



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Foundations

SERIES: DIVINE PURPOSE | SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 2/1/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: The Most Important Question You'll Ever Answer

Devotional: Have you ever been asked a question that stopped you in your tracks? Jesus posed such a question to His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" This wasn't a casual conversation starter or a theological debate. It was the most important question anyone could ever answer. Peter's response came from divine revelation: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This wasn't something he figured out through human wisdom or religious study. God the Father revealed this truth to his heart. The same is true for us today - understanding who Jesus really is comes through spiritual insight, not just intellectual knowledge. Your answer to this question shapes everything about your life. It determines your priorities, your relationships, your decisions, and your eternal destiny. Some people know about Jesus historically, but knowing Him personally as Lord and Savior transforms everything. The beautiful truth is that this revelation is available to you right now. God wants to open your heart to understand who Jesus truly is - not just as a good teacher or moral example, but as the living Son of God who came to save you. When this truth becomes real in your heart, it changes how you see yourself, others, and your purpose in life. Today, take time to honestly examine your own answer to Jesus's question. Is He just a historical figure to you, or is He your personal Lord and Savior? The greatest discovery you can make is knowing who Jesus Christ truly is.

Bible Verse: "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'" - Matthew 16:13-19

Reflection Question: When you honestly examine your heart, who is Jesus Christ to you - a historical figure you've heard about, or your personal Lord and Savior who actively guides your daily life?

Quote: So who is Jesus Christ to you?

Prayer: Father, open my heart to truly understand who Jesus is. Help me move beyond head knowledge to heart revelation. Show me Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, and let this truth transform how I live each day. In Jesus's name, Amen.

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Day 2: Your Life Speaks Louder Than Your Words

Devotional: There's an old saying that rings especially true for followers of Christ: "Actions speak louder than words." What you truly believe about Jesus isn't just revealed in what you say on Sunday morning - it's demonstrated in how you live Monday through Saturday. People around you are watching. They're forming their opinions about God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ by observing your life. Your coworkers, neighbors, family members, and friends are reading the "living letter" of your daily choices, attitudes, and responses to life's challenges. This reality can feel overwhelming, but it's also incredibly encouraging. You have the privilege of being Jesus's representative in your corner of the world. Every act of kindness, every moment of integrity, every display of grace under pressure becomes a testimony to who Jesus is. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve others. He laid down His life for us, and now we have the opportunity to follow His example by putting others first. When we serve with genuine love, forgive when we've been wronged, or show patience in difficult situations, we're painting a picture of Christ's character for others to see. Your authentic faith - lived out in real, everyday moments - has the power to impact someone's eternal destiny. You might be the only "Bible" some people ever read. What story is your life telling about Jesus?

Bible Verse: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." - Proverbs 9:10

Reflection Question: If someone were to judge who Jesus is based solely on watching your daily life, what conclusions would they draw about His character and love?

Quote: Whatever we believe, our life reflects that old saying, actions are louder than words. And what a person acts out in their life, that's what they really believe.

Prayer: Lord, help my life be a true reflection of who You are. May my actions align with my words, and may others see Your love, grace, and truth through how I live each day. Make me a faithful witness in both word and deed. Amen.

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Day 3: Built on the Rock That Never Moves

Devotional: In a world where everything seems to be constantly changing - relationships, jobs, health, circumstances - there's something incredibly comforting about having a foundation that never shifts. Jesus declared, "I will build my church," and He promised to build it on Himself as the solid rock. Throughout the Old Testament, God is described as our rock, fortress, and stronghold. These aren't just poetic words - they represent the unchanging, unshakeable nature of who God is. When storms come, when life feels uncertain, when everything around you seems unstable, you can stand firm because you're built on the rock of Jesus Christ. This foundation isn't just for the church as an institution - it's personal. When you place your faith in Jesus, you're building your life on the most solid foundation possible. Your identity, your security, your hope, and your future are all anchored in Someone who never changes. There will be times when you feel like you're barely making it, when circumstances make you question everything. But remember - you're not built on your feelings, your circumstances, or even your own strength. You're built on Jesus Christ, the unchanging Son of God. Because of this solid foundation, you can face tomorrow with confidence. Not because life will be easy, but because the One who holds your life is absolutely reliable. In a world of shifting sand, you stand on the Rock.

Bible Verse: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me." - Psalms 18:1-3

Reflection Question: What areas of your life feel unstable right now, and how might trusting in Jesus as your unchanging foundation bring you peace in those situations?

Quote: Jesus clearly stated, I will build my church. He said, I will build my church.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for being my solid rock and firm foundation. When everything around me feels uncertain, help me remember that You never change. Anchor my heart in Your faithfulness and give me peace that comes from being built on You. Amen.

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Day 4: Victory in the Battle

Devotional: Life often feels like a battle, doesn't it? There are spiritual struggles, personal challenges, and moments when it seems like you're fighting against overwhelming odds. But here's the encouraging truth: Jesus promised that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" against His church. This tells us two important things. First, there will be resistance. Following Jesus doesn't mean life becomes easy - it means you're equipped for the battles you'll face. Second, and more importantly, ultimate victory is already assured. You're not fighting for victory; you're fighting from victory. Through prayer aligned with God's will, you have been given spiritual authority. You can see chains of addiction broken, spiritual bondage destroyed, and captives set free. This isn't about your own power - it's about the authority Jesus has given to those who follow Him. There will be times when progress feels slow, when you feel like you're at a standstill, or even backing up. But don't let discouragement win. You remain steadfast because your foundation is Jesus Christ, and because of that, you cannot ultimately fail. Don't let the enemy tell you that you're of no use. There's a place for you in God's kingdom work. You have the authority to walk in victory because you're built on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ. Are you living like someone who has already won, or are you barely making it? Remember - victory is yours in Christ.

Bible Verse: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." - 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

Reflection Question: In what specific battles in your life do you need to start living from victory rather than fighting for victory, trusting in the authority Christ has already given you?

Quote: The gates of hell shall not prevail against it. That tells us a couple things, that there is going to be resistance to the church. There is going to be resistance. We are in a spiritual battle.

Prayer: Lord, help me remember that You have already won the ultimate victory. Give me courage to stand firm in the battles I face, knowing that Your power is greater than any opposition. Help me live from victory, not for victory. Amen.

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Day 5: Whosoever Means You

Devotional: One of the most beautiful words in the Bible is "whosoever." It's an invitation that excludes no one and includes everyone who responds. "Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." That means you, regardless of your past, your mistakes, or how far you think you've wandered from God. Maybe you've been carrying guilt about things you've done. Maybe you feel like you're too broken, too far gone, or too unworthy for God's love. The word "whosoever" shatters those lies. It doesn't say "whoever is good enough" or "whoever has their life together." It simply says "whosoever." When you confess your sins, God is faithful and just to forgive you of all unrighteousness. Not some of it - all of it. This isn't based on your performance or your ability to clean up your act first. It's based on God's character and His love for you. Recognizing Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" opens the door to this incredible grace. It's not about being perfect; it's about being honest about your need for a Savior and accepting the gift He offers. Today, if you've never taken that step, or if you need to return to the Father after wandering away, remember that "whosoever" includes you. God's arms are open wide, His forgiveness is complete, and His love for you is unchanging. You don't have to earn it - you just have to receive it. The invitation stands: "Whosoever" - and that means you.

Bible Verse: "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." - Matthew 16:19

Reflection Question: What has been holding you back from fully embracing the truth that God's "whosoever" invitation includes you, exactly as you are right now?

Quote: The Bible says, whosoever call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, recognizing that he is as Peter said, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Prayer: Father, thank You that Your invitation includes me. Help me fully embrace the truth that I don't have to earn Your love or clean up my life before coming to You. I accept Your gift of salvation and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Thank You for loving me just as I am. Amen.

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