



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Why I Have Hope

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 9/28/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: The Bread That Satisfies

Devotional: Have you ever felt a deep hunger that no meal could satisfy? We all experience a profound longing within our souls that goes beyond physical needs. In our world of endless distractions and quick fixes, many people chase after temporary solutions—wealth, status, relationships, or pleasures—only to find themselves still empty inside. Jesus addressed this universal human condition when He declared Himself to be the Bread of Life. Unlike physical bread that satisfies temporarily, Jesus offers something permanent. When we come to Him, He promises that our deepest spiritual hunger will be satisfied completely and eternally. This isn't just about feeling good momentarily. It's about finding lasting fulfillment that remains steady regardless of our circumstances. Whether we're experiencing mountain-top moments or trudging through valleys, Jesus provides the nourishment our souls desperately need. Today, consider what you've been using to try to fill that emptiness inside. Have those things truly satisfied? Or do you find yourself constantly hungry for more? Jesus invites us to come to Him and discover what it means to be truly fulfilled.

Bible Verse: "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" - John 6:35

Reflection Question: What temporary solutions have you been pursuing to satisfy your soul's hunger, and how have they compared to the lasting satisfaction Jesus offers?

Quote: "Jesus said, I am the bread of life. In other words, he doesn't just sustain life, this will sustain life, but Jesus Christ gives life."

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I confess that I've often tried to fill my emptiness with things that don't last. Thank you for being the Bread of Life that truly satisfies. Help me to come to You daily for the nourishment my soul needs. Teach me to find my complete satisfaction in You alone. Amen.



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Day 2: Never Rejected, Always Accepted

Devotional: Rejection is one of life's most painful experiences. Whether it's being passed over for a job, excluded from a social group, or abandoned by someone we love, rejection cuts deep. Many of us carry wounds from times we weren't wanted or welcomed. In stark contrast to our human experiences, Jesus makes an extraordinary promise: "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away." This isn't a conditional offer. There's no fine print, no exceptions clause. Jesus doesn't say, "I'll accept you if you clean up your act first" or "I'll welcome you unless your sins are too serious." Instead, He offers complete acceptance to anyone who comes to Him—regardless of past mistakes, current struggles, or social standing. The invitation extends to everyone: the addict seeking recovery, the person battling shame, the outcast longing for belonging, and even those who feel they've gone too far to be forgiven. This unconditional acceptance forms the foundation of our relationship with Christ. When we truly grasp that we are fully accepted by the One whose opinion matters most, it transforms how we see ourselves and how we approach life's challenges.

Bible Verse: "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." - John 6:37

Reflection Question: How might your life and relationships change if you fully embraced the truth that you are completely accepted by Jesus, without condition or reservation?

Quote: "Whenever we come to Jesus Christ, he said, he will never reject us. In other words, there's not a sin that's so bad, so dark that he cannot cleanse. There's not a soul that's so far from him that he cannot bring him to Himself."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your unconditional acceptance. It's hard for me to comprehend a love so complete that it never rejects. Help me to receive this truth deep in my heart, and let it heal the places where rejection has wounded me. May I extend this same acceptance to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Day 3: Hope Beyond Today

Devotional: Life can be brutally difficult. We face illness, loss, broken relationships, financial hardship, and countless other challenges that can leave us wondering if there's any point to our suffering. In these dark moments, where can we find genuine hope? The Christian hope isn't merely optimism that things might improve tomorrow. It's a confident expectation based on God's promises that extend beyond our present circumstances and even beyond this life itself. When Paul wrote, "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied," he was emphasizing that our hope reaches far beyond our temporary existence. Jesus promises eternal life to everyone who believes in Him. This isn't just about living forever—it's about experiencing the fullness of life as God intended, both now and in eternity. This perspective transforms how we face today's troubles. They remain real and painful, but they're no longer the final word on our story. When we anchor our hope in Christ's promises, we gain resilience to endure present difficulties. We can face even the darkest valleys knowing that sunrise awaits, not just metaphorically but eternally.

Bible Verse: "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." - John 6:40

Reflection Question: How does having hope that extends beyond this life change the way you view and respond to your current challenges?

Quote: "We have reason to live because there's something beyond this life. We know that through Christ we can have fullness in this life and experience heaven and all the joys of the future."

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for the hope that reaches beyond today's struggles. When I'm tempted to despair, remind me that You've promised eternal life that begins now and continues forever. Help me to live in light of this hope, allowing it to transform how I face each difficulty. May my life reflect this hope to others who are searching. Amen.



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Day 4: Shining Brightest in Darkness

Devotional: Have you ever noticed how much more visible a light becomes when the surroundings grow darker? A single candle that seems insignificant in daylight becomes a powerful beacon in complete darkness. The same principle applies to our faith. When everything is going well, our trust in God might not appear particularly remarkable to others. But when we maintain peace during chaos, express gratitude amid loss, or demonstrate love in the face of hatred—that's when our faith becomes most visible and compelling. Peter encourages believers to always be ready to explain the hope they have. This presupposes that others will notice this hope and ask about it. But when do people typically notice? Not when our circumstances are perfect, but when our response to difficult circumstances differs dramatically from the expected reaction. When we face trials with supernatural peace, when we choose forgiveness instead of bitterness, when we maintain joy despite suffering—these moments showcase the reality of Christ in us. Our difficulties become the dark backdrop against which God's light within us shines most brilliantly. Rather than resenting our challenges, we can embrace them as opportunities for God's power to be displayed in unmistakable ways.

Bible Verse: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." - 1 Peter 3:15

Reflection Question: What difficult circumstance in your life right now could become an opportunity for God's light to shine more brightly through your response?

Quote: "When we face those difficulties, that's the time when we want to give up sometimes. That's sometimes the time when we want to let our guard down, so to speak. But can I encourage you to keep. Stay the course. Stay the course. Because God is using those circumstances for you to be a light in this dark world."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to see my challenges as opportunities rather than just burdens. When I face difficulties, enable me to respond in ways that reflect Your presence in my life. Use the dark backgrounds of my trials to make Your light shine more brightly through me. Give me the words to explain the hope I have when others ask. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Day 5: The Ever-Present I AM

Devotional: In our constantly changing world, we desperately need something—or someone—who remains steady and reliable. Relationships change, health fluctuates, financial security comes and goes. Is there anything we can count on with absolute certainty? When God revealed Himself to Moses as "I AM," He was declaring His eternal, unchanging nature. He isn't the "I was" of the past or the "I will be" of some future moment. He is the ever-present, always-sufficient God who exists in the eternal now, meeting us exactly where we are. This unchanging nature of God provides our ultimate security. While everything around us shifts like sand, He remains solid rock. His character doesn't evolve with cultural trends. His love doesn't diminish when we fail. His power doesn't weaken with time. His promises don't expire. Whatever situation you're facing today—whether it's a looming crisis, ongoing struggle, or uncertain future—the great I AM is already there. He's not frantically trying to catch up to your problem or puzzling over how to solve it. He exists outside of time's limitations while being intimately present within your circumstances. When everything else proves unreliable, He remains the one constant we can build our lives upon.

Bible Verse: "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." - 1 Corinthians 15:19

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life do you need to trust the unchanging nature of God rather than the changing circumstances around you?

Quote: "You tell him, the great I am has sent you. Not the great used to be not the great could be not the great want to be the great I am the one that is sufficient for the moment, whatever the cause might be."

Prayer: Great I AM, thank You for being my constant in a world of change. When everything around me feels uncertain, help me remember that You remain the same—always loving, always powerful, always present. I place my trust not in my changing circumstances but in Your unchanging character. Help me to rest in the security of who You are today and always. Amen.



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