

FIRST things FIRST...

Daily Devotions May 4-10, 2026

Devotions are to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

Monday, May 4th

Scripture: 1 John 5:3 & John 14:15-21

Jesus begins with a simple truth: *"If you love Me, keep My commands."* Love is not proven by emotion but by being in line with Jesus. It is having a heart that seeks to do what Jesus desires. John later writes, *"This is love for God: to keep His commands."* Obedience is not about earning God's love; it is our response to already being loved. When we obey, we are not pretending, we are living the life that Jesus invites us to. It can be very difficult; the invitation is not to try harder but to be closer to Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, shape my heart so that obedience becomes the natural.

Tuesday: May 5th

Scripture: Romans 8:9-11 & John 14:15-21

Jesus promises "another Advocate" who will not only be with His followers but in them. This is not a distant helper but a presence that knows us deeply. Paul repeats this when he says the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. The Spirit is not a decorative extra to the Christian life. The Spirit is the source of it comforting us and convicting us and driving us. You are never without help. Never without guidance. Never without strength. The Spirit within you is the same Spirit who empowered Jesus.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill me again. Make Your presence real in my heart.

Wednesday: May 6th

Scripture: Romans 8:15-16 & John 14:15-21

Jesus says, *"I will not leave you as orphans."* He knows the disciples fear being alone. He knows how fragile they feel. But He promises His own presence through the Spirit. Paul writes that the Spirit testifies that we are God's children, not spiritual orphans. Many of us live with hearts that are full of fear or lack confidence. But Jesus speaks directly to that fear. You are not alone. You are not forgotten. You are not left to figure life out by yourself. You are held and loved. The Spirit doesn't just comfort us. He confirms who we are and that we belong to God.

Prayer: Father, silence the orphaned places in my heart.

Thursday: May 7th

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:6 & John 14:15-21

Jesus tells His disciples that the world will not see Him, but *they* will. That seems awfully confusing. But we must know that the Spirit reveals Christ to our hearts. Paul describes this as God shining light into our hearts to give us the knowledge of His glory in the face of Christ. We do not follow Jesus through our own imagination, but by seeing Him through the ways that He reveals Himself to us. The Spirit opens our eyes to see Jesus in Scripture, in worship, in prayer, in the quiet moments of our day. He helps us recognize Jesus' voice, Jesus' character, Jesus' presence. Seeing Jesus is not about physical sight; it is about spiritual clarity.

Prayer: Spirit of truth, open my eyes to see Jesus more clearly.

Friday: May 8th

Scripture: John 15:9 & John 14:15-21

Jesus says, *"Because I live, you also will live."* Our life is rooted in who Jesus is and what Jesus did. There is nothing that we can do to secure who we are in ourselves. Then He adds, *"You will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you."* This is the mystery of union with Christ. Jesus invites us into the very love He shares with the Father. John 15 says: *"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you."* The Christian life is not about working to reach God. It is about living in the love that is already a part of our lives. Your life is secure because His life is secure. Your hope is steady because His resurrection is steady. You live because He lives.

Prayer: Jesus, root my life in Your life.

Saturday: May 9th

Scripture: 1 John 4:12 & John 14:15-21

Love becomes the lens through which we see Jesus and the way others see Him through us. Love is not sentimental. It is sacrificial. It is patient, humble, forgiving, and courageous. When we love like Jesus, we reveal Jesus. Our lives become windows through which others can catch the light of God in our hearts. The world does not need us to be loud so everyone knows we are there. The world needs us to love. Love is the best evidence of the Spirit's presence and the easiest way for others to see who Jesus is to us and can be to the world.

Prayer: Lord, let Your love shape my actions.

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Title: The Story Abides

Scripture: John 14:15-21

Worship at 10:00am

Pastor Clint Phillips