



Daily Devotionals – April 27, 2025



Day 1: Jesus Steps Into Fear

Scripture:

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'" —John 20:19 (NIV)

Reflection:

Fear has a way of locking us in. It makes us hide, withdraw, and brace for the worst. The disciples knew fear firsthand—they had witnessed the crucifixion and wondered if they would be next. But Jesus didn't wait for them to be brave. He came right through their fear. He stood among them, not to scold, but to speak peace. Whatever doors fear has caused you to close today, know this: Jesus is not hindered by them. He steps right into our fears, our doubts, and our messes—bringing the kind of peace that only the risen Savior can give.

Story:

Andrew had always been a strong leader—at work, at church, even in his family. But when his company downsized and he lost his job, fear crept in quickly. Day after day, he sat at home, replaying everything he could have done differently, feeling like a failure. He stopped answering calls from friends. He even started skipping church, afraid of the awkward conversations. One Sunday morning, his wife gently urged him to go back just once. Reluctantly, Andrew went. During the service, the pastor read from John 20:19: "Peace be with you." Andrew felt like the words were directed straight at him. For the first time in weeks, he didn't feel ashamed—he felt seen. That was the beginning of Andrew's healing. He realized Jesus didn't wait for him to fix everything; He came right into the locked places, offering peace where fear had ruled.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for stepping into the places I try to hide. Thank You that fear doesn't scare You away. Come and stand in the middle of my heart today. Speak Your peace over my doubts, over my worries, over my fears. Help me trust that You are stronger than any locked door I build. Amen.



Day 2: He Shows His Scars

Scripture:

"After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." —John 20:20 (NIV)

Reflection:

When Jesus appeared, He didn't hide His scars—He showed them. His wounds were not erased in resurrection; they were redeemed. This tells us something important: God does not erase our pain as if it never happened. Instead, He transforms it. Our scars—the places where life has hurt us—are not signs of weakness. They are signs of survival, of grace, of healing. Resurrection doesn't pretend there was no suffering. It declares that suffering is not the end of the story.

Story:

For years, Marissa hid the fact that she had battled depression in her early twenties. Even after finding healing, she was embarrassed by her story. She thought if people knew, they would see her differently—less capable, less faithful. Then one evening at a women's retreat, the topic turned toward mental health. After a long silence, Marissa felt a nudge in her heart. Trembling, she stood and shared her journey—the dark nights, the prayers she thought went unanswered, the slow road back to hope. When she finished, she sat down quickly, heart pounding. But then something unexpected happened: woman after woman thanked her. One said, "I thought I was alone until you spoke." Another whispered, "Your story gave me courage." Marissa realized that her scars weren't something to hide. They were a testimony of the God who had carried her through.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for showing Your scars. Thank You for reminding me that my past pain can be part of my testimony. Help me to trust that You can redeem every part of my story. Give me courage to share honestly when it helps others heal. Teach me to see my scars not as shameful, but as signs of Your faithfulness. Amen.



Day 3: Breathed Into New Life

Scripture:

"And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" —John 20:22 (NIV)

Reflection:

Jesus didn't just leave His disciples with encouragement—He left them with His very Spirit. He breathed on them, a sign of new life and new power. Just as God breathed life into Adam at creation, Jesus now breathes spiritual life into His people. The Holy Spirit is not distant or abstract; He is the living presence of God within us. Wherever you feel dry, weary, or worn out today, remember: the Spirit breathes fresh life into tired hearts.

Story:

Leah had grown up in church, knew all the worship songs, and had served faithfully for years. But somewhere along the way, her passion faded. Church became a routine, and her prayers felt empty. One evening during a quiet worship night, the leader invited everyone simply to be still and ask for the Holy Spirit to fill them anew. Leah almost didn't bother. But quietly, she whispered, "God, if You're still breathing life, I need it." As the music played softly, she didn't feel fireworks or see visions. Instead, she felt something deeper—a steady, strong peace settle over her heart. She began to cry, not from sadness, but from relief. Leah realized the Spirit hadn't left her; she had just stopped breathing Him in. That night, she asked for a fresh filling—and He answered.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, breathe fresh life into me today. I confess the places in my heart that have grown dry or distant. Fill me again with Your power, Your peace, and Your presence. Remind me that You live in me, not because I am perfect, but because You are faithful. Amen.



Day 4: Honest Doubt, Honest Faith

Scripture:

"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'" —John 20:27 (NIV)

Reflection:

Thomas wasn't shamed for his doubts. Jesus met him in them. Doubt, when brought honestly to God, is not the enemy of faith—it can be the beginning of deeper trust. Jesus invites our questions, our hesitations, and our wrestling. He shows us His wounds and says, "Come closer." If you're struggling today, you're not disqualified. You're invited. You don't have to hide your doubts from Jesus—He's already reaching out His hands.

Story:

Caleb had grown up with a strong faith but felt it unravel during his first year away at college. Philosophy classes raised questions he didn't know how to answer. Instead of pretending everything was fine, Caleb decided to be honest. He joined a small group that welcomed hard questions without fear. One night, while reading John 20, Caleb was struck by the fact that Jesus didn't scold Thomas. He invited him closer. That night, Caleb prayed honestly for the first time in months: "God, if You are real, help me find You." Over the next months, through conversations, Scripture, and a growing sense of peace, Caleb found his faith—not as a hand-me-down belief, but as a deeply personal relationship. His doubts hadn't destroyed him; they had led him straight into the arms of Jesus.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for meeting me in my doubts. Thank You for not pushing me away when I question, but for inviting me closer. Help me trust You even when I don't have all the answers. Strengthen my faith through honesty, and help me believe with my whole heart. Amen.



Day 5: Blessed Are Those Who Believe

Scripture:

"Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'" —John 20:29 (NIV)

Reflection:

Thomas needed to see Jesus to believe, but Jesus speaks a special blessing over those who believe without seeing. That's us. Faith isn't about having perfect certainty—it's about trusting the One who is trustworthy. Even when we can't see the outcome, even when we can't trace every step, faith invites us to hold onto Jesus anyway. You are part of that blessing. You are part of that story. Blessed are you, believer in the unseen, follower of the risen King.

Story:

Jasmine had been praying for years for her brother to come to faith. Each conversation seemed to end in frustration, and slowly, discouragement crept into her heart. She wondered if her prayers even mattered. One evening, as she sat in her room feeling defeated, she opened her Bible randomly and landed on John 20:29. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." It felt personal, as if Jesus Himself was speaking to her. Jasmine realized that faith wasn't about seeing instant results—it was about trusting even in the waiting. She wrote the verse on a notecard and taped it to her mirror. Every morning, she read it aloud: "Blessed are those who believe." Years later, her brother did come to faith—but Jasmine realized that the real miracle had been how God strengthened her trust along the way.

Prayer:

Jesus, help me to be faithful even when I can't see the full picture. Thank You for calling me blessed when I choose to believe. Strengthen my faith when it feels weak. Remind me that You are working in ways I cannot yet see. Help me hold onto hope, trusting that You are always faithful. Amen.



Day 6: Life in His Name

Scripture:

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." —John 20:31 (NIV)

Reflection:

The Gospel of John wasn't written just to inform us—it was written to transform us. Belief in Jesus leads to life—real, abundant, everlasting life. Faith isn't just about knowing facts or attending services; it's about stepping into a relationship that changes everything. Jesus didn't rise from the dead just to prove a point. He rose to offer you life in His name. Life that starts now and lasts forever.

Story:

Nick had spent most of his adult life chasing success—career promotions, a bigger house, social status. On the outside, he had it all. But late one night, after another exhausting work trip, he sat alone in his hotel room and realized he felt completely empty. Out of habit, he opened the nightstand drawer and found a Bible. He flipped it open to John’s Gospel and began reading. When he reached John 20:31, something clicked. *Life in His name*. Not life in achievements. Not life in approval. Real life. That night, Nick prayed a simple prayer: "Jesus, I want the life only You can give." It wasn’t instant fireworks, but slowly, Nick’s life began to change. He reprioritized his time, reconnected with his family, and found a new purpose—not in striving, but in walking with Jesus.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for offering me life—real, full, abundant life. Forgive me when I chase lesser things that leave me empty. Help me live every day rooted in Your love, guided by Your truth, and filled with Your Spirit. I believe that in You, my true life begins. Amen.



Day 7: Sent with the Spirit

Scripture:

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'" —John 20:21 (NIV)

Reflection:

Easter doesn’t end with celebration—it moves into mission. Jesus doesn’t just comfort His disciples; He commissions them. “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” The resurrection isn’t just news to cherish—it’s news to carry. We are filled with His Spirit so we can be sent in His name. Wherever you go today—your workplace, your school, your home—you are not just going. You are being sent. You are a carrier of peace, hope, and resurrection life.

Story:

After graduating college, Morgan felt unsure about what to do next. She prayed for a bold, world-changing mission. But instead, she got a job offer from a local community center in her hometown. It felt small compared to her dreams. Still, she accepted. Over the next year, Morgan found herself mentoring teens, comforting grieving families, and helping organize food drives. One afternoon, after a long day, one of the students gave her a simple, crumpled thank-you note that said, “You made me believe God loves people like me.” Morgan sat in her car and cried. She realized that being “sent” didn’t mean she had to cross oceans—it meant being faithful wherever God placed her. She didn’t need a stage to change lives. She just needed to show up, Spirit-filled and willing.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for sending me into the world with Your peace and Your power. Remind me that my mission field is wherever You have placed me today. Fill me with Your Spirit, and make me a witness of Your love through my words, my actions, and my presence. Help me go—not in fear, but in faith—knowing You are with me. Amen.