



The Harness Devotional

12 October – 17 October, 2026

Phoebe: Deacon in the Church

Verses: Romans 16:1-2

¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. ² I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me. (NIV)

Song of the week: ["Servant's Heart" -by Laura Huval.](#)

This is a sincere Christian song about giving one's life to God and deciding to serve Him with humility, love, and obedience. The song centers on the wish to set aside personal ambition and let God mold one's heart into that of a genuine servant. The song expresses the prayer: "Lord, take my life, make my heart like Yours, and use me as a humble servant wherever You need me."

Monday, Day 1: A Trustworthy Sister

Scripture: "I commend to you our sister Phoebe..." — Romans 16:1

The Message: Paul wrote his most famous theological letter to the Roman Church. But he did not mail it through a post office. He hand-picked Phoebe to carry this precious document across dangerous seas and roads. Paul trusted her completely. To be called a "sister" in the early church meant you were a

valued part of God's family. God values you and trusts you to carry His message of love to your world today.

Reflection Question: Who has God placed in your life right now who needs you to be a trustworthy friend?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for making me a part of your family. Help me be a trustworthy and faithful sister to those around me.

Tuesday, Day 2: The Heart of a Servant

Scripture: "...a deacon of the church in Cenchreae." — Romans 16:1

The Message: The Greek word for deacon is *diakonos*, which means a servant or minister. Her hometown church officially recognized Phoebe as a dedicated leader of service. She did not seek fame or a giant stage. She focused on meeting practical needs, caring for the sick, and organizing church work. We find true greatness in God's kingdom by how well we serve others.

Reflection Question: What is one practical, behind-the-scenes way you can serve your local church body this week?

Prayer: Jesus, give me the heart of a true servant. Help me find joy in doing the quiet work that helps others thrive.

Wednesday, Day 3: Generosity with a Purpose

Scripture: "...for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me." — Romans 16:2

The Message: The word benefactor means a patron or financial supporter. Phoebe was probably a woman of high social standing and wealthy. She used her personal

funds, business connections, and home to support missionaries like Paul. She didn't hoard her blessings; she poured back into the kingdom. God blesses us so that we can become a pipeline of blessings to the world around us.

Reflection Question: Look at your finances and resources. How can you intentionally use them to fund God's work?

Prayer: Father, everything I have belongs to you. Teach me to be generous with my resources to help support your kingdom.

Thursday, Day 4: Stepping into the Unknown

Scripture: "...that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people..." — Romans 16:2

The Message: Phoebe traveled from her home in Cenchreae to the massive city of Rome. Traveling back then was terrifying, dirty, and risky. Yet, she stepped out of her comfort zone because she had a divine mission. Faith often requires us to leave what is safe and step into the unfamiliar. When God calls you to a task, He will always provide the courage you need to go.

Reflection Question: Is God asking you to step out of your comfort zone in some area of your life right now?

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to step out in faith when you call me, even if the road ahead looks scary.

Friday, Day 5: Delivering the Truth

Scripture: "...and to give her any help she may need from you..." — Romans 16:2

The Message: Most historians believe Phoebe didn't just deliver the Letter to the Romans; she likely read it aloud to the house churches and explained its deep meaning. Imagine that! The very first person to teach and interpret the Book of Romans was a faithful woman. God uses women's voices to bring clarity, wisdom, and truth into rooms that are desperate for hope.

Reflection Question: How can you spend more time learning God's truth so you are ready to share it with others?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill my mouth with wisdom. Help me speak your truth clearly to those who have questions.

Saturday, Day 6: A Worthy Welcome

Scripture: "...welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints..." — Romans 16:2

The Message: Paul told the Roman church to give Phoebe a royal welcome. Why? Because her legacy of service made her worthy of deep respect. Sometimes, we feel like our quiet work for God goes completely unnoticed by people. But Heaven sees it all. Your labor of love is building an eternal legacy. One day, you will receive the ultimate welcome from your King.

Reflection Question: How does knowing that God sees and rewards your quiet service bring comfort to your soul today?

Prayer: Jesus, I do my work for your applause alone. Thank you for noticing me and loving me. Amen.