
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Kansas City, Missouri

SIX-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Recalled:

Sin's Hidden Damage and the Word That Makes Us Whole

ANCHOR SCRIPTURE

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1 JOHN 1:7 (NIV)

Based on the message by

Dr. Stan Archie

SENIOR PASTOR & CO-FOUNDER

Week of September 27, 2026

Expository. Biblically grounded. Transforming every day.

DAY ONE — RECALLED: THE WATER LOOKED FINE

SCRIPTURE READING

GENESIS 3:6–8 (NIV)

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie opened with a picture from Arizona, where a flood rose knee-high through parks, soccer fields, and neighborhood streets. The kids came out and saw a swimming pool. Some paddled makeshift kayaks across the fields, some played football in the standing water, some turned the hillsides into mudslides. Everything looked fine. What nobody could see was what the water carried — bacteria, animal waste, oil, fertilizer, trash. They swallowed it, and it covered them. At the time it was fun. The infections came later.

That is how sin works, and it is why the first garden reads the way it does. The fruit was good for food, pleasing to the eye, desirable for wisdom. Nothing about it looked toxic. Eve saw what those children saw — something to enjoy — and the damage arrived after the taste: opened eyes, shame, fig leaves, and two people hiding from the God whose footsteps they once welcomed. We will throw out a bag of chips at the first recall notice; some of us have not touched lettuce in months. But the recall God announced in that garden, we treat as a suggestion.

“We think you can sin, take a shower, and hope the sin goes away. It might taste good for the moment, but it is going to come back and haunt you. God had a recall on the flesh way back in Genesis 3 — and we still act like the toxin is not there.”

— DR. STAN ARCHIE

The problem, Dr. Archie told us, is that we do not know how sinful sin is. The New Testament’s main word for it, *hamartia*, pictures missing the mark — falling short of what you were designed for. Think of a lawnmower that starts, runs, and makes all the right noise, yet cannot cut grass. It can do plenty; it just cannot do the one thing it was built for. Sin leaves many of us right there: saved, active, busy, and no longer equipped for our calling without restoration.

And the damage lingers. Forgiveness is real and complete, yet sin, like a long illness, can leave an aftereffect — some who had COVID years ago are still fighting the fog. Sin distorts the mind, disorders the emotions, damages the body, and disrupts fellowship with God. This week we will walk through each, not to shame anyone, but to stop calling the flood a pool. Before you wade into anything this week, ask what is in the water.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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

1. *Where in my life right now am I “playing in the water” — enjoying something because it looks fine, while quietly ignoring what might be in it?*

2. *Do I honestly believe sin is toxic, or do I treat it like dirt that washes off with a quick apology? What does my pattern of confession reveal about how sinful I really think sin is?*

3. *Like the lawnmower that runs but will not cut, where am I busy and active yet no longer doing the one thing God designed me to do? What would restoration look like in that area?*

4. *What is one “recalled” thing — a habit, an entertainment, a relationship pattern — that God is asking me to throw out this week rather than taste one more time?*

DAY TWO — A WALL BETWEEN US: HOW SIN DAMAGES THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE READING

1 JOHN 1:5–6 (NIV)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

ISAIAH 59:1–2 (NIV)

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie took us back to the days before GPS. You had a folded paper map and a copilot tracing the route beside you. Take a wrong turn, and the map said nothing. And one map did not fit all — at the state line you bought Oklahoma's map, then Arkansas's. That, he said, is something like the Old Testament. We have something better. The Holy Spirit lives within us, and He speaks: that is not what that scripture says; you came with your agenda instead of Mine; that choice is out of line with what I commanded.

But a voice can only guide someone who is listening, and sin's first damage is spiritual: it builds a wall. Isaiah refuses to blame God for the distance. His arm is not too short, His ear is not too dull — you do not have to repeat yourself; He heard you. Our iniquities are what separate. The wall stands in both directions, and we cannot step around it, because our sin goes wherever we go. The only way through is to deal with the sin and let the wall come down.

“What sin does is it keeps God from getting to me, and it keeps me from getting to God. You can tell Him, “God, You need to move over” — but He is always in the right place. You cannot get away from your own sin. You have to break the wall down.”

— DR. STAN ARCHIE

John makes it sharper. God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim fellowship with Him while walking in darkness, we lie — there is no dim corner inside Christ where a habit can be stored. Then John adds a second charge: we do not live out the truth. We heard it. We were at church. We filled in the worksheet. Then we got home and did not live it.

Dr. Archie described a Chiefs game where the quarterback broke the huddle and threw to a spot that looked like the other team's. Everyone criticized him — until it came out that a receiver was supposed to be there. Jesus takes a lot of criticism for plays His people never ran. Some never came to the huddle; some heard the call and ran their own route. The Spirit is given to teach us and remind us, so that when we leave Sunday's huddle, we run the play. This week, listen for His correction, and take the next exit sooner.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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

- 1.** *Is there a sense of distance between me and God right now — prayers that feel unheard, a Bible that feels closed? Have I been blaming God's arm or ear for what may actually be a wall I built?*

- 2.** *What specific sin am I trying to keep in a "dim corner" while still claiming fellowship with the God in whom there is no darkness at all?*

- 3.** *When the Holy Spirit tells me "that is not what the scripture says" or "you came with your agenda, not Mine," how do I usually respond? What would it look like to turn around at the very next exit?*

- 4.** *What did God call in last Sunday's huddle that I have not yet run? Name one concrete way I will run that route before this week is over.*

DAY THREE — WHAT IS GOD ADVERTISING? HOW SIN CLAIMS THE BODY

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 6:12–13 (NIV)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie described a luxury-car commercial that seemed to be about anything but a car — soft music, a sultry voice, a wink exchanged outside a hotel — until the last second named the brand. Then he turned it on us. People are trying to figure out what God is advertising, and they are watching us. Your body was meant to be a living sacrifice for God’s glory, a walking picture of biblical living, so that an unbeliever can look at your life and say, “Oh, that’s what they’re talking about.” So what is He advertising through you? Foul language? Emotional explosions? Whatever fills your screen after midnight?

Sin’s second damage is physical: it seeks control of the body through its desires and uses it as an instrument of wrongdoing. Do not let sin reign, Paul says, so that you obey its evil desires. When we obey our desires, sin is in charge; we have let it babysit the body. And if we insist we have no evil desires, we have not met ourselves yet. The flesh carries the toxin, and its pull runs away from God.

“You are an ad that models what biblical living looks like. People who are unsaved should look at you and say, “Oh, that’s what they’re talking about.” So when they look at you — what is God advertising? What is His brand?”

— DR. STAN ARCHIE

Then Paul goes further. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin. Sin rarely demands everything at once; it asks for a piece — your eyes for an hour, your tongue in one conversation, your hands on one transaction. Dr. Archie told us there are parts of him that belong only to his wife, beginning with his heart. He cannot lend them out or let anyone else take charge of them. God asks His people the same question: if you gave Me every part, why do you keep lending what is Mine to someone else?

The consequences reach beyond us. Dr. Archie reminded us that “friendly fire” never feels friendly to the one who gets hit. Members of the same body wound one another when parts God armed for righteousness are handed to sin — the tongue meant to build tears down; the hands meant to serve take. This week, pick one part — your mouth, your eyes, your time, your screen — and deliberately hand it back to the One who brought you from death to life.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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

- 1.** *If a stranger watched one ordinary week of my life — my words, my habits, my screen, my reactions — what would they conclude God is advertising?*

- 2.** *Which desire most often gets to “babysit” my body — appetite, lust, anger, laziness, the need to be seen? When I obey it, what is it usually promising me?*

- 3.** *What part of me — eyes, tongue, hands, time — have I been lending to sin one piece at a time while still calling myself fully His? What would taking it back look like?*

- 4.** *Where have I been caught in “friendly fire,” wounding someone who wears the same uniform? What step will I take this week to repair it and offer that part of me as an instrument of righteousness instead?*

DAY FOUR — A HOARDED HEART: WHEN DESIRES BECOME DEMANDS

SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 4:1–3 (NIV)

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie described an episode of a hoarding show: a house so packed it looked like a junkyard, every item precious to its owner. Then the crew started clearing, and rooms appeared — that was a living room, there's a couch, there's a bed, that was the kitchen. Everything had been there all along, buried. Our hearts are the same. God gave us a heart to connect to Him and to the people who belong to Him. Pile it high with resentment, unforgiveness, and old wounds, and nothing can be used for its original purpose until the junk comes out.

Sin's third damage is emotional: it turns desires into demands, produces inner conflict, and damages relationships. James asks what causes our fights and answers plainly — the desires battling within you. We have internal issues we never fixed, and they spill out on everybody else. You want and do not have, so you quarrel. Somebody had better not say anything to me today. And that is my seat.

“We got so much junk in there that you can't microwave a sandwich. You don't have a couch to sit on. But under all that stuff there is a living room — things that could be used for their original purpose if you get the junk out of the way.”

— DR. STAN ARCHIE

Then James turns to prayer. You do not have because you do not ask; and when you ask, you do not receive, because your motives are wrong. Dr. Archie pressed it with a saying we love: God will not give you more than you can handle. At twenty dollars a week, a two-dollar tithe is easy. At twenty thousand, the percentage is the same, but now it is two thousand dollars — and suddenly we are not so sure. God knows exactly where our obedience ends, and He is merciful enough not to hand us what would ruin us. The same is true of the husband or wife we keep asking for. He knows how we would treat them if we had them.

So the unanswered prayer and the short temper may share a root. If you are not getting it, check your motive. If you are fussing at everyone because you do not have it, check yourself. Many of us want the world to change so we will stop feeling frustrated, while God is waiting to clear out a room. This week, before you blame the person in front of you, walk into your own heart and name one thing that needs to go.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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

1. *If God walked through the rooms of my heart today, what would He find piled up — resentment, unforgiveness, disappointment, comparison? Which room can no longer be used for its original purpose?*

2. *Looking at my most recent conflict, what desire was battling inside me before it ever came out on someone else? What was I demanding that I had not surrendered?*

3. *What have I been asking God for that I have not received? If I am honest about my motive, what would I do with it — and would it draw me closer to Him or further away?*

4. *What is one piece of “junk” I will carry out of my heart this week — a grudge to release, a conversation to have, an apology to make?*

DAY FIVE — HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? HOW SIN DARKENS UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 1:21–22, 25 (NIV)

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools... They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie recalled a question his mother used to ask: “Have you lost your mind?” As a boy he would answer that he thought it was still there. But she was not asking about his head; she was naming an obvious dysfunction in his thinking. Sin’s fourth damage lands right there. God gave us minds to make sound judgments and carry out His agenda. Sin darkens understanding and makes falsehood sound reasonable — and without a vaccine against it, we can be contaminated and never know. John warns that if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves. A sick person with nothing to compare against assumes sick is normal.

Paul traces how the slide happens. They knew God, but they did not treat Him as God. They did not glorify Him or thank Him. Dr. Archie compared it to the way some people treat parents they plainly know — familiar, yet no honor. From there, thinking became futile, hearts darkened, and claiming to be wise they became fools. They exchanged God’s glory for images and the truth for a lie. Our images are labels and logos; we glorify what we own and want the stuff more than we want God. So God gave them over to what they wanted, and even sex slipped out of the marriage covenant it was designed for.

“They knew God, but they didn’t treat Him like God. Some people think God serves us. Some people get mad at God because He didn’t do what they thought He should do. Some take the love God gave them and give it to somebody else rather than back to Him. Have you lost your mind?”

— DR. STAN ARCHIE

Dr. Archie applied it to how we choose a spouse. No business owner hires an accountant and a salesperson only because they like each other; you confirm that each is qualified, or they will spend more time on each other than on the work. Yet we marry on feeling alone — when the job is raising human beings, in a season of time that cannot be refunded.

So, have we lost our minds? Some believe God exists to serve them. Some are angry because He did not do what they expected. Some take the love He gave them and hand it to everything but Him. The remedy begins where the slide began: honor God as God, and thank Him. This week, notice the thought you repeat most without checking it, and ask whether it came from the Word or from the water.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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

1. *Where do I know God but not treat Him as God — familiar with Him, yet slow to honor Him or thank Him? What does my gratitude over the past week reveal?*

2. *What belief do I hold about God, relationships, money, or myself that feels reasonable but that I have never actually tested against Scripture? Could it be a falsehood sin has made sound like sense?*

3. *What created things — possessions, status, appearance, a relationship — have been receiving the glory, attention, or desire that belongs to the Creator? What would putting them back in their place look like?*

4. *What is one thought pattern I will deliberately replace with a specific truth from God's Word this week? Which verse will I use, and where will I keep it in front of me?*

DAY SIX — WHICH TIRE IS FLAT? WALKING BACK INTO THE LIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING

1 JOHN 1:7, 9 (NIV)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sunday Dr. Archie closed with a car he saw rolling at thirty miles an hour on a flat tire, rim grinding, sparks flying. The driver seemed to think that once he reached his destination, everything would be fine. But every block was destroying the rim and much more. Which tire is flat for you, he asked — spiritual, physical, emotional, or mental? You cannot fix all four at once. Usually one is worst. Start there.

The good news is that the Word that exposes the damage also repairs it. Where sin separates the spirit, God's Word restores it, so we stay connected to Him through it — and in an age of clips and podcasts, we must not give shortcuts the same credibility as the truth. Where sin corrupts the body, the Word disciplines it; if my actions are not under its authority, sin is governing me. Where sin disorders the emotions, the Word stabilizes them: I may feel differently, but I surrender my feelings to His truth. Where sin darkens the mind, the Word renews it, replacing deceptive strongholds with truth (Romans 12:2).

“You’re damaging a whole lot of stuff while you ride on a flat tire. Which one of these tires is flat for you right now — your spiritual life, your physical life, your emotional life, or your mental life? That’s the tire you need to start working on.”

— DR. STAN ARCHIE

John shows us that restoration does not happen alone. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus purifies us. Dr. Archie put it simply: if the person beside you is still a stranger, check your walk. Light makes us visible to each other, and fellowship is where feedback happens. Somebody needs to be able to tell you your attitude is out of line or your ego is running the room — and you need to be able to hear it. To assume you have no blind spots is the highest level of immaturity.

Then comes the promise: if we confess, He is faithful and just to forgive and to purify. That is the remedy for every recall. If you have never received Christ, this is where restoration begins, and our CFBC family is ready to walk with you and connect you to the body. For everyone else, name your flat tire today, and pull over before it ruins the rim.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

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

- 1.** *Of the four — spiritual, physical, emotional, mental — which tire is flattest for me right now? What “sparks” have I been ignoring while I keep driving?*

- 2.** *What source of spiritual input have I been giving more credibility than God’s Word itself? Honestly, how much of my week actually runs on the Word?*

- 3.** *Who in my life has permission to tell me the truth about my blind spots? If no one does, whom will I invite into that role, and how will I respond when they speak?*

- 4.** *What specific sin do I need to bring into the light and confess this week — to God, and where wise, to a trusted believer — so that restoration can begin?*

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we confess that we have played in water we should have run from. It looked like a pool. It felt like fun. We did not see what was in it until the infection came. You issued Your recall in the garden, and we kept tasting what You told us to throw away. We have treated sin like dirt that washes off, when it has poisoned what You made us to be. Forgive us for making light of what cost Your Son His life.

Father, You are light, and in You there is no darkness at all. Your arm is not too short to save, and Your ear is not too dull to hear. When we have felt far from You, it was not because You moved. Our iniquities built the wall. Break it down, Lord. Speak to us by Your Spirit when we take the wrong exit, and give us the humility to turn around. Teach us and remind us, so that when we leave the huddle, we run the play.

We give You our bodies again — every part. Where we have let sin reign, dethrone it. Where we have lent our eyes, our tongues, our hands, and our hours to wickedness, take them back as instruments of righteousness. Make our lives an honest advertisement of Your grace, so that people who watch us can see whose we are. Forgive us for the friendly fire, and heal the brothers and sisters we have wounded.

Come into the hoarded rooms of our hearts. Carry out the resentment, the unforgiveness, and the old wounds we have treated like treasure. Search our motives when we ask and do not receive, and thank You for loving us too much to give us what would ruin us. Renew our minds. Where we have known You but not honored You as God or given You thanks, turn us back to gratitude. Where falsehood has begun to sound like reason, let Your Word tell us the truth.

We confess that we have been driving on flat tires and calling it progress. Show each of us which one to tend first. Restore our spirits through Your Word, discipline our bodies by it, steady our emotions under it, and renew our minds with it. Place us in fellowship where we can be seen, corrected, and loved, and give us ears to hear what we cannot see in ourselves.

You have promised that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us and to purify us from all unrighteousness. We take You at Your word. We walk back into the light this week, not because we are clean, but because the blood of Jesus, Your Son, is still able to make us clean. Restore what sin has damaged, and send us out whole. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.