



SUMMIT HEIGHTS

METHODIST CHURCH

FIVE-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Anchored: Resurrection and Life

Romans 8:9-11

Pastor Chris Howlett

April 20, 2025

Day 1: Raised with Him

Scripture:

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” —Romans 8:11 (ESV)

Devotional Thought:

The resurrection isn’t just something that happened to Jesus long ago—it’s something that changes you right now. If you belong to Christ, the same Spirit who raised him from the grave lives in you. That means resurrection power is not merely a future promise, but a present reality. You are no longer bound by your past, fear, or shame. You’ve been given new life—and that life is anchored in the risen Christ.

Life Application Questions:

- What does it mean for the Spirit who raised Jesus to dwell in you?
- In what ways have you experienced “new life” because of your relationship with Christ?
- Are there areas in your life where you feel stuck in a “Friday” mindset? How might Easter truth reframe those?
- How can you live more fully in the resurrection power today?

Day 2: Forgiven, Not Canceled

Scripture:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” —Romans 8:1 (ESV)

Devotional Thought:

In a world quick to cancel, Christ comes to redeem. Culture is good at enforcing shame but offers no path to restoration. The cross of Jesus acknowledges the weight of sin, but the resurrection proves sin doesn’t get the final word. Because of Jesus, you are not condemned. You are forgiven, restored, and welcomed into communion with God. He bore your shame so you could walk in freedom.

Life Application Questions:

- Are there past sins or mistakes you've had trouble believing God has truly forgiven?
- How does God's forgiveness differ from the world's version of justice?
- What does it mean to live without condemnation?
- Who in your life needs to hear that forgiveness is possible?

Day 3: Perspective from the Peak**Scripture:**

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." —Romans 8:18 (ESV)

Devotional Thought:

Hiking a mountain can be exhausting, but the view from the top makes the journey worth it. The resurrection gives you a new vantage point. Even your pain is reframed through the lens of God's eternal glory. Jesus' victory over death doesn't just promise you heaven—it also lifts your perspective now. You're not alone in your suffering, and you're not without purpose. The Spirit helps you look beyond your struggle to the bigger story God is writing.

Life Application Questions:

- What challenge are you facing right now that needs a resurrection perspective?
- How might God be using your current struggle to shape your character or mission?
- Can you think of a time when hindsight helped you see God's purpose in a hard season?
- What does it mean to live with "eternity in view"?

Day 4: Called for a Purpose**Scripture:**

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." —Romans 8:28 (ESV)

Devotional Thought:

Resurrection people don't just wait for heaven—they live with purpose on earth. You've been called by God, and he's working through all things—yes, even your wounds and worries—to shape you for his Kingdom mission. Like Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, one act of grace can revolutionize a life. You've received more than grace—you've received the Spirit who sends you out with purpose. You're not just saved from sin; you're saved for something.

Life Application Questions:

- What specific gifts or opportunities has God given you to fulfill your calling?
- How have you seen God work good from a situation that once seemed only painful?

- What would it look like to partner with God in your workplace, family, or community?
- Is there a “crusade of goodness” God is inviting you to join?

Day 5: Secure in His Victory

Scripture:

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” —Romans 8:37-39 (ESV)

Devotional Thought:

We live between D-Day and V-E Day. The decisive battle was won at the empty tomb, but the war isn’t over yet. There are still struggles and setbacks, but the victory is secure. The love of God in Christ Jesus holds you fast through it all. Because Jesus is alive, you are not fighting for victory—you’re fighting from it. Let that truth fill you with courage, confidence, and joy.

Life Application Questions:

- What battles are you facing today that feel like they’re still raging?
- How does knowing the war is already won change the way you live, work, and pray?
- In what ways are you tempted to believe that something can separate you from God’s love?
- What would it look like for you to live boldly because of the resurrection?