



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Use It or Lose It

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 3/8/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: The Breath of Life

Devotional: Every morning when you wake up and take that first breath, you're experiencing a miracle that began in the Garden of Eden. Your life didn't start by accident or chance - it began with the intentional breath of God. When He formed man from dust, He could have simply spoken life into existence, but instead He chose something more intimate. He breathed His own breath into humanity, making us living beings with His very essence within us. This truth changes everything about how we view ourselves and our purpose. You're not here by coincidence. Before you took your first breath as a baby, God already knew you completely. He had plans, dreams, and purposes specifically designed for your life. In a world that often makes us feel insignificant or forgotten, remember that the Creator of the universe personally breathed life into you. When life feels overwhelming or meaningless, return to this foundational truth: you are fearfully and wonderfully made by a God who doesn't make mistakes. Your existence matters because it originated from His heart and His breath.

Bible Verse: 'And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.' - Genesis 2:7

Reflection Question: How does knowing that God personally breathed life into you change the way you view your daily struggles and purpose?

Quote: God is the origin of life.

Prayer: Father, thank You for breathing life into me and creating me with intention and purpose. Help me to remember that my life comes from You and has meaning because of You.

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Day 2: Known Before Birth

Devotional: Imagine someone knowing you so completely that they understood your personality, your struggles, and your potential before you were even born. This isn't imagination - it's your reality with God. Just as He told Jeremiah that He knew him before forming him in the womb, God has known you from before your beginning. This divine foreknowledge isn't just about God being all-knowing; it's about His personal investment in your life. He didn't just create you and walk away. He crafted you with specific gifts, placed you in particular circumstances, and ordained you for unique purposes that only you can fulfill. Your family background, your personality traits, even your struggles - none of these caught God by surprise. When you feel like you don't fit in or wonder if you have anything valuable to offer, remember that God specifically designed you for the role you're meant to play in His kingdom. You're not an afterthought or a backup plan. You are His intentional creation, known and loved before your first heartbeat. This knowledge should fill you with confidence and purpose. You don't have to prove your worth or earn your place - you were ordained for purpose before you could even breathe.

Bible Verse: 'Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.' - Jeremiah 1:5

Reflection Question: What specific qualities or experiences in your life might God have intentionally given you to fulfill His unique purpose for you?

Quote: Each of us here today are ordained for a purpose. God has a purpose over us.

Prayer: Lord, help me to trust that You knew me before I was born and that You have a specific purpose for my life. Give me confidence in Your plan for me.

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Day 3: Stewards, Not Owners

Devotional: We live in a culture obsessed with ownership - my house, my car, my money, my life. But what if everything we think we own is actually on loan? The truth is, we're not owners but stewards, temporarily managing what ultimately belongs to God. He holds our very breath in His hands and owns all our ways. This perspective shift is liberating rather than limiting. When we realize we're stewards, the pressure to control everything lifts from our shoulders. We're not responsible for outcomes beyond our control, but we are responsible for faithfully managing what's been entrusted to us. Whether it's our health, relationships, finances, or opportunities - we're called to be wise caretakers. Stewardship also means recognizing that this world is temporary. We're not building permanent kingdoms here; we're preparing for an eternal home. This doesn't mean we become careless with earthly responsibilities, but rather that we hold them with open hands, ready to use them for God's glory rather than our own comfort. When we embrace our role as stewards, we find freedom from the anxiety of ownership and the joy of partnership with God in His work.

Bible Verse: 'But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified.' - Daniel 5:23

Reflection Question: What area of your life do you struggle most with releasing control and trusting God as the true owner?

Quote: Life comes from God. It's not something we have to remind ourselves in this world. What we have, we are stewards of.

Prayer: God, help me to remember that I am a steward of Your gifts, not an owner. Teach me to hold everything with open hands and use what You've given me for Your glory.

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Day 4: Every Gift Matters

Devotional: In God's economy, there are no worthless gifts or insignificant people. Every good and perfect gift comes from above, and God has given each person unique abilities and resources. You might look at others and feel like your gifts pale in comparison, but God doesn't measure value the way the world does. The person with five talents isn't more loved than the person with one talent. God's love is equal for all His children. Some people work incredibly hard just to meet basic needs, while others seem to have abundance with less effort. This isn't about God's favoritism - it's about His sovereign distribution of gifts according to His perfect plan. What matters isn't how many talents you have, but what you do with what you've been given. The faithful servant with two talents received the same commendation as the one with five: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Your responsibility is to discover, develop, and deploy the gifts God has placed in your life. Don't despise small beginnings or compare your gifts to others. Instead, ask God to show you how to faithfully use what He's entrusted to you. Remember, you will be judged not by what you weren't given, but by how you stewarded what you received.

Bible Verse: 'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.' - James 1:17

Reflection Question: What gifts has God given you that you might be undervaluing or not fully utilizing for His kingdom?

Quote: Everybody has a gift in life. No matter who we are. No matter what the world tells us, we all have a gift. We all have a gift from God.

Prayer: Father, open my eyes to see the gifts You've given me and give me courage to use them faithfully for Your glory, regardless of how they compare to others.

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Day 5: Living with Anticipation

Devotional: The faithful servants in Jesus' parable lived with a powerful mindset: "The Master is coming back. What can I do while He's gone?" This anticipation of Christ's return transformed how they viewed their time, resources, and opportunities. They didn't waste what they were given because they knew they would give an account. Many people live with the attitude, "This is my life, I'll do as I please." But when we truly understand that our breath comes from God and we will stand before Him to give an account, it changes everything. We begin to see each day as precious, each opportunity as significant, and each choice as meaningful. Living with anticipation doesn't mean being anxious about judgment - it means being excited about the opportunity to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant." There is genuine joy and satisfaction that comes from aligning our lives with God's purposes and using our gifts for His glory. The question isn't whether Christ will return, but whether we'll be found faithful when He does. Today is another opportunity to invest what God has given you, to serve Him with gladness, and to live in the joy that comes from faithful stewardship.

Bible Verse: 'His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.' - Matthew 25:23

Reflection Question: If you knew Christ was returning tomorrow, what would you do differently with the gifts and opportunities God has given you today?

Quote: There is a joy, there is a satisfaction when we give ourselves to do those things that God has called us to do.

Prayer: Lord, help me to live each day with the anticipation of Your return, using my gifts faithfully and finding joy in serving You. May I be found faithful when You come.

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