

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: When God's Timing Doesn't Make Sense

### Devotional

Have you ever felt like God was taking too long to answer your prayers? When Jesus heard that His dear friend Lazarus was sick, He didn't rush to heal him. Instead, He waited. For two more days. By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Mary and Martha were devastated, probably wondering why Jesus didn't come sooner. Sometimes God's timing feels completely wrong to us. We pray for healing, and the sickness gets worse. We ask for provision, and the bills keep piling up. We cry out for rescue, and the situation seems hopeless. But here's what we learn from Lazarus's story: God's delays are not denials. His timing is perfect, even when it doesn't feel that way. Jesus waited because He had something greater in mind than just healing a sick man. He wanted to demonstrate His power over death itself. When we're in the middle of waiting, it's hard to see the bigger picture. But God sees what we cannot see. He knows what we need more than temporary relief—we need to witness His glory in ways that will strengthen our faith forever. Your current trial isn't evidence that God has forgotten you. It might be the very platform He's preparing to display His power in your life.

### Bible Verse

'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" - John 11:25-26

### Reflection Question

What situation in your life feels like God's timing is all wrong, and how might He be preparing to show His glory through your waiting?

### Quote

Trials afford God a platform for his working in our lives. For without them, I would never know how kind, powerful and gracious God is.

### Prayer

Lord, help me trust Your timing even when I don't understand it. Give me faith to believe that You're working behind the scenes for my good and Your glory. Amen.

## Day 2: Faith That Participates in the Story

### Devotional

There are two kinds of faith we can have when facing life's storms. The first is preventative faith—where we trust God to keep bad things from happening to us. We pray for protection, health, and smooth sailing. But there's another kind of faith that goes deeper: participatory faith. This is when we enter into whatever story God is writing and say, "No matter what happens, You've got it, God, and You've got me, and I'm in Your hands." Martha and Mary had to learn this distinction. They believed Jesus could prevent their brother's death if He had arrived in time. But Jesus wanted to teach them something greater—that He has power even over death itself. Participatory faith doesn't demand that God change our circumstances; it trusts that God can work through any circumstance. It's the faith that says, "Even if You don't heal my loved one, I will trust You. Even if You don't provide the job, I will follow You. Even if You don't fix my marriage, I will believe You are good." This kind of faith doesn't minimize our pain or pretend everything is fine. It acknowledges the reality of our struggles while holding firmly to the truth of God's character. When we participate in God's story rather than demanding He participate in ours, we position ourselves to see miracles we never imagined possible.

### Bible Verse

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.' - Hebrews 11:1

### Reflection Question

Are you practicing preventative faith or participatory faith in your current challenges, and what would it look like to fully surrender your story to God's greater plan?

### Quote

There's a difference between preventative faith, where we trust in God's providential care that he won't let bad things happen to us. But there's also participatory faith, where we enter into the story and say, no matter what happens, you've got it, God, and you've got me, and I'm in your hands.

### Prayer

Father, help me move from demanding You change my circumstances to trusting You in my circumstances. Give me participatory faith that says 'yes' to Your will, whatever it may be. Amen.

## Day 3: The God Who Gets Angry at Death

### Devotional

When Jesus arrived at Lazarus's tomb and saw Mary weeping, something remarkable happened. The Bible tells us He was "deeply moved" and "troubled." But the original Greek suggests something stronger—Jesus was angry. He wasn't just sad; He was furious. But why? Jesus knew He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead. He knew this story would have a happy ending. So why the anger? Because death was never part of God's original plan. Death is the enemy, the result of sin's entrance into the world. When Jesus saw the devastation that death brings—the tears, the grief, the separation—He got mad. He was like a champion preparing for a fight, ready to take on the adversary that had stolen His friend. This reveals something beautiful about God's heart. He doesn't look at our pain with cold indifference. He doesn't shrug His shoulders at our suffering. Our tears move Him to action. Our grief stirs His anger against the forces that cause it. Life is precious to God. Every breath matters. Every relationship has value. When we lose someone we love, when sickness ravages a body, when depression steals joy—God gets angry at these thieves. He's not angry at us; He's angry for us. And just as Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, He's still in the business of bringing life where death has tried to reign.

### Bible Verse

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' - 1 Peter 4:10

### Reflection Question

How does knowing that God gets angry at the things that hurt you change your perspective on His heart toward your current struggles?

### Quote

He doesn't just get sad, he gets mad because the adversary has taken his buddy and he's taken him back. He's like a champion getting ready for the fight. Let me at him, let me at that adversary.

### Prayer

Jesus, thank You for caring so deeply about my pain that it moves You to anger against the enemy. Help me remember that You're fighting for me, not against me. Amen.

## Day 4: Resurrection Power for Dead Things

### Devotional

"Lazarus, come out!" With those three words, Jesus shattered the finality of death. A man who had been dead for four days walked out of his tomb, still wrapped in burial clothes but very much alive. This miracle wasn't just about one man in one moment—it was a demonstration of resurrection power that's still available today. If God can raise Lazarus from physical death, what else can He resurrect in your life? That relationship that seems beyond repair? That dream that appears to have died? That part of your heart that feels numb and lifeless? The same power that called Lazarus from the grave can breathe life into the dead areas of your existence. Maybe you're dealing with an addiction that has you bound. Perhaps depression has stolen your joy. Maybe past hurts have left you feeling emotionally dead. The resurrection isn't just a future promise—it's a present reality. Jesus specializes in bringing life where death has taken residence. He can resurrect dead marriages, restore broken families, and revive crushed spirits. He can set you free from destructive patterns and heal wounds that have festered for years. The question isn't whether God has the power to bring resurrection to your situation. The question is: do you believe He will? Will you call out to the One who has authority over every form of death in your life?

### Bible Verse

'If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' - Romans 10:9

### Reflection Question

What area of your life feels dead or hopeless, and how might God want to demonstrate His resurrection power there?

### Quote

If God can raise Lazarus, he can raise a dead relationship. He can bring a person back to health. He can set free one or set one free from addiction. He can close the door on haunting memories.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, You have power over every form of death. I invite Your resurrection power into the dead areas of my life. Bring life where there has been death. Amen.

## Day 5: Take Off Your Grave Clothes

### Devotional

When Lazarus emerged from the tomb, he was alive but still wrapped in burial clothes. Jesus commanded the crowd, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Resurrection had happened, but freedom required one more step—removing what belonged to death. This final detail holds profound meaning for us today. Many of us have experienced spiritual resurrection through faith in Christ, but we're still wearing grave clothes. These might be old patterns of thinking, destructive habits, fear, unforgiveness, or shame from our past. We're alive in Christ, but we're not fully free because we haven't removed what belongs to our old, dead life. Jesus is speaking the same words to you today: "Take off those grave clothes. I want you to live—really live." What grave clothes are you still wearing? Is it the fear that keeps you from stepping into God's calling? The bitterness that poisons your relationships? The shame that whispers you're not worthy of love? The addiction that promises comfort but delivers bondage? Resurrection life isn't just about being saved from hell—it's about being free to live abundantly here and now. God doesn't want you to shuffle through life wrapped in the remnants of who you used to be. He wants you to walk in the full freedom of who you are in Christ. Today, hear Jesus calling your name. Come out of whatever tomb has held you captive. And then, with His help and the support of others, take off those grave clothes once and for all.

### Bible Verse

'The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?' - Psalm 27:1

### Reflection Question

What specific grave clothes do you need to remove to fully experience the resurrection life Jesus offers, and who can help you in this process?

### Quote

Hear Jesus words, take those grave clothes off. I want you to live. Live in the light of that resurrection. Come alive, come alive.

### Prayer

Jesus, thank You for calling me to life. Help me identify and remove the grave clothes that keep me from living in full freedom. Give me courage to step into the abundant life You've provided. Amen.