

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS. A time to be alone with God. A time for prayer, reflection, and preparation for what lies ahead. No matter who you are or where you find yourself in your spiritual journey, it is important to be in regular touch with God and with others.

This devotional guide is meant to aid you in that process. Written by Covenanters, it is based on Scripture and seeks to relate biblical truth to everyday experiences.

We invite you to join with your brothers and sisters in this family of faith as you take part in these daily devotions.



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THE COVENANT  
*HomeAltar*

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DAILY DEVOTIONS

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My husband, Calvin, and I live in a town known as “Little Sweden,” which was a great place to raise our three children. Calvin and I are members of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Lindsborg. We have been entrepreneurs together for about thirty years in farming/ranching and selling farm real estate, but my passion is to teach, speak, write, and create artistic expressions about God’s word and the principles found there ([www.FullyCenteredLiving.com](http://www.FullyCenteredLiving.com)). My life verse is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). I turned fifty this year, so it’s a year of “jubilee” and I’m celebrating all year long! God is good—all the time.

Sunday, May 1 (Second of Easter)  
1 PETER 1:3-5

## An Eternal Inheritance Is Revealed

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth...into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (vv. 3-4).

Do you ever dream about inheriting a large amount of money? Sometimes it can be tempting to think this would be the answer to all our problems. But what if it’s stolen, lost, or not enough? And what of the items we buy? I’ll never forget the pain of watching a great-aunt at her household auction as strangers bid on her personal items.

When God through the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, Jesus stepped out of the door of the tomb and left it wide open. Now Jesus makes an invitation: Come, seek an inheritance that will never fade, be auctioned off, or lost at death. Live with the certain hope that you are adopted by a new birth into my family. Have faith, for God’s power will shield you now, and one day he will bring you through that tomb’s open door to a family reunion and the eternal inheritance that’s being kept safely in heaven for you.

*We praise you, God, for the living hope of a new birth and an eternal inheritance. Amen.*

Monday, May 2—1 PETER 1:6-9

## Genuine Faith Is Revealed

Sometimes I have wondered, why am I experiencing challenges in life? I thought God’s power shielded me!

When God sent his Son to live in this world, God allowed grief and trials to touch Jesus’s life. Yet Jesus had faith in God’s plan, leadership, and love for him. He even met the ultimate challenge and gave his life on the cross. This act of obedience led to the tomb door being opened to all who do the same. Think how the heavens rejoiced when that door swung open!

Jesus offers us encouragement: “Have faith in your Father’s plan, leadership, and love for you. Remember, you will only be in this world for a short while. These challenges have purpose and will serve to increase your faith in the reality of what is waiting for you in heaven. Your obedience will bring rejoicing in heaven! Trust me.”

*We thank you, God, for the challenges in life that result in your praise, glory, and honor. Thank you for bringing us through and bringing us home. Amen.*

Tuesday, May 3—JOHN 20:19-23

## The Holy Spirit Is Revealed

Things looked bleak to the disciples after Jesus had been crucified. Would they be killed as well? What were they to do? Not knowing, they fearfully gathered together behind locked doors with their questions and grief.

Suddenly Jesus was with them and their fear was replaced with joy. After he walked out of death’s door, no locked door could keep him out!

Jesus eagerly helped his disciples understand God’s plan, how they fit into that plan, and how they would be able to carry it out. The keys were faith, obedience, the Holy Spirit, and forgiveness.

Jesus sends us out: “Believe that I rose from the dead, that obedience to me brings true peace, that the Holy Spirit will give you power for what you are called to do, and that I am able to forgive sin. Go out and tell this good news to others in the same way that I was sent to you.”

*We are overjoyed, dear Jesus, that you have risen indeed and that you breathe on us the Holy Spirit to empower us to go and tell others this good news. Amen.*

Wednesday, May 4—JOHN 20:24-31

## Life in His Name Is Revealed

If someone had to describe you with one simple adjective, what would it be? Cheerful, driven, angry, peaceful?

Poor Thomas. He's forever locked in time as "doubting Thomas." For some reason he wasn't with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them, and their best efforts could not convince him that Jesus had risen from the dead. He had to have personal proof to believe it was true.

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not yet seen and yet have believed" (v. 29, TNIV). That's you and me! Don't you love finding Scriptures like that one? In a way it feels as if we are seeing Jesus alongside the disciples.

Jesus patiently assures us, "I know you didn't actually see me like the disciples did, but I am no less real as I sit by my Father in heaven. Know that I am with you now and that I'm waiting for you."

*Thank you, Lord, for bringing us through doubt to believing you are the Messiah, belief that brings us life in your name. Amen.*

Thursday, May 5—JOHN 16:16-24

## Complete Joy Is Revealed

If you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you" (v. 23). I can ask whatever I want and I'll get it? What's the catch?

There's no catch, but there is a bigger picture. Jesus gives his disciples a peek through the tomb's open door into heaven. This will be the view we have of Jesus until we step through that door ourselves or he comes back again. It's a view of him sitting at the right hand of God the Father, communicating with us about our requests.

This time of separation will be like a woman is in labor—difficult, painful, but worth it. When we're reunited there will be no need to ask for anything!

Jesus directs us: "I'm right here by the Father, so ask in my name, confidently but humbly and dependently. Trust the Father to filter your requests through his plan, leadership, and love for you."

*Lord, we are grateful to receive that which will bring us complete joy as we ask in your precious name. Amen.*

Friday, May 6—JOHN 16:25-33

## The Source of Peace Is Revealed

Still peeking through the door of the tomb into heaven, Jesus focuses our eyes on what's the most important thing to see there—the Triune God ready to lovingly communicate with us and meet our needs while we are separated for a time. Jesus isn't there to convince his Father to listen to us. No, the Father is eager to listen, for he loves his Son and he loves us for loving his Son and for believing that Jesus came from God.

The whirl of the world seeks to pull our eyes away from the door into heaven. When our eyes turn to these worldly troubles we can be overwhelmed and tempted to doubt God's presence and plan.

Jesus reminds us: "You will have trouble around you in this world, but that is not the big picture. You are not alone. Focus on me, know the deep peace of my presence, and ask in my name for what you need."

*Lord, we lose heart easily. Help us focus on you and ask in your name for your peace amidst the world's troubles. Amen.*

Saturday, May 7—PSALM 16

## A Certain Future Is Revealed

What does a psalm written by David a thousand years before Jesus have to say about the resurrection?

David was in serious trouble. King Saul was hunting him down like a wild animal, and he was running for his life. Other psalms are cries of despair, but surprisingly this one resonates with confidence in God's presence and faithfulness. One can almost imagine David standing with his face upward and hands in the air rejoicing at the sight of his heavenly Counselor and rejoicing in the reality of the eternally safe refuge he provided.

David understood that his inheritance wasn't found on an earthly throne but was found in God's presence. God would somehow, someday make it possible. He would make the path of life clear, filling David with joy.

Jesus counsels us: "Always keep your eyes on me, and you will not be shaken in life or abandoned at death. Rest secure for I have left the tomb door open and I will show you the way safely home."

*Lord, we run only after you, for with you is joy, a known path through life, and a certain future. Amen.*