

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: One Church, One Responsibility

Devotional

It is easy to feel connected to people who look like us, think like us, and share our history. But Paul had a different vision. He asked Gentile believers in Corinth to give generously to Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. These two groups had real reasons to keep their distance. Different cultures, different traditions, and a long history of tension between them. And yet Paul saw them as one body.

This was not just a fundraising effort. It was a declaration. The gospel does not allow us to treat the suffering of another believer as someone else's problem. When one part of the body hurts, the whole body responds. That is not a suggestion. It is the natural result of belonging to the same Lord.

You may not know someone personally who is struggling right now. But somewhere in the global church, someone is. And your generosity, your awareness, your willingness to act connects you to them in a way that makes the gospel visible.

This week, take a moment to think beyond your immediate circle. Consider who in your church, your community, or the broader body of Christ might need someone to show up for them. You are part of something much larger than your local congregation. There is only one church, and you belong to it.

Bible Verse

"Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do." - 1 Corinthians 16:1

Reflection Question

Is there a part of the body of Christ, near or far, whose suffering you have been treating as someone else's responsibility?

Quote

"There is only one church."

Prayer

Lord, expand my vision beyond my own circle and help me see the needs of Your whole church. Give me a generous and willing heart to respond. Amen.

Day 2: The Gospel Made Visible

Devotional

Theology without action is just information. Paul understood this deeply. After writing one of the most powerful passages in all of Scripture about the resurrection, he immediately turned to something practical: a collection of money for people in need. He did not separate the two. For Paul, the collection was the theology in action.

Jesus did not set aside His glory for people who looked like Him or shared His background. He gave Himself for all people. That kind of love does not stay abstract. It shows up. It writes a check. It drops off a meal. It makes a phone call.

When we give generously, serve sacrificially, or simply show up for someone who is struggling, we are not just doing a nice thing. We are making the gospel visible. We are showing the world what it looks like to follow a Savior who gave everything.

You do not need a grand platform to do this. The most powerful witness often happens in the quietest moments. A neighbor who sees you show up. A coworker who notices you give without being asked. A family member who watches you love someone who is hard to love. That is the gospel with skin on it, and it is one of the most compelling things the world can see.

Bible Verse

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come." - 1 Corinthians 16:2

Reflection Question

In what practical, everyday way could your actions this week make the gospel more visible to someone around you?

Quote

"Paul saw an opportunity to make the gospel visible."

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for making the gospel visible through Your own sacrifice. Help me to follow Your example and let my actions reflect Your love to those around me. Amen.

Day 3: Prepared to Move

Devotional

There is a difference between wanting to help and being ready to help. Most of us have good intentions. But when a crisis hits, good intentions without preparation often leave us standing still while the moment passes.

Paul's charge to the Corinthians was not passive. He told them to set something aside each week, consistently, so that when the time came, they would be ready. That kind of intentional preparation is an act of faith. It says, "I believe God is going to move, and I want to be ready when He does."

Living a resurrection life means planning ahead. It might look like keeping a little extra in your budget for Spirit-led giving. It might mean having a meal in your freezer for a neighbor who just got hard news. It might mean keeping your schedule flexible enough to say yes when someone needs you.

You do not have to wait for a crisis to prepare for one. In fact, the best time to prepare is before you need to act. When you build readiness into your ordinary rhythms, you become someone God can use quickly. And that is an exciting place to be. You are not just waiting for God to move. You are already positioned to move with Him.

Bible Verse

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." - 1 Corinthians 16:13

Reflection Question

What is one practical step you could take this week to be more prepared to respond when God calls you to serve someone in need?

Quote

"I want frozen meals in your freezers and a line item in your budget just labeled Holy Spirit."

Prayer

Father, help me to be intentional about preparing to serve others. Give me the wisdom to build readiness into my daily life so I am ready to move when You move. Amen.

Day 4: Strong Enough to Lift Someone Else

Devotional

There is a kind of strength that turns inward. It builds walls, protects resources, and focuses entirely on self-sufficiency. And then there is the kind of strength Paul is talking about. The kind that looks outward.

When Paul says to act with maturity and be strong, he is not calling us to independence. He is calling us to a strength that serves. The person who has worked hard, built something stable, and learned to stand on their own two feet has something powerful to offer. Not just their resources, but their example, their presence, and their willingness to reach back and help someone else find their footing.

Jesus is the ultimate model of this. He set aside His rights, His freedoms, and His infinite splendor, not to protect Himself, but so that others would know they belong to Him. That is strength used for others. That is maturity in action.

You have been given gifts, experiences, and resources for a reason. Some of what you have been through has made you stronger. And that strength is not just for you. Look around your family, your neighborhood, your community. Someone near you is struggling to stand. You might be exactly the person God has prepared to help them up.

Bible Verse

"Let all that you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Reflection Question

Who in your life right now could benefit from the strength, stability, or experience God has built in you?

Quote

"Be an adult. Be strong, self sufficient. Stand on your own two feet. So you pulled yourself up by your bootstraps. Pull someone else up by theirs."

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the strength You have developed in me through every season of life. Help me to use that strength to lift others rather than protect myself. Amen.

Day 5: Do Everything in Love

Devotional

Paul ends his letter with four short commands: be watchful, stand firm, act with maturity, be strong. And then he ties them all together with one final word. Do everything in love.

That last line is not a soft ending. It is the foundation that holds everything else together. Watchfulness without love becomes suspicion. Strength without love becomes control. Even the most generous act, done without love, is just noise.

But love changes everything. When you show up for someone because you genuinely care, it lands differently. When you give because you have been moved by God's love for you, it carries something that a transaction never could. What we do in love is actually the fruit of His love working in us and through us.

You are not doing this alone. You are drawing on the love of a God who gave everything for you. That same love is what fuels your love for others. It is not something you manufacture. It is something you receive and then pass on.

As you move through this week, carry these four words with you: watchful, firm, strong, loving. They are not just a closing charge from an ancient letter. They are a description of what it looks like to live a resurrection life, every single day, in every ordinary moment.

Bible Verse

"After our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity." - 1 Corinthians 16:12

Reflection Question

When you reflect on your recent actions toward others, how much of what you did was truly motivated by love rather than obligation or habit?

Quote

"With all that you do, be done in love."

Prayer

Father, fill me with Your love so that everything I do flows from it. Let my watchfulness, my faith, and my strength all be rooted in the love You have shown me through Jesus. Amen.