

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: A New Reality Starts Now

Devotional

Most of us have heard the phrase "He is risen" so many times that it can start to feel like a tradition rather than a truth that changes everything. But here is the thing: the resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a future promise. It is the reality you are living in right now.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15 that because Christ rose from the dead, everything has changed. Not just for eternity, but for today. Your identity is no longer shaped by your worst moments, your failures, or what other people think of you. The risen Christ has the final word over who you are.

Think about that for a moment. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in your life right now. That is not a small thing. It means you do not have to keep living as if the old story is still true. You belong to a risen Savior, and that changes everything about how you see yourself and how you move through the world.

You are not who your past says you are. You are not who your fear says you are. You are who Christ says you are, and He says you are His.

Bible Verse

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." - 1 Corinthians 15:20

Reflection Question

In what area of your life are you still living as if the resurrection has not changed anything?

Quote

If Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, and He has, then the reality in which we are living has changed.

Prayer

Lord, help me to truly believe that the resurrection is not just a future hope but a present reality. Teach me to live today as someone who belongs to the risen Christ. Amen.

Day 2: Taking Off the Grave Clothes

Devotional

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus walked out of the tomb alive. But he was still wrapped in burial cloths. He was raised, but not yet fully free. Jesus had to tell the people around him, "Unbind him, and let Him go."

That image is a powerful picture of where many of us live. We have been forgiven. We have been made new. But we are still walking around wrapped in things that belong to death: shame from our past, fear about our future, bitterness toward someone who hurt us, or the deep belief that our worst moments still define us.

The good news is that resurrection life is not just about where you end up. It is about who you are becoming right now. Christ does not leave you wrapped up. He calls people around you to help, and He calls you to let go of what no longer belongs to you.

You do not have to keep carrying what Christ has already dealt with. The grave clothes are not your identity. They are just what you have gotten used to wearing. Today is a good day to start taking them off.

Bible Verse

"The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let Him go.'" - John 11:44

Reflection Question

What is one thing you are still carrying that belongs to death, not to the new life Christ has given you?

Quote

We belong to the resurrected Christ. We are forgiven, and we've been made alive in Him. And yet sometimes we still walk around with things wrapped around us that belong to death.

Prayer

Jesus, show me what I am still holding onto that You have already set me free from. Give me the courage to let it go and walk in the freedom You purchased for me. Amen.

Day 3: You Labor From Victory, Not Toward It

Devotional

Here is a question worth sitting with: Do you approach your faith like someone trying to earn something, or like someone who has already been given everything?

Paul makes something clear in 1 Corinthians 15. Because Christ has risen, the victory is already secured. We are not working to win. We are working because we have already won. That is a completely different posture, and it changes everything about how we live.

When you love a difficult person, you are not trying to earn God's approval. You are responding to the grace He has already shown you. When you serve quietly, when no one notices, when you keep showing up even when it is hard, you are not building a case for your own worthiness. You are living out of the freedom that resurrection life provides.

This also means your labor is never wasted. What you offer faithfully to Christ, He uses. Your work, your prayers, your small acts of obedience, none of it is for nothing. Because the victory belongs to Him, everything done in His name carries weight that outlasts what you can see.

You are not trying to get somewhere. You are already there. Now live like it.

Bible Verse

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 15:57

Reflection Question

How would your daily choices look different if you truly believed you were laboring from victory rather than laboring toward it?

Quote

We don't labor for victory. We labor from victory.

Prayer

Father, thank You that the victory is already Yours. Help me to live and serve from that place of freedom rather than striving to earn what You have already given. Amen.

Day 4: Hope That Defies, Not Denies

Devotional

Resurrection hope is not pretending everything is fine. It is not putting on a smile and acting like pain does not exist. That is denial, and it is not what Christ calls us to.

Resurrection hope is something much stronger. It is defiance. It is looking at a hard situation, a broken relationship, a diagnosis, a loss, a season that feels like it will never end, and saying, "This is not the whole story."

Paul knew what it was like to suffer. He faced danger, hardship, and opposition. But he did not let those things have the final word. He held onto the truth that because Christ rose, what we see right now is not all there is. The story is still being written, and the One writing it has already defeated death.

That changes how you hold onto hope. You do not have to pretend the hard thing is not hard. You can grieve, struggle, and be honest about the weight of it. But you do not have to stay there without hope. Because Christ is risen, what feels like an ending may only be the middle of what God is doing.

Do not declare the story finished before God does.

Bible Verse

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death." - 1 Corinthians 15:26

Reflection Question

Is there a situation in your life right now where you have been tempted to give up hope? What would it look like to respond with defiance instead of despair?

Quote

Resurrection hope is not denial, it's defiance.

Prayer

Lord, when I am tempted to lose hope, remind me that You have already conquered the worst thing. Give me the courage to hold on and trust that You are not finished yet. Amen.

Day 5: Your Labor Is Never for Nothing

Devotional

One of the most discouraging feelings in the world is putting everything you have into something and wondering if it even matters. You pour into a relationship and it feels one-sided. You serve faithfully and no one notices. You pray and the answer seems slow in coming.

Here is what Paul wants you to know: because Christ is risen, your labor in Him is never wasted. Not a single act of faithfulness, not a single prayer, not a single moment of quiet obedience is lost. It all counts. It all matters. God sees it, and He uses it.

And here is the part that changes everything: your work is not the price of grace. It is the fruit of it. You are not serving to earn God's love. You are serving because you have already received it. That takes the pressure off and puts the joy back in.

Resurrection life spills out into every corner of your world. Your marriage, your friendships, your workplace, the way you treat people when no one is watching. All of it is an expression of the life Christ has placed in you.

So keep going. Keep showing up. Keep offering what you have to Him. Because in the Lord, it is never for nothing.

Bible Verse

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Reflection Question

Where in your life do you most need to be reminded that your faithful labor is not wasted?

Quote

Because Christ is risen, we know that what is offered faithfully to Him is never for nothing.

Prayer

Father, on the days when my efforts feel invisible or pointless, remind me that nothing offered to You is ever for nothing. Help me to keep going with joy, trusting that You are at work. Amen.