted survives the storm not because the storm is weak, but because the roots are strong. Culture will shift. Governments will change. Philosophies will rise and fall. But the Word of God stands forever. The challenge for every believer is not simply to know about Christ, but to remain deeply rooted in Christ. This requires daily nourishment through Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and worship. A believer who is rooted cannot be easily captured by the hollow promises of the world.

Reflection: How deep are your spiritual roots right now? Are you drawing daily nourishment from God's Word, or are you running on spiritual reserve?

Practical Application: Commit to reading at least one chapter of Scripture each day this week. Keep a journal nearby and write down one truth from each reading that you can carry with you throughout the day.

Day 4: The Holy Spirit as Your Guide

Reading: John 16:13

Devotional: Jesus promised his followers that the Spirit of truth would come and guide them into all truth. The Holy Spirit is not a secondary gift. He is the divine presence of God living within every believer, serving as counselor, guide, and protector. In a world where deception sounds confident and false teaching sounds reasonable, the Holy Spirit is your discernment. When deception whispers, the Holy Spirit warns. When confusion clouds your vision, the Holy Spirit illuminates. When the enemy lies, the Holy Spirit testifies of Christ. You are never navigating this world alone. Heaven's guidance system never loses its signal, never misdirects, and never fails.

Reflection: Are you actively listening for the Holy Spirit's voice in your daily decisions, or are you relying primarily on your own understanding and the opinions of others?

Practical Application: Before making a significant decision today, pause and pray specifically for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Practice the discipline of stillness, giving God space to speak before you act.

Day 5: **Come Back to Christ**
Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: Paul's call in this passage is both a warning and an invitation. "*Do not be conformed to the patterns of this world. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind*." Transformation is not a cultural trend. It is not a self-help achievement. It is a daily surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ. No matter how far the world has pulled you, no matter how long you have followed voices that led you away from God, the invitation remains open. Every chain can be broken. Every deception can be exposed. Every captive mind can be liberated. Every weary soul can be restored. Every wandering heart can come home. The risen Christ, who conquered death and rose with all power, is more than able to bring you back.

Reflection: In what area of your life have you been conforming to the world's patterns rather than God's truth? What would it look like to surrender that area fully to Christ today?

Practical Application: Write a brief, honest prayer of recommitment to God. Name the specific areas where you want to be transformed, not conformed. Return to this prayer throughout the week as a reminder of your commitment to remain rooted in Christ.