



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

SERIES: LIFE AFTER RESURRECTION | SERMON: 1

Sermon: Overcoming Doubt

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 4/12/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: Building on Solid Ground

Devotional: Life has a way of shaking our foundations. Whether it's unexpected loss, financial struggles, or health challenges, storms will come. The question isn't whether we'll face difficulties, but whether we'll stand firm when they arrive. Jesus told a story about two builders - one who built on rock and another on sand. When the storms came, only the house built on solid foundation remained standing. Our faith in Christ serves as that unshakeable foundation. When we anchor our lives in His truth, His love, and His promises, we can weather any storm. Building on this foundation isn't a one-time decision. It's a daily choice to trust God's character even when circumstances don't make sense. It means remembering that God is sovereign and good, even in our darkest moments. Every prayer, every moment in His Word, every act of worship adds another stone to this solid foundation. The storms of life will test what we've built our lives upon. But when our foundation is Jesus Christ, we can face uncertainty with confidence, knowing that our God is faithful and His love never fails.

Bible Verse: 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.' - Matthew 7:24-25

Reflection Question: What specific area of your life needs to be more firmly anchored in Christ's truth rather than shifting circumstances?

Quote: I'm standing on that firm foundation that Jesus is who he says he is. And that God is good and that God is sovereign.

Prayer: Lord, help me build my life on the solid foundation of Your truth and love. When storms come, remind me that You are my unshakeable rock.

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Day 2: When Doubt Knocks

Devotional: Doubt isn't a sign of weak faith - it's part of being human. Even Thomas, who had walked with Jesus for three years and witnessed countless miracles, struggled to believe when the other disciples told him about the resurrection. His response wasn't unusual; it was honest. We often feel ashamed when questions arise in our hearts. We wonder if our doubts disqualify us from faith or disappoint God. But Thomas's story reveals something beautiful about our Savior's character. Jesus didn't reject Thomas for his uncertainty. Instead, He met Thomas exactly where he was, addressing his specific concerns with patience and love. Doubt becomes dangerous only when we isolate ourselves with it. Thomas could have walked away from the other disciples, nursing his questions alone. Instead, he stayed connected to the community of believers. Eight days later, when Jesus appeared again, Thomas was there to encounter Him personally. Your questions don't scare God. He's big enough to handle your uncertainties and loving enough to meet you in them. The key is bringing those doubts into His presence rather than letting them drive you away from Him.

Bible Verse: 'Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'" - John 20:24-25

Reflection Question: What doubts or questions have you been carrying alone that you need to bring honestly before God?

Quote: Can I tell you that God can handle our questions? God can handle our questions.

Prayer: Father, thank You that my questions don't push You away. Help me bring my doubts to You with honesty and trust in Your goodness.

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Day 3: Peace in His Presence

Devotional: When Jesus appeared to the disciples, His first words were "Peace be with you." This wasn't just a greeting - it was a gift. In a world filled with uncertainty, anxiety, and fear, Jesus offers something our souls desperately need: genuine peace. This peace isn't the absence of problems or the guarantee that life will be easy. We live in a fallen world where difficulties are inevitable. But the peace Jesus offers transcends our circumstances. It's a deep, abiding calm that comes from knowing we're held by nail-scarred hands that have already conquered our greatest enemies. Our doubts and fears often rob us of this peace. We lie awake at night worrying about tomorrow, replaying past mistakes, or questioning God's goodness. But when we bring these anxious thoughts to Jesus, He speaks the same words over us: "Peace be with you." His presence transforms our perspective. The peace of God doesn't always make sense to our logical minds, but it guards our hearts like a fortress. When we're anchored in His love and sovereignty, we can face life's storms with supernatural calm. This peace isn't something we manufacture - it's something we receive from the Prince of Peace Himself.

Bible Verse: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' - Philippians 4:6-7

Reflection Question: What specific worry or fear do you need to surrender to Jesus today to experience His peace?

Quote: Our doubts and fears rob us of our peace. But there's peace in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Jesus, You are the Prince of Peace. Replace my anxiety with Your supernatural peace that guards my heart and mind.

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Day 4: God's Greater Plan

Devotional: Sometimes life feels like it's spinning out of control. Unexpected challenges arise, plans fall apart, and we wonder where God is in the chaos. In these moments, we need to remember a fundamental truth: God is sovereign, and He's working all things together for our good. This doesn't mean everything that happens is good - we live in a broken world where pain and suffering are real. But it does mean that our loving Father can take even the most difficult circumstances and weave them into His greater purpose for our lives. What seems like a setback to us might be a setup for something beautiful in His hands. When we can't see the bigger picture, we have to trust the character of the One who can. God didn't blink when your crisis hit. He wasn't caught off guard or scrambling to fix things. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever - faithful, loving, and completely in control. This perspective doesn't minimize our pain or suggest we should be happy about difficult circumstances. But it does give us hope. When we remember that God is sovereign and that His love for us never wavers, we can face uncertainty with confidence, knowing that our story isn't over yet.

Bible Verse: 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' - Romans 8:28

Reflection Question: How might God be using a current difficulty in your life as part of His greater plan for your good?

Quote: God is sovereign. God didn't blink. God didn't do this because he hated us. This is part of his plan and he'll give us strength through this.

Prayer: Lord, help me trust Your sovereignty even when I can't see the bigger picture. Work all things together for my good and Your glory.

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Day 5: More Than Conquerors

Devotional: The Christian life isn't about avoiding battles - it's about winning them. We face real struggles: doubt, fear, disappointment, and pain. But here's the incredible truth: in Christ, we're not just survivors; we're conquerors. More than that, we're "more than conquerors" through Him who loves us. Thomas's story perfectly illustrates this transformation. His doubts weren't the end of his story - they became the pathway to his greatest declaration of faith. When he encountered the risen Christ, his uncertainty melted away, and he proclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" His doubt became a stepping stone to deeper faith. The same can happen in our lives. Those nail-scarred hands that Thomas touched are the same hands that reach out to us today. There's no trench of despair so deep that Jesus can't pull us out. No doubt so strong that His truth can't overcome it. No fear so paralyzing that His love can't set us free. When we give our struggles to Jesus - honestly and completely - He doesn't just help us cope; He transforms us. Our weaknesses become showcases for His strength. Our doubts become testimonies of His faithfulness. In Him, we don't just survive life's challenges; we triumph over them.

Bible Verse: 'No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.' - Romans 8:37

Reflection Question: What current struggle in your life could become a testimony of God's faithfulness if you fully surrender it to Him?

Quote: There's a trench that we cannot pull ourselves out of in our own strength. But let me tell you something, those nail scarred hands can.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You that I'm more than a conqueror through Your love. Transform my struggles into victories for Your glory.

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