
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Kansas City, Missouri

A Six-Day Devotional Journey

Uncoachable:

A Mind Fixed on Christ, A Heart That Hears His Voice

HEBREWS 3:1 (NIV)

“Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.”

Based on the Sunday message by Dr. Stan Archie

Dr. Stan Archie

Senior Pastor & Co-Founder

WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2026

Expository. Biblically grounded. Transforming every day.

UNCOACHABLE: ON THE BOAT BUT NEVER TO SHORE**SCRIPTURE READING****HEBREWS 3:1–2 (NIV)**

“Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie opened with an observation that stung before it comforted. Some of the smartest children we have ever known never became flourishing adults. Some of the hardest workers we know never received the promotion their labor plainly deserved. Not for lack of talent, and not for lack of commitment — but because they were uncoachable. Then he turned the same lens toward the room: some believers will never see what God created them for, and it will be for exactly the same reason.

That is the burden underneath Hebrews 3. The writer is addressing people who knew better than anyone alive that it is possible to be on the boat and never make it to shore. Their own ancestors walked out of Egypt and died in a wilderness. They had the miracles, the manna, the cloud and the pillar of fire, and still did not arrive. So when he says “fix your thoughts on Jesus,” he is not offering a pleasant devotional suggestion. He is naming the difference between those who arrive and those who do not.

Dr. Archie gave us the picture in the language of parenting. There are parents who parent like referees — they know the rules, they stand on the field, and they wait with the flag in hand for the child to step wrong. And there are parents who parent like coaches — they see the error and walk with the child into the next phase. The law parented Israel like a referee: do not do this, do not touch that, and here is precisely what happens if you do. Christ came to coach.

Notice carefully what did not change. The rules have not changed. The objective has not changed. The Author has not changed and the Creator has not changed. What changed is how we experience the guidelines. The failure the writer fears is a person who keeps measuring their standing by the referee’s whistle long after the Coach has arrived to walk beside them — someone who cannot receive correction as care, and therefore cannot be led anywhere new.

So here is the thesis that will carry us through this week: our ability to live by God’s Word requires a mind fixed on Christ and a heart responsive to His voice. Those are the two hinges, and everything else swings on them. The question this week is not whether you are trying hard. Plenty of people in the wilderness tried hard. The question is whether, when God speaks Tuesday morning about something small, you are still coachable.

“There are folks who can be on the boat and never make it to shore. The rules have not changed and the objective has not changed — what changed is that Christ came to coach us where the law could only referee us.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Space is given below each question for journaling or small-group notes.

1. *Where in my life am I still living under the referee's whistle — hearing God mostly as a list of what I have done wrong — rather than receiving Him as the Coach who walks with me into the next phase?*

2. *When was the last time correction actually changed me? If I cannot name a recent instance, what does that tell me about how coachable I really am right now?*

3. *What would it look like this week to receive correction — from Scripture, from a leader, from my spouse — with curiosity instead of defense? Name the person and the subject.*

4. *Ask God directly: "Where am I uncoachable?" Write down the first answer that surfaces, and refuse to argue with it for one full week.*

DAY TWO

CHECK THE SEARCH HISTORY: A MIND THAT STAYS FIXED

SCRIPTURE READING

COLOSSIANS 3:1–3 (NIV)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie asked a question the room felt before it could answer. If he wanted to know where our minds are, he said, he would not ask us — he would go through our mental search history. He would look at where we have been and what we have been looking up. Or he would check the algorithm: what flashes across the mind on a regular basis, what the mind reaches for when the eyes first open, what the phone flips to before we have chosen anything at all.

There is nothing mystical about an algorithm. It is trained by habit and pattern, and it serves you more of whatever you have already given it. Your mind works the same way, which means the content of your thought life is not a mystery to be solved but a history to be read. If God were sitting beside you scrolling that history, would He be delighted or would He be appalled? That is not a question meant to shame anyone. It is a question meant to locate us honestly.

And notice that Scripture does not ask us to feel differently. It gives an assignment. Fix your thoughts. Set your minds. Both words describe deliberate placement, not spontaneous mood. Nobody drifts toward Christ; the drift always runs the other direction. A mind fixed on Jesus is a mind that has been put there on purpose and returned there again after every interruption, which is most of what spiritual maturity actually looks like on an ordinary weekday.

Dr. Archie framed it as fidelity rather than discipline. His mind is fixed on his wife, he told us, and so in spite of everything else in the world, there are things he does only with her. When your mind is fixed on something, you stop seeking elsewhere what that thing is meant to supply. God called Israel adulterous for precisely that reason — not because they stopped believing He existed, but because they took what belonged to Him and gave it to somebody else.

So the work of this day is not to feel more spiritual. It is to change what gets the repetitions. An algorithm trained by pattern can only be retrained by pattern. Whatever you feed first tomorrow morning is casting a vote about what your mind will hand you unprompted next month.

“If God sat down beside you and scrolled your search history, would He be excited or appalled? Your mind runs on an algorithm — and an algorithm is trained by habit and pattern, never by good intentions.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Space is given below each question for journaling or small-group notes.

1. *If someone could see the last twenty things my mind returned to on its own — not what I chose to think about, but where it went when it was free — what would they conclude I am fixed on?*

2. *What habit trained that algorithm? Name the specific input — the feed, the show, the conversation, the worry — that has earned the most repetitions in my week.*

3. *What would have to move in my schedule for Scripture to be the first thing my mind reaches for in the morning rather than the last thing I get to at night?*

4. *Choose one pattern to end and one to begin this week. Be specific about when, where, and for how long — fidelity is proven by what receives the first hour, not the leftover one.*

DAY THREE

MY PERCEPTION IS NOT REALITY: ONE SOURCE OF TRUTH

SCRIPTURE READING

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3–5 (NIV)

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie pressed the point until it had nowhere to hide: if Christ is your only acceptable source of truth, then where are you actually getting your information? Israel got theirs from Egypt. The cultural influence they carried out with them was so heavy that they assumed they could get some truth from God and a great deal of it from a golden calf. Most of us do not have enough gold for a calf. That has never stopped us from building one out of something else.

He put it in the language of covenant, because that is the language Scripture uses. A man who does not understand something he should receive only from his wife, and goes to get it somewhere else, has not been resourceful — he has been unfaithful. Exclusivity is the whole point of the relationship. Christ says He is the way and the truth and the life, not one credible voice among several — and that includes preachers, friends, and people we have known all our lives.

Then came the sentence worth carrying all week: you must accept that your perception is not reality. The amount of information required to hold a single truth completely exceeds what a lifespan can gather. So the moment you become certain that you know, you have stopped learning at exactly that point. God possesses all truth, but He does not hand it over all at once — He gives it as the heart becomes able to hold it, which is why a passage you have read for twenty years can suddenly open and leave you asking why you never saw it before.

That is why strongholds are thoughts rather than behaviors. Paul does not tell us to demolish habits; he tells us to take thoughts captive and make them obedient. A stronghold is a conclusion we defended so long that it became furniture in the house. It is the man who called a blue thing green and, rather than admit he was wrong, decided it was blue-green in the right light. It is one painful experience promoted to universal law — one betrayal becoming a rule about everybody in that line of work. Passion makes such conclusions convincing. Convincing has never made them true.

My perception is my current understanding of a situation, and it is not the same thing as truth. Some of what you are most certain about today is simply the last place your heart was ready to stop.

“My perception is my current understanding of a situation — it is not truth. Be careful running around talking about ‘my truth.’ The moment you are certain you know, you stop learning right there.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Space is given below each question for journaling or small-group notes.

1. *Where am I currently going for truth that Christ never authorized — a feed, a friend, a family voice, my own experience — and giving it the weight I should reserve for His Word?*

2. *What is one conclusion I am so committed to that I would defend it even against Scripture? Honestly — what is my “blue-green”?*

3. *If my perception is only my current understanding, what subject am I willing to reopen and study again this week, asking God to show me what my heart was not ready to see before?*

4. *Take one thought captive today — about a person, about yourself, about your future — and hold it against what God has actually said. What has to be released?*

DAY FOUR

THE CONTRACTOR IS NOT THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

HEBREWS 3:3–6 (NIV)

“Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ‘Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,’ bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie walked us through this passage in the language of construction. Moses’ assignment was to build an environment where God could live among His people — come out of Egypt, come to the mountain, because God wants to dwell with us. When the people tripped, that dwelling went homeless in a wilderness for forty years. Which is why David ached for a temple and Solomon was so pleased to build it: it finally took the tabernacle out of its homeless state and set it in the land God had promised.

But Moses was the general contractor, not the master of the house. He built it for Someone else, and he was barred from ever living in the neighborhood where it would stand. Christ is not building anything; He is the Son who moved in and carries authority in the house. And since Pentecost, the house is us. He settled the permit at the cross so that people who could never keep the rules could live under His lease.

Here is the subtle error Dr. Archie named: some of us got so caught up with the general contractor that we lost track of who the house was for. The map takes you to the destination, but fall in love with the car and the map and you can miss the place you were going. Israel’s deepest problem under Moses was that getting out of Egypt mattered more to them than getting to Sinai. Our songs still celebrate Pharaoh’s army in the Red Sea far more than they celebrate arriving at the mountain where God could finally be worshiped.

He applied it without flinching, in both directions. God moved powerfully through the Black church across slavery, carrying a spirituality that was not tangled up in politics. God also used others to build a structure in which freedom of religion could be exercised at all. Both were real. Both were vehicles. And the bus you rode in on is not the place you are supposed to live. When the vehicle quietly becomes the destination — whichever vehicle it is — we end up defending scaffolding while the Son of the house waits to be honored.

The journey gets outdated. The destination never does. Every good thing God used to move you was designed to deliver you somewhere.

“The bus you rode in on is not the place you are supposed to live. The destination never changes — the journey gets outdated. God is still asking whether we came to celebrate the exodus or to arrive at the mountain.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Space is given below each question for journaling or small-group notes.

1. *What has God genuinely used in my life — a season, a movement, a mentor, a method — that I have quietly begun to treat as the destination rather than the vehicle?*

2. *Israel wanted out of Egypt more than they wanted Sinai. Honestly, which do I want more: relief from what I am in, or fellowship with the God who is calling me out of it?*

3. *If Christ is the Son over the house and I am the house, which room have I not given Him access to? Name it specifically rather than generally.*

4. *Where this week will I honor the Master of the house instead of defending the scaffolding — even if it costs me something I have been proud of?*

DAY FIVE

TODAY, IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE: THE HEART THAT DRIFTS

SCRIPTURE READING

HEBREWS 3:7–11 (NIV)

“So, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, “Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.”’”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday brought us to the second hinge. Your mindset determines the condition of your heart, and the condition of your heart determines how you respond to God. Dr. Archie put it in a picture every married person in the room recognized immediately. You cannot get anything out of somebody whose heart is hard. Not “you did not pick your things up” frustrated — hard-heart quiet. You offer a glass of water and get nothing back, because the issue was never the water.

What should sober us is the timing of this warning. The Holy Spirit is speaking, and He is speaking to people He already lives inside. Christ moving in does not make hardening impossible. Presence and responsiveness are not the same thing, and the house can still resist the One who dwells in it. That is why God once told worshipers to leave the offering at the altar and go settle what was unsettled first. He was never interested in a transaction from a heart that had gone cold toward Him.

Notice, too, how God diagnosed that generation. He did not say they broke a specific commandment. He said their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways. Forty years of provision — fed, clothed, sandals that would not wear out — and the heart still turned toward whatever was newest. A wandering heart attaches quickly and without substance: the new voice, the new platform, the compliment in the grocery aisle, the person whose life photographs well.

The covenant language returns here because that is exactly what this is. We were married in. And the drift is rarely dramatic; it is preference quietly reassigned until the arrangement looks the same from outside and has thinned out on the inside. Dr. Archie named one form of it directly: the world approving working from home does not mean God is excited about worshiping from home. Israel never had the option of staying in their tents and watching Sinai from a comfortable distance. Convenience has never been the same thing as consecration.

And the operative word in the passage is not someday. It is today. The heart that can still be reached is the only heart God can lead anywhere.

“Just because Christ moved in does not mean your heart cannot get hard. God’s complaint was not mainly what they did — it was that their hearts were always going astray, attaching to whatever was new.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Space is given below each question for journaling or small-group notes.

1. *Is there a place right now where I have gone quiet with God the way we go quiet with someone we are angry at — still present, still doing the routine, but not really answering?*

2. *What has my heart attached to recently that has no substance behind it? What made it attractive — the newness, the attention, or the ease?*

3. *Where have I let convenience replace consecration, telling myself the arrangement is the same when I know something has thinned out?*

4. *"Today, if you hear his voice." What is God saying to me today — not next season — that I have been postponing an answer to? Give Him the answer this week.*

DAY SIX

SEE TO IT: THE HEART HARDENS BY DEFAULT

SCRIPTURE READING

HEBREWS 3:12–14 (NIV)

“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Hardening happens by default. Nobody schedules it, budgets for it, or writes it on the calendar — which is precisely why the instruction is not “watch yourself” but “see to it that none of you.” The assignment is given to the whole room about the whole room. In a plurality of leadership and a family of believers, my drift is your business and your drift is mine, and neither of us gets to call that intrusive.

Dr. Archie asked Sunday how often we need to encourage one another and let the text answer: daily. Any parent who has ever watched a busy child knows why. You cannot doze off. You blink and the house is painted. We are those people, and continual connection is not a matter of intensity but of frequency. A weekly service and a monthly good intention will not hold a heart that erodes on a daily schedule.

And look closely at what we are being guarded against. Sin’s deceitfulness is not mainly the sin you commit; it is the sin that happens around you until it stops registering. What was once scandalous becomes unremarkable. Saying you intend to wait for marriage now sounds quaint enough that people ask what happened to you. Language that once carried a legal penalty now plays through speakers in public without anyone turning a head. The deception is not that we chose these things — it is that we absorbed them. Unless you are deliberate, you will drift into whatever the culture has normalized while congratulating yourself for never deciding to.

The last warning of the day is the tenderest one. Most of us came to God because something else did not work. We could not find peace over there, so we tried His house. But Dr. Archie was clear: you do not move out of the world’s house into God’s house because the rent is cheaper. The rent is different. It will cost you as much to live biblically as it cost you to live sinfully — the difference is the paycheck. So do not analyze what your flesh still wants and then evaluate God by whether He is meeting that list.

Hold your original conviction firmly to the very end. And where your grip has loosened, say it out loud today to the God whose voice you can still hear: coach me.

“You do not move out of the world’s house into God’s house because the rent is cheaper. The rent is different. It costs as much to live biblically as it cost to live sinfully — the difference is the paycheck.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Space is given below each question for journaling or small-group notes.

1. *Who is close enough to me to notice hardening before I feel it — and have I actually given that person permission to say something to me?*

2. *What has become normal to me in the last two years that would have troubled me five years ago? Where did I absorb it rather than choose it?*

3. *What is my plan — not my intention — for continual connection this week? Name the time, the people, and the place.*

4. *Am I evaluating God by what my flesh still wants, or by who He is? What am I asking Him to give me that I really wanted from the world?*

CLOSING

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2026

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we come with a confession most of us would rather not make out loud: we are not always coachable. We know the rules well enough to argue them, and we have learned how to receive correction without ever being changed by it. You did not send Your Son to referee us. You sent Him to walk with us into the next phase — forgive us for mistaking His nearness for pressure and His correction for rejection.

Fix our thoughts on Jesus. Not for an hour on Sunday, but in the algorithm of our ordinary days — in what the mind reaches for before the eyes are open, in what we return to when nothing is required of us. Search our history, Lord. Where we have trained our minds on noise, retrain them. Where we have gone elsewhere for what only You supply, forgive the unfaithfulness of it and bring us home.

Teach us to hold our certainties more loosely than we hold You. We have called perception reality and defended conclusions we should have surrendered years ago. Demolish the strongholds we have furnished and decorated. Take our thoughts captive — about people we have written off, about ourselves in the dark, about a future we have already decided — and give us truth at the pace our hearts can bear.

Thank You for every vehicle You have used to carry us here — every season, every mentor, every deliverance. But do not let us live on the bus. Keep us from honoring the scaffolding while the Son of the house waits to be honored. You did not bring us out only to celebrate coming out. You brought us out so we could come to the mountain, and You built the house so You could live in it — and the house is us.

So today, while it is still called today, keep our hearts soft. Where they have gone astray, call them back before the drift becomes a direction. Where convenience has quietly replaced consecration, tell us the truth about it. And give us each other, Lord — people close enough to see what we cannot see, and humility enough to let them speak.

We are not asking for a cheaper house. We are asking for Yours. Whatever it costs, we want the paycheck that comes from living under Your lease and hearing Your voice. So here we are — minds fixed, hearts open, ready to be coached. Speak, Lord. We are listening, and we intend to answer today.

In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.