



St Barnabas Cray

"Jesus: The Core of Our Faith and Hope"

Weekly Devotional Journey

Monday - Jesus: The Centre of Everything

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

John 11:25-26 - 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.'

Devotional Thought

The Nicene Creed, formulated in 325 AD, reveals something profound: over three-quarters of this foundational Christian statement points to one name—Jesus. This isn't coincidence; it's intentional emphasis on the absolute centrality of Christ in our faith. We are Christians, not simply theists or religious people, but followers of Christ. Every doctrine, every belief, every practice finds its meaning and purpose in Him. Our relationship with Jesus isn't just one aspect of faith amongst many—it's the core from which everything else flows. Your walk with Jesus, your experience of Him, your knowledge and appreciation of Christ, your fellowship with and following of Him—this is the most important thing in any human being's life.

Reflection Question

In what ways does Jesus occupy the central place in your daily thoughts, decisions, and relationships?

From Sunday's Sermon

"Your walk with Jesus, your experience of Jesus, your knowledge of Jesus, your appreciation of Jesus, your fellowship with your following Christmas is the most important thing in the life of any human being. That relationship with Jesus."

Today's Application

Today, examine your priorities and schedule. Identify three specific ways you can make Jesus more central to your daily routine—perhaps through morning prayer, Scripture reading, or conscious acknowledgement of His presence in your work.

Morning Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to make You the true centre of my life. Where I have allowed other things to take priority over our relationship, forgive me and redirect my heart. May every aspect of my day reflect Your lordship and love. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Christ in Every Corner

Evening Reflection

As this day concludes, reflect on how Christ has been present in your ordinary moments. The beauty of our faith is that Jesus doesn't wait for Sunday services or special occasions—He desires to be Lord of Monday's challenges, Tuesday's decisions, and every moment in between. The

question isn't whether Jesus is available to us, but whether we recognise His presence and invite His lordship into every corner of our lives.

Evening Reflection

Looking back on today, where did you sense Jesus' presence most clearly, and where might you have missed opportunities to acknowledge Him?

Evening Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus' constant presence with me today. Help me to be more aware of Him in tomorrow's moments, both ordinary and extraordinary. Be Lord of all in my heart. Amen.

Tuesday - One Church, One Body

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body.

Devotional Thought

The church is not a building, not a denomination, not separate institutions competing for attention. The church is one—the body of Christ. This truth transforms how we see ourselves and our fellow believers. When we gather for worship, we're not just a local congregation; we're part of something magnificent and global. The church in Africa, Asia, North America, and every continent forms one unified body. We are not alone in our struggles, our worship, or our mission. This fellowship isn't merely social—something supernatural happens when believers gather together. We strengthen one another, encourage one another, and collectively reflect Christ's presence in ways we cannot achieve individually.

Reflection Question

How does understanding the global, unified nature of Christ's church change your perspective on your local fellowship and Christian brothers and sisters worldwide?

From Sunday's Sermon

"The church is one church. The church is the body of Christ. It's not the building, it's not the denomination, it's not the separate whatever you want to call it. The church is one. The church is the body of Christ."

Today's Application

Reach out to a fellow believer today—perhaps someone from your local church or a Christian friend elsewhere. Encourage them with a message, prayer, or practical help, remembering you're strengthening the one body of Christ.

Morning Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your church. Help me to see beyond denominational walls and cultural differences to embrace the unity we have in Christ. Use me to strengthen and encourage my brothers and sisters in faith. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Connected Across the Globe

Evening Reflection

Tonight, as believers across different time zones begin their day or end theirs, remember that you're part of an unbroken chain of worship, prayer, and service that spans the globe. Somewhere, a believer is facing persecution with courage, another is sharing the gospel, and others are caring for the needy—all as part of the same body you belong to. This connection transcends physical distance and cultural differences.

Evening Reflection

What specific ways can you pray for and support the global body of Christ, particularly believers facing challenges in other parts of the world?

Evening Prayer

Father, I lift up my brothers and sisters around the world tonight. Protect those facing persecution, encourage those who are weary, and use Your global church to advance Your kingdom. Thank You for making me part of this eternal family. Amen.

Wednesday - Scripture as a Complete Whole

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

Psalm 119:130 - The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Devotional Thought

One of humanity's greatest mistakes with Scripture is selective reading—embracing the parts we find comfortable whilst dismissing those that challenge us. Yet God has given us sixty-six books as one cohesive revelation of His character and plan. The controversial passages only seem problematic when taken out of context. When we approach Scripture as a whole, seeking to understand rather than to judge, the light begins to shine. The same God who speaks of love also speaks of justice; the same Jesus who offers grace also calls for repentance. Every part of Scripture contributes to our understanding of God's complete character and His redemptive plan for humanity.

Reflection Question

Are there portions of Scripture you've been avoiding or struggling with? How might approaching them within the context of God's complete revelation change your understanding?

From Sunday's Sermon

"You either believe one line on it or you don't believe it... The only reason why they are controversial is because we put them out of context."

Today's Application

Choose a passage of Scripture that has puzzled or challenged you. Read it within its broader context today, asking God for understanding and seeking to see how it fits within His overall revelation of love and truth.

Morning Prayer

Lord, simplify my heart so that Your word can enter and make an impact in my life. Help me to approach all of Scripture with humility and trust, knowing that Your ways are higher than my ways. Give me understanding of Your complete truth. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Light for the Journey

Evening Reflection

God's Word isn't meant to be a puzzle that confuses us, but a lamp that guides us. When we approach Scripture with humble hearts, seeking understanding rather than ammunition for our preconceived ideas, the Holy Spirit illuminates truth. The Bible becomes not just an ancient book, but a living guide for today's decisions and tomorrow's hopes.

Evening Reflection

How has God's Word provided specific guidance or comfort in your life recently?

Evening Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of Your written Word. Continue to illuminate its truth in my heart and mind. Help me to be a faithful student of Scripture, always ready to learn and grow in understanding. Amen.

Thursday - A Different Kind of Grief

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

Devotional Thought

Death touches every human life, but Christians face it with a fundamentally different perspective. We grieve—love naturally mourns loss—but not as those who have no hope. The rest of humanity faces death as a final, hopeless ending, but we know it as a temporary separation. When believers die, they simply leave behind the physical body; their spirit immediately enters God's presence. The resurrection promise means we will see our loved ones again. This hope doesn't diminish our present sorrow, but it transforms it. We can weep for our temporary loss whilst simultaneously rejoicing in their eternal gain. This is what sets Christians apart—not the absence of sorrow, but the presence of unshakeable hope.

Reflection Question

How does the promise of resurrection change the way you view death and comfort others who are grieving?

From Sunday's Sermon

"The reason why we shouldn't grieve like the rest of humanity is because the rest of humanity has no hope. There is no hope of resurrection. But for you and I, when we believe in Jesus, you believe that when you die, you only leave this flesh, you only leave this body."

Today's Application

If you know someone who is grieving, reach out to them today with words of hope and comfort. If you're processing your own grief, spend time in prayer, allowing God's promises about resurrection and eternal life to minister to your heart.

Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the hope of resurrection that transforms how we face death. Comfort those who are grieving today, and help me to be a source of hope and encouragement to others. Strengthen my faith in Your promises of eternal life. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Hope That Sustains

Evening Reflection

The Christian's hope in resurrection isn't wishful thinking—it's based on the historical reality of Christ's own resurrection. Because He conquered death, we too shall overcome it. This hope sustains us through life's darkest moments and gives meaning to our present struggles. We're not just enduring life; we're preparing for eternity.

Evening Reflection

In what current difficulty do you need to apply the hope of resurrection and eternal life?

Evening Prayer

Lord, when circumstances seem overwhelming, remind me of the eternal perspective. Help me to live each day in light of the resurrection hope You've given us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday - Do You Believe This?

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

John 11:26 - And whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

Do you believe this?

Devotional Thought

Jesus asked Martha this penetrating question, and He asks us the same today: 'Do you believe this?' The entirety of the Nicene Creed seems to echo this challenge. It's not enough to intellectually assent to doctrine or attend church services. The question pierces to the heart of authentic faith. Do you truly believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Do you believe that those who trust in Him will live even though they die physically? Do you believe that eternal life begins now, not just after death? This isn't about perfect understanding—it's about wholehearted trust. Faith means placing your complete confidence in Jesus Christ, allowing Him to be Lord of every area of your life, and living each day in light of eternal realities.

Reflection Question

If Jesus asked you directly, 'Do you believe this?', what would your honest answer be, and what areas of your life still need to be surrendered to Him?

From Sunday's Sermon

"Do you believe in the resurrection of the dead? Do you believe in the life that is to come? Do you believe that everything we're doing here is preparation for where we're going?"

Today's Application

Take time for honest self-examination today. Identify any areas of doubt or partial surrender in your life. Bring these specifically to God in prayer, asking Him to strengthen your faith and help you live as someone who truly believes His promises.

Morning Prayer

Lord Jesus, I want to answer Your question with complete honesty and faith. Help my unbelief. Where I struggle with doubt or partial surrender, strengthen my trust in You. Be Lord of all in my heart, not just some areas. Help me live each day as someone who truly believes in Your promises. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Living the 'Amen'**Evening Reflection**

When we say 'Amen', we're declaring 'So be it'—we're affirming our agreement with God's truth and our commitment to live by it. The Christian life is essentially one long 'Amen' to God's promises, commands, and character. We don't just believe intellectually; we stake our lives on these truths. Every day offers opportunities to live out our 'Amen' through obedience, trust, and hope.

Evening Reflection

What specific truth about God do you need to say a stronger 'Amen' to through your actions and attitudes?

Evening Prayer

Father, I say 'Amen' to Your goodness, Your promises, and Your lordship over my life. Help me to live in such a way that my life itself becomes an 'Amen' to Your truth. So be it, Lord, in my heart and in my daily walk with You. Amen.