

WHERE SUFFERING BECOMES MEANING

Entering the Garden

A 10-Day Devotional

a companion to the book

The Garden of Gethsemane

When the World Is Against You and God Isn't

by Elias Colon

Before You Begin

It was 12 AM. The world was asleep, but I couldn't rest. So I drove to the beach — one of the few places quiet enough for me to hear my own broken heart. I fell to my knees in the sand. I wept. I shouted. I screamed at God. "Why did You let this happen? I've done everything You asked... everything." My voice cracked. "I can't do this anymore."

That night on the sand was where my Garden began.

My name is Elias. Over the hardest season of my life, I lost eight months of my daughter's life, faced accusations that weren't true, watched my marriage come apart, and wrestled with God in a silence that felt like abandonment. I wasn't preaching. I wasn't strong. I was just a man, raw and broken, before the God I loved and felt had turned away.

But He was there. Even on the floor. Even in the silence. And I came out of it believing one thing more than ever: God meets us in the Garden. He met me there — and He hasn't forgotten you.

This devotional is short on purpose. Take one day at a time. Read the Scripture slowly. Sit with the teaching. And don't skip the question at the end — write your answer down, even if it's only a sentence. The Garden does its work when we're honest in it.

You don't have to walk through the Garden alone.

— Elias

DAY 1

Enter the Garden Before It Enters You

| *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...* —
Psalm 23:4

Pain avoided does not disappear. It descends.

It goes underground and begins to govern you from beneath. It becomes anger, fear, control, bitterness, and anxiety.

Jesus entered Gethsemane because the Garden is where the soul tells the truth. It is the place where illusion dies.

Do not run from the place where God intends to meet you.

TODAY'S RULE

Face what is painful before it becomes your master.

PRAYER

Father, give me courage to enter the Garden with You. Help me stop running from what You want to heal. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

What pain have I been avoiding?

DAY 2

Tell the Truth Before the Lie Becomes a Prison

| *Speak the truth in love...* — Ephesians 4:15

A lie is not harmless. It is a crooked structure inside the soul.

Every time you protect a lie, you deform yourself a little more.

Truth feels dangerous because it destroys false peace. But false peace is not peace. It is fear disguised as wisdom.

Jesus spoke truth because love without truth cannot rescue anyone.

TODAY'S RULE

Speak truth so your soul can remain whole.

PRAYER

Lord, make me honest without being cruel, and loving without being cowardly. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

Where have I called silence “peace”?

DAY 3

Wrestle With God Instead of Pretending You Are Fine

| *You have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.* —
Genesis 32:28

Jacob was renamed in the wrestling.

Not in comfort. Not in denial. Not in pretending.

There are struggles that destroy false identity. You enter as Jacob, but you leave as Israel.

God is not afraid of your questions. But He will not bless your dishonesty.

TODAY'S RULE

Bring the war inside you to God.

PRAYER

God, I will not fake peace. Meet me in the struggle and rename what is broken in me. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

What am I wrestling with that I need to bring before God honestly?

DAY 4

Let the False Self Die Before It Kills the True One

| *Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies...* — John 12:24

Not everything in you deserves resurrection.

Pride must die. Bitterness must die. Control must die. The self built on fear must die.

God is not destroying you. He is separating what is false from what is eternal.

The seed must fall before it can multiply.

TODAY'S RULE

Let God bury what cannot bear fruit.

PRAYER

Lord, kill what is false in me so what is true can live. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

What part of me is God asking me to surrender?

DAY 5

Do Not Ask for Resurrection While Avoiding the Cross

| *Take up your cross and follow Me.* — Mark 8:34

Everyone wants the empty tomb.

Few want Gethsemane. Few want surrender. Few want the cross.

But resurrection is not cheap optimism. It is what God brings after obedience has gone all the way down.

The cross is where desire bows before destiny.

TODAY'S RULE

Carry the burden that leads to life.

PRAYER

Jesus, help me stop negotiating with obedience. Teach me to follow You fully. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

Where do I want victory without surrender?

DAY 6

Stay Awake While Others Sleep

| *Could you not watch with Me one hour?* — Matthew 26:40

The disciples slept at the most important moment.

That is what comfort does. It makes the soul unconscious.

Prayer is the discipline of staying awake. It keeps you aware of God, aware of temptation, and aware of the seriousness of the hour.

Do not sleep through your calling.

TODAY'S RULE

Remain spiritually awake when comfort invites you to disappear.

PRAYER

Lord, wake up my spirit. Do not let me miss what You are doing. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

Where have I become spiritually numb?

DAY 7

Surrender Your Will Before It Destroys You

| *Not My will, but Yours be done.* — Luke 22:42

The human will is powerful.

But when it is not submitted to God, it becomes a tyrant.

Jesus was not weak when He surrendered. He was strongest there.

“Not my will” is not defeat. It is the moment the soul becomes aligned with heaven.

TODAY’S RULE

Submit desire to God before desire becomes your god.

PRAYER

Father, I surrender my will to Yours. Teach me to trust You more than I trust myself. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

What desire has become too powerful in me?

DAY 8

Let Your Limp Become Your Testimony

| *He was limping because of his hip.* — Genesis 32:31

Jacob limped after meeting God.

The limp was not shame. It was evidence.

Some encounters leave a mark. Some wounds become wisdom. Some scars become sermons.

Do not hide what God used to humble you, heal you, and change the way you walk.

TODAY'S RULE

Do not waste the wound God turned into wisdom.

PRAYER

Lord, redeem my scars. Let my limp testify that You met me in the night. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

What wound has God turned into a testimony?

DAY 9

What Is Buried in Obedience Will Rise in Power

| *If we died with Him, we will also live with Him.* — 2 Timothy 2:11

Some things feel like death when you lay them down.

A dream. A relationship. A plan. A version of yourself.

But what is buried in obedience is not wasted.

Bitterness turns burial into decay. Faith turns burial into resurrection.

TODAY'S RULE

Surrender it cleanly, and trust God with the resurrection.

PRAYER

God, help me bury nothing in bitterness. Let everything I surrender become seed in Your hands. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

What have I buried in bitterness that I need to surrender in faith?

DAY 10

Do Not Enter the Garden Without the Father

| *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted...* — Psalm 34:18

You cannot survive Gethsemane by discipline alone.

You cannot outthink sorrow. You cannot overpower grief. You cannot carry the dark night by yourself.

Jesus entered the Garden with prayer. So must you.

The silence of God may feel like absence, but silence is not always absence. Sometimes God is nearest when He seems quietest.

TODAY'S RULE

Do not confuse God's silence with God's absence.

PRAYER

Father, meet me in the Garden. Hold me where I am breaking. Teach me to trust You in the silence. Amen.

YOUR GARDEN

Where do I need to invite the Father into my suffering?

Closing Prayer

*Father,
I bring You my Garden.
The pain I avoided.
The truth I feared.
The cross I resisted.
The wound I hid.
The will I protected.
Meet me there.
Do not let suffering make me bitter.
Let it make me honest.
Let it make me humble.
Let it make me more like Christ.
Amen.*

The Garden Was Never the End

You made it through ten days. That matters more than it might feel like right now.

The Garden isn't where your story ends — it's the middle. It's where the breaking happens so the becoming can follow. No one leaves it the same way they entered. And no one has to walk through it alone.

Keep walking with us.

Join The Garden Community — a place for people navigating grief, betrayal, waiting seasons, family struggles, and spiritual growth. Weekly encouragement, devotionals, and people who understand the hard seasons.

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