

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of April 20, 2025

By Andrew Royer

Day 1: Spiritual Proximity with Jesus

Easter is a time when we find ourselves drawn into spiritual proximity with Jesus, whether it feels like a comforting embrace or an awkward encounter. This closeness is an invitation to experience His love and hope, regardless of where we are on our spiritual journey. Jesus welcomes us as we are, offering a relationship that transcends our current feelings or circumstances. This proximity is not just a seasonal occurrence but a continual invitation to walk with Him daily. As we draw near to Jesus, we are reminded of His sacrifice and the hope He offers, which is rooted in His resurrection.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:8, ESV)

Reflection: In what ways can you intentionally draw closer to Jesus this week, even if it feels awkward or unfamiliar?

Day 2: Hope Rooted in Resurrection

True hope is not blind optimism or a denial of life's hardships. It is deeply rooted in the reality of Jesus' resurrection, acknowledging the pain and struggles we face while pointing us to a hope that is lasting and transformative. This hope is not temporary; it influences how we live and perceive the world around us. By embracing the hope found in Jesus, we can navigate life's challenges with a perspective that is anchored in His victory over death. This hope is a powerful force that sustains us, offering peace and assurance in the midst of chaos.

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20, ESV)

Reflection: How does the reality of Jesus' resurrection change the way you view your current struggles and challenges?

Day 3: The Path from Suffering to Hope

The Apostle Paul outlines a progression in Romans 5 that leads from suffering to hope: suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope is not wishful thinking but is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus. Our trials are not wasted;

they build endurance and character, ultimately leading us to a hope that is steadfast and unshakeable. This process assures us that our identity as children of God, through faith in Jesus, provides us with ultimate victory over the world's despair and uncertainty.

"More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." (Romans 5:3-4, ESV)

Reflection: Reflect on a recent trial you have faced. How can you see God using it to build endurance and character in your life?

Day 4: Identity as Children of God

Our identity as children of God assures us of victory over the world's despair. This identity, rooted in faith in Jesus, provides a perspective that sustains us through life's challenges. As children of God, we are called to live in the assurance of His love and the hope of His promises. This identity is not based on our circumstances or achievements but on the unchanging truth of who we are in Christ. Embracing this identity allows us to face the uncertainties of life with confidence and peace, knowing that we are secure in His hands.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1, ESV)

Reflection: How does knowing you are a child of God change the way you approach your daily life and decisions?

Day 5: Jesus Calls Us by Name

Jesus calls each of us by name, inviting us to find hope in Him, even in our suffering. Like Mary Magdalene, who recognized Jesus when He called her by name, we are invited to recognize Jesus in our midst and respond to His call with faith and hope. This personal invitation is a reminder of His intimate knowledge of us and His desire for a relationship with us. As we respond to His call, we are drawn into a deeper understanding of His love and the hope that is anchored in His resurrection and victory over death.

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'" (Isaiah 43:1, ESV)

Reflection: In what ways do you hear Jesus calling you by name today, and how can you respond to His invitation with faith and hope?