

DAY 4

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Embracing our identity in Christ is a transformative experience that renews our perspective on church and healing from any hurt. As a new creation, we're equipped to let go of past wounds and adopt a renewed mindset bathed in the love and truth of our Savior, Jesus. Today, contemplate the power of a new creation in reconciling church hurt. This transformation calls us to live in the freedom of Christ's redemption, which can radically change our interactions within the church body. Forgiveness, grace, and new beginnings are possible because of the work Jesus has done—and is doing—in us.

- What does being a new creation in Christ mean to you, especially in the context of healing from church hurt?
- How can your new identity in Christ influence your relationships within the church?
- In what ways can embracing your newness in Christ lead to reconciliation with those who have caused church hurt?
- Pray that God would remind you of your new identity in Him, especially when facing past church hurt.
- Ask for guidance on living out the reality of being a new creation within your church community.

DAY 5

Revelation 21:2

"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." As we conclude this devotional, we turn our gaze to the ultimate restoration and celebration of the church as the bride of Christ. This imagery inspires hope and sets our hearts on the eternal purpose God has for His people. The church, in all her glory, will be presented spotless and beautiful to Christ. Ponder the church's ultimate destiny and allow it to infuse your current experiences with hope. This eternal perspective helps us to remain steadfast in our commitment to the body of Christ, aids in healing from church hurt, and stirs up a desire to contribute to her beauty. Embrace the anticipation of the church's perfection as a motivator to seek reconciliation and unity in the present.

- How does the picture of the church as a bride inform your journey of healing from church hurt?
- In what ways can you support the church's preparation as a radiant bride for Christ?
- What practical steps can you take now to embody and promote the unity and purity of the church?
- Pray for the church to grow in holiness and love, reflecting the beauty that Christ sees in her.
- Seek God's guidance on how to actively participate in preparing the church as a bride for her groom.



FATHOM CHURCH

5-Day Devotional

Bridezilla
CHURTCH pt. 1

DAY 3

Luke 8:48

"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." The Bible is filled with stories of individuals who pressed on for healing despite great obstacles. Today's focus is on taking active steps towards healing from church hurt, like the woman who reached out to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. Her healing came through a direct encounter—a personal and determined pursuit of Jesus' restorative power. Consider what it means to actively pursue healing. It involves moving beyond past hurts and directing our hearts towards faith-filled actions that align with the nature of Jesus. We press in with boldness, understanding that although the journey towards healing is individual, it also requires us to reach out to others within the church community for support, prayer, and fellowship.

- How can you actively seek healing in areas of church hurt, using the example of the woman in Luke 8?
- What personal obstacles must you overcome to pursue a deeper healing?
- Who within your church family can support you on your journey towards healing?
- Ask God for the strength to press into Him for healing, just as the woman did in the crowds.
- Pray for the humility and courage to reach out and ask for help within your church community.

DAY 2

Matthew 18:20

Where two or three gather in His name, there Jesus is with them. On this day, reflect on the communal aspect of faith. Our engagement with the church is not an isolated experience; it's a collective journey where the presence of Christ is manifested through relationships and shared belief. It's in our gatherings, despite the possibility of hurt, that we can encounter the tangibility of God's love. Today, consider the power of fellowship within the church body. Recognize that church isn't just a place we attend, but a living, breathing organism where each member contributes to its health and vitality. As we grow together, confronting and comforting one another on issues of hurt, God's presence is magnified and His healing becomes evident among us.

- What does it mean for you to experience Jesus's presence within a church community?
- How can a community help heal the wounds caused by church hurt?
- In what ways can you contribute to a more loving and supportive church environment?
- Pray for God's presence to permeate every aspect of your church community, bringing unity and peace.
- Seek wisdom on how to foster environments of forgiveness and reconciliation within your church gatherings.

DAY 1

Ephesians 5:25-27

Just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, our journey begins with recognizing the unconditional love Jesus has for His bride— the church. Despite the imperfections and pain we may experience within church communities, Christ's commitment to heal, sanctify, and present the church in splendor remains steadfast. Like the utmost care of a loving husband, He continuously works in us to bring about purity and wholeness. Today, let's open our hearts to the healing touch of Christ. Reflect on how His grace covers our wounds and how He longs to renew our spirit. Healing requires acknowledging hurt but also embracing the truth that we are part of a body redeemed and cherished by Jesus. The love Jesus has for His church models how we ought to love and commit to the wellness of each other, seeking healing and restoration together.

- How does understanding Christ's love for the church help you see past its imperfections?
- In what areas of church life have you experienced hurt, and how can Christ's love bring healing?
- What steps can you take to be an agent of healing within your church community?
- Pray for a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christ's love for His bride, the church.
- Ask God to reveal areas of unhealed hurt in your church experience and for the courage to seek restoration.