

## **DAY I**

# **BLACK FRIDAY AND FAITH**

*"For the grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all, . . . .  
while we wait for the blessed hope  
and the manifestation of the glory  
of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."*

—*Titus 2:11-13*

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart; . . . .  
and lead me in the way everlasting."*

—*Psalm 139:23, 24*

On Black Friday many of us want it all and we want it now. Or at least we want it for a family member or friend. Welcome to frenzied Friday!

At the mall near us the crowd is so large that cars are parked on the grassy knolls next to the already jam-packed parking lots. Perhaps you are part of that crowd. It's okay if you are; joining that melee to buy presents can be fun. It does illustrate how frenzied some of us become to get in on the ground floor of merchandise.

Then there's Advent with no Black Friday. "Wait" is an Advent word that means the opposite of Black Friday. Wait to receive a gift this Advent but expect it to include a task assigned to you, a responsibility given or helpful news.

Expect that gift today or next week or even later, but don't compete for a traffic space at the mall in order to find your gift. Make prayer a regular part of your day. Search scripture for direction.

Open your mind and heart to God's guidance over the next days and weeks. Prepare well and wait. Black Friday will pale by comparison.

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### **Going Deeper**

**Many of us Americans aren't great at waiting. Try countering our affinity for instant gratification. Stop your daily duties earlier than usual and just wait—until your ride comes, until your next meal is ready or until a text comes through. Spend the time relaxing in God's presence.**

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*Almighty God, forgive my desire to have everything right now. Instead, put me in touch with your timeless presence, your eternal perspective, and your boundless love. Reveal to me the gifts of service and care that you have in mind for me. In the name of Christ. Amen.*