

Five-Day Devotional:

The resurrection of Christ aligns our faith and secures our future hope.

This 5-day devotional is from the sermon “The Promised Harvest” is based on 1 Corinthians 15, calls us to hold fast to the gospel. Discover how to guard against spiritual drift, stand on the unshakable truth of the resurrection, and live with confidence in the eternal hope we have in Christ.

Day 1: The Danger of Spiritual Drift

Devotional

Have you ever noticed how a boat can slowly drift from its anchor without anyone realizing it? The same thing happens in our spiritual lives. We don't usually wake up one morning and decide to abandon our faith. Instead, we gradually stop paying attention to the truths that once anchored us. The believers in Corinth experienced this exact problem. They started strong in their faith but slowly began drifting from foundational Christian beliefs as cultural pressures influenced their thinking. Today, we face similar challenges. Social media, popular culture, and even well-meaning friends can subtly shift our perspective away from God's truth. The solution isn't to isolate ourselves from the world, but to intentionally examine and hold fast to what Scripture teaches. When we stop actively engaging with God's Word and correcting our course, we become vulnerable to spiritual drift. The good news is that recognizing this tendency is the first step toward staying anchored in truth.

Bible Verse

'Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.' - Acts 17:11 (English Standard Version)

Reflection Question

What cultural influences in your life might be slowly pulling you away from biblical truth?

Quote

If we don't examine truth, we will slowly drift from it.

Prayer

Lord, help me to be like the Bereans who eagerly examined Your Word daily. Give me wisdom to recognize when I'm drifting and the courage to realign my heart with Your truth.

Day 2: Holding Fast to Truth

Devotional

In ancient times, sailors used a specific technique called 'holding fast' when storms threatened their ships. They would secure every rope, tighten every knot, and refuse to let go no matter how fierce the winds became. Paul used this same concept when he urged the Corinthians to 'hold fast' to the gospel. The Greek word *katechó* (κατέχω) means to cling tightly and refuse to let go. This isn't passive belief - it's active, intentional faith. In our daily lives, holding fast means more than just believing in Jesus. It means actively choosing His truth when culture offers alternatives. It means studying Scripture when entertainment beckons. It means praying when we'd rather scroll through our phones. The beautiful truth is that when we hold fast to God's Word, it holds fast to us. His promises become our anchor in life's storms. Every time we choose to align our thoughts and actions with Scripture, we strengthen our grip on eternal truth.

Bible Verse

'Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.' - 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (English Standard Version)

Reflection Question

In what specific area of your life do you need to 'hold fast' more intentionally to God's truth?

Quote

It means to cling tightly, to hold firmly and refuse to let go.

Prayer

Father, strengthen my grip on Your Word. When cultural pressures try to pull me away, help me cling tightly to the gospel that saves and sustains me.

Day 3: The Foundation That Cannot Be Shaken

Devotional

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he wasn't addressing a minor theological disagreement. He was correcting an attack on the very foundation of Christian faith - the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some in Corinth had begun to question whether bodily resurrection was real or just symbolic. This wasn't a small issue; it was the cornerstone that held everything else together. Paul responded by pointing them back to what was 'of first importance': Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day, exactly as Scripture promised. These weren't philosophical ideas or spiritual metaphors - they were historical facts witnessed by hundreds of people. When we face doubts or cultural pressures that challenge our faith, we can return to this same foundation. The resurrection isn't just an inspiring story; it's the historical event that validates everything Jesus claimed about Himself. It proves His power over death, confirms His identity as God's Son, and guarantees our own future hope. This foundation has weathered every storm for two thousand years and will continue to stand firm.

Bible Verse

'For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.' - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (English Standard Version)

Reflection Question

How does remembering the historical reality of Christ's resurrection strengthen your faith during difficult times?

Quote

He's not correcting a side issue. He's actually correcting the very foundation of the faith.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for rising from the dead as proof of Your victory over sin and death. Help me build my life on this unshakeable foundation.

Day 4: The Promise of Future Harvest

Devotional

In ancient Israel, farmers would bring the first and best fruits of their harvest to God as an offering called 'first fruits;' bikkurim (בִּכּוּרִים). This wasn't just a gift - it was a promise. When God accepted the first fruits, it guaranteed that He would bless and complete the entire harvest. Paul used this beautiful image to describe Jesus' resurrection. Christ is the first fruits of all who will be raised from the dead. His resurrection isn't just His personal victory; it's the guarantee of ours. When Jesus walked out of that tomb, He did so as our representative. What happened to Him will happen to everyone who belongs to Him. This truth transforms how we view our future. Death isn't the end of our story - it's just a temporary pause before our own resurrection. Our bodies aren't disposable containers for our souls; they're part of God's good creation that He plans to redeem and glorify. Just as Jesus' physical body was raised and transformed, so will ours be. This hope should fill us with confidence and joy, knowing that our best days aren't behind us but ahead of us.

Bible Verse

'But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.'
- 1 Corinthians 15:20 (English Standard Version)

Reflection Question

How does knowing that Jesus' resurrection guarantees your own future resurrection change how you view death and suffering?

Quote

Jesus didn't just rise for himself, he rose as a representative for everyone who will be found in him. What happens to Jesus will actually happen to us.

Prayer

Lord, thank You that Jesus' resurrection is the first fruits of my own. Help me live with confidence in the future You have promised me.

Day 5: Living with Eternal Perspective

Devotional

When Jesus rose from the dead, something unprecedented happened in human history. The empty tomb wasn't just a miracle - it was the beginning of a new reality breaking into our world. God wasn't scrapping His creation and starting over; He was beginning the process of redeeming and restoring everything. Jesus is the first piece of restored creation, showing us what our future will look like. This truth should radically impact how we live today. When we have clarity about eternity, we make different choices in the present. We invest in relationships that matter. We use our resources for kingdom purposes. We endure hardships with hope because we know they're temporary. We treat our bodies with respect because they're part of God's plan for our future. The resurrection reminds us that this world isn't all there is, but it also shows us that this world matters to God. He's not abandoning it - He's transforming it. As followers of the risen Christ, we get to participate in that transformation work right now, living as citizens of the kingdom that is both already here and not yet fully revealed.

Bible Verse

'For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.' - Romans 6:5 (English Standard Version)

Reflection Question

How can you live today in a way that reflects your confidence in Christ's resurrection and your future hope?

Quote

When you lose clarity on eternity, you start compromising in the present.

Prayer

Father, help me live with eternal perspective, making choices today that honor the resurrection hope You've given me through Jesus.