

## **Walking Backward into the Future with Faith Because He Lives**

### **Daily Devotional for May 5: Remembering God's Faithfulness**

**Reading: Psalm 77:11-15**

When anxiety about tomorrow threatens to overwhelm us, we must become students of yesterday—not to dwell on our failures, but to recall God's faithfulness. The psalmist intentionally chooses to "remember the deeds of the Lord" and "recall your wonders of old." This isn't nostalgia; it's spiritual warfare against fear. When you face an uncertain future—a health diagnosis, a relationship crisis, or financial worry—turn around and look at your past. Where did God show up? How did He provide? When did His presence sustain you through what seemed impossible? Those memories aren't just history; they're prophecies of His future faithfulness. Today, journal three times God proved faithful in your past, and let those memories anchor your hope for tomorrow.

### **Daily Devotional for May 6: The Present Moment's Gift**

**Reading: Matthew 6:25-34**

Jesus invites us into a radical way of living: fully present in today. Notice He doesn't say problems won't come or that planning is wrong. Rather, He addresses the corrosive power of worry—that mental time-travel that steals today's peace for tomorrow's maybes. Consider the birds and flowers: they exist fully in their present purpose, trusting the Creator who designed them. You are infinitely more valuable. When you catch yourself catastrophizing about next week, next year, or the unknown future, pause. What is God asking of you right now, in this moment? What grace is available to you today? Worry adds nothing to your life, but presence adds everything. Practice this: when anxiety strikes, name three things you can see, hear, or touch right now. Return to the present, where God meets you.

### **Daily Devotional for May 7: The Resurrection Changes Everything**

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

Because He lives, death has lost its sting. This isn't mere optimism; it's the foundation of Christian hope. The resurrection of Jesus transforms how we face every fear, especially our ultimate fear of death and loss. When we sit with loved ones in hospice, when we face our own mortality, when we grieve what we're losing, the empty tomb speaks louder than the grave. Paul's conclusion is crucial: "Therefore, stand firm. Let nothing move you." The resurrection doesn't remove suffering, but it reframes it. Your present pain isn't the final word. The God who raised Jesus from death holds your future—and that future is secure. Today, reflect on someone you've lost or fear losing. How does resurrection hope change your grief? Let it transform anxiety into confident trust.

### **Daily Devotional for May 8: God's Track Record**

**Reading: Exodus 14:10-14, 30-31**

The Israelites stood trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea—an impossible situation with no visible solution. Their past included slavery and suffering, their present held terror, and their future looked like death. Yet Moses declared: "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Then God parted the waters. This story isn't just ancient history; it's your story. When you face your own Red Sea moment—impossible circumstances, overwhelming odds, no way forward—remember this: the God who made a way then makes a way now. His track record is perfect. Every generation has witnessed His deliverance. Instead of focusing on the size of your problem, focus on the size of your God. What "Red Sea" are you facing today? Stand still and watch God work. His faithfulness in the past guarantees His faithfulness in your present crisis.

## **Daily Devotional for May 9: Holding the Future Loosely**

***Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-14***

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. Notice who holds the plans—not you. Our anxiety often stems from our desperate need to control outcomes, to guarantee certain futures, to protect ourselves and those we love from pain. But true peace comes when we release our grip on tomorrow and trust the One who already inhabits it. This doesn't mean passivity; it means partnering with God rather than playing God. When you sing "He holds the future," do you believe it, or are you still clutching tomorrow in your white-knuckled fists? Today, practice surrender. Name one thing about your future that causes anxiety—your children's safety, your health, your finances. Physically open your hands and release it to God. Pray: "Lord, I trust You with this. You hold my future." Then walk forward in faith, looking back at His faithfulness.