

# Monday - Remember His Sacrifice

## In a Nutshell

Remembering Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection empowers Christians to live an empowered life, reminding them of God's past faithfulness.

## Anchor Verse

Luke 22:19 (NIV) - "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

## Unpacking the Word

Pastor Shantel challenged us to remember. It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day and forget the foundation of our faith. Jesus' sacrifice wasn't just a historical event; it's a living reality that fuels our present and future. This act of remembrance is crucial because our human nature often leads us to forget God's past faithfulness, especially when facing new challenges. We magnify our current problems, forgetting the many times God has delivered, healed, and restored us.

Think about the times in your life when God intervened. Maybe it was a healing, a provision, or simply a moment of comfort in a difficult time. Can you recall the emotions you felt then? The sense of gratitude and awe? The reality is, these memories hold tremendous power. They are anchors that keep us grounded when the storms of life threaten to overwhelm us.

This remembrance isn't passive; it requires active engagement. Just as Jesus instructed his disciples at the Last Supper to remember him, we must intentionally recall and reflect on God's actions in our lives. This could involve journaling, sharing testimonies with others, or simply taking a few moments each day to meditate on specific instances of God's faithfulness.

When you feel discouraged, take a moment to pause and actively remember what He has done for you. Write it down. Share it with someone. Let the weight of His sacrifice and the power of His resurrection sink deep into your soul.

## Pause and Reflect

What specific past blessings or interventions from God do you need to remember right now? How can you intentionally create space in your daily routine to remember God's faithfulness? How would your current perspective change if you actively focused on remembering God's past provision?

## Faith in Action

1. **Create a "Remembrance Jar":** Write down specific instances of God's faithfulness on small slips of paper and place them in a jar. Each day, pick one out and meditate on it.
2. **Share Your Testimony:** This week, share a specific testimony of God's faithfulness with a friend, family member, or someone in your church.
3. **Set a Remembrance Alarm:** Set a daily alarm on your phone to remind you to pause and reflect on God's goodness for just 5 minutes.

## A Moment With God

Father, forgive me for the times I have forgotten your faithfulness. Open my eyes to see your hand at work in my life, both past and present. Help me to remember your sacrifice and the power of your resurrection so that I may live with gratitude and hope.

# Tuesday - Created for Increase

## In a Nutshell

Christians are created for continuous growth in all areas of life, reflecting God's glory through increased Christ-likeness.

## Anchor Verse

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV) - "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and to the day of eternity."

## Unpacking the Word

Yesterday we focused on the importance of remembering. Today, we're called to something more: Increase. Pastor Shantel reminded us that God created us to increase in every aspect of our lives, not just materially, but in Christ-likeness. It's not just about a bigger bank account or a better job; it's about becoming more like Jesus in our character, love, and compassion.

The call to increase is a dynamic, lifelong journey. It's not a one-time event, but a continuous process of growth and transformation. This means actively seeking to develop the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It means consciously choosing to respond to situations with grace and compassion, even when it's difficult.

Think about the areas in your life where you desire to grow. Maybe you want to be more patient with your family, more generous with your resources, or more courageous in sharing your faith. These areas of growth are not just personal goals; they are opportunities to reflect the light of Christ to the world.

Increasing in Christ-likeness also requires intentional effort. It means investing time in prayer, studying Scripture, and surrounding ourselves with other believers who can encourage and support us. It also means being willing to confront our own shortcomings and seek guidance from the Holy Spirit to overcome them.

## Pause and Reflect

In what specific area of your life do you feel God is calling you to grow right now? What practical steps can you take this week to cultivate that growth? How can you intentionally surround yourself with people who will encourage and support your growth in Christ?

## Faith in Action

1. **Identify One Area:** This week, identify one specific area where you want to grow in Christ-likeness (e.g., patience, generosity, kindness).
2. **Pray Specifically:** Commit to praying specifically about that area each day.
3. **Find a Mentor:** Seek out a mentor or accountability partner who can encourage and support you in your growth.

## A Moment With God

Father, thank you for the promise of increase. Help me to identify the areas in my life where you are calling me to grow. Give me the strength and wisdom to pursue that growth with diligence and humility.

# Wednesday - Complete Salvation

## In a Nutshell

Salvation through Jesus Christ offers complete healing and wholeness in mind, body, spirit, and soul.

## Anchor Verse

Acts 4:12 (NIV) - "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

## Unpacking the Word

Yesterday we focused on increase and growing in Christ-likeness. Today, we center on the power of salvation. Pastor Shantel reminded us that salvation isn't just about escaping eternal damnation; it's about complete and total healing—sozo—in every area of our lives: mind, body, spirit, and soul.

Too often, we compartmentalize our faith, relegating it to Sundays or special occasions. But salvation is not meant to be a part-time reality; it's meant to permeate every aspect of our being. It touches our thoughts, our emotions, our relationships, our physical health, and our spiritual well-being. It offers freedom from anxiety, depression, addiction, and any other form of bondage that holds us captive.

Think about the areas in your life where you need healing. Perhaps you struggle with negative thought patterns, persistent physical ailments, broken relationships, or a sense of emptiness and lack of purpose. These are all areas where the power of salvation can bring restoration and wholeness.

Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. No amount of self-help, therapy, or worldly success can provide the complete healing that He offers. It is through faith in His sacrifice on the cross that we receive forgiveness for our sins and access to His transformative power.

Embracing this complete salvation requires a conscious choice to surrender every area of our lives to God. It means acknowledging our need for healing and inviting Him to work in us. It means trusting that He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or imagine.

## Pause and Reflect

In what specific area of your life do you need to experience God's complete salvation? What are some practical steps you can take this week to invite God's healing into that area? What limiting beliefs or past experiences might be hindering you from fully embracing your salvation?

## Faith in Action

1. **Identify a Need:** Identify one specific area where you need healing (physical, emotional, spiritual).
2. **Pray Expectantly:** Pray specifically for healing in that area, believing that God is able to do more than you can imagine.
3. **Confess Scripture:** Find scriptures related to healing and wholeness and confess them daily.

## A Moment With God

Father, I acknowledge my need for your complete salvation. I invite you to heal me in mind, body, spirit, and soul. Help me to surrender every area of my life to you and to trust in your power to transform me.

# Thursday - Expect God's Goodness & Greatness

## In a Nutshell

Christians should live with expectant faith, trusting that God can do exceedingly and abundantly above all we ask or imagine.

## Anchor Verse

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) - "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

## Unpacking the Word

Yesterday we discovered our complete salvation. Today, we should live in expectation. Pastor Shantel emphasized that we should be full of expectation, knowing that Jesus is the anchor of our hope. Even when facing trials and tribulations, we can hold steadfast, trusting that God will turn our dark days into bright days.

Life inevitably brings challenges, disappointments, and unanswered prayers. But our hope is not dependent on perfect circumstances; it is anchored in the unwavering character of God. He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above anything we can ask or think. That's powerful!

Living in expectation means approaching each day with a sense of anticipation. It means believing that God is working behind the scenes, even when we can't see it. It means trusting that He will bring good out of every situation, even the most difficult ones.

Expectant faith also requires us to actively resist worry and doubt. When negative thoughts creep in, we must consciously choose to focus on God's promises and past faithfulness. We must remind ourselves that He is in control and that He has our best interests at heart.

## Pause and Reflect

Where in your life do you need to exchange anxiety for the peace that comes from hoping in God? What past testimonies of God's faithfulness can you recall to strengthen your hope today? How might your perspective shift if you viewed your current challenges through the lens of hope rather than fear?

## Faith in Action

1. **Start a "Gratitude Journal":** Each day, write down three things you are grateful for. This will help you cultivate a mindset of expectation and appreciation for God's blessings.
2. **Pray Boldly:** This week, pray boldly for something you believe God is calling you to do, even if it seems impossible.
3. **Declare God's Promises:** Find scriptures that speak to your specific needs and declare them aloud each day.

## A Moment With God

Father, thank You for being the source of all hope. Help me to find rest in Your presence rather than seeking it in perfect circumstances. Fill me with Your supernatural peace and joy as I place my trust in You. Train my heart to remember Your faithfulness and to hope confidently in Your goodness. In Jesus' name, Amen.



# Friday - Live For Others

## In a Nutshell

The resurrection power of Christ calls us to live a life of blessing and service to others, reflecting His love and compassion to the world.

## Anchor Verse

Psalm 1:3 (NIV) - "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

## Unpacking the Word

Yesterday we considered expecting God's goodness. Today, we focus on living for others. Pastor Shantel reminded us that the resurrection power of Christ isn't just for our own safety, security, and pleasure; it's so that we can bless others. As Christ-followers, we're like trees planted by the rivers of water, bringing forth fruit in the right season, and that fruit is for others, not ourselves.

Too often, we can become self-focused, consumed with our own needs and desires. But Jesus calls us to a higher purpose: to be the light of the world, the salt of the earth. This means living a life that is consciously directed towards being a blessing to others.

Think about the people in your life who need your help. Maybe it's a friend who is struggling, a family member who needs encouragement, or a stranger who needs a helping hand. These are opportunities to show the resurrection power of Jesus Christ through acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity.

Living for others requires a shift in perspective. It means prioritizing the needs of others over our own desires. It means being willing to give our time, talents, and resources to make a difference in the world.

## Pause and Reflect

How can you intentionally shift your focus from yourself to others this week? What specific talents or resources can you use to bless someone else? How can you become more aware of the needs of those around you?

## Faith in Action

1. **Reach Out:** Reach out to someone you know is struggling and offer your support and encouragement.
2. **Serve:** Volunteer your time at a local charity or organization that is making a difference in your community.
3. **Be Generous:** Look for opportunities to be generous with your resources, whether it's donating to a cause you believe in or simply buying coffee for a stranger.

## A Moment With God

Father, help me to see the needs of those around me. Give me a heart of compassion and a willingness to serve others. Show me how to use my time, talents, and resources to be a blessing in this world.

# Saturday - R.I.S.E.N: A Transformed Life

## In a Nutshell

By remembering God's faithfulness, growing in Christ-likeness, embracing complete salvation, living in expectant faith, and serving others, we can live a transformed life empowered by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Anchor Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

## Unpacking the Word

This week, we've explored the five pillars of an empowered Christian life, all stemming from the reality of Christ's resurrection. We began by remembering God's past faithfulness, anchoring ourselves in the knowledge that He has always been and always will be there for us. This remembrance is not merely an exercise in nostalgia; it's a foundation upon which we build our present and future hope. By actively recalling God's interventions in our lives, we fortify ourselves against discouragement and anxiety.

Next, we focused on increasing in Christ-likeness, growing in character, love, and compassion. This is a lifelong journey of transformation, fueled by the Holy Spirit and guided by Scripture. It involves actively seeking to embody the fruits of the Spirit and reflecting the light of Christ in all that we do.

We then delved into the completeness of salvation, understanding that it extends beyond eternal life to encompass healing and wholeness in every area of our being. This holistic view of salvation empowers us to approach God with confidence, knowing that He desires to heal our minds, bodies, spirits, and souls.

From there, we learned to live in expectant faith, trusting that God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or imagine. This requires a shift in perspective, from a mindset of fear and doubt to one of hope and anticipation. It means believing that God is working behind the scenes, even when we can't see it, and that He will ultimately bring good out of every situation.

Finally, we recognized that the resurrection power of Christ is not just for our own benefit; it's for the sake of others. As Christ-followers, we're called to live a life of blessing and service, reflecting His love and compassion to the world. This means prioritizing the needs of others, using our time, talents, and resources to make a difference, and becoming a light in the darkness.

By intentionally integrating these five principles into our daily lives, we can experience the transformative power of the resurrection in a tangible way. We can become new creations, empowered to live with purpose, passion, and unwavering faith. It is this faith and hope that transforms each of us into living witnesses to the life-changing resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

## Pause and Reflect

How can you integrate these five principles into your daily life to live more fully empowered by the resurrection? What specific actions will you take this week to demonstrate your commitment to living a transformed life? How will you share the transformative power of the resurrection with those around you?

## Faith in Action

1. **Review Your Week:** Reflect on how you applied each of the five principles (Remember, Increase, Salvation, Expect, Others) this week. Identify areas where you excelled and areas where you can improve.
2. **Set Intentions:** Set specific intentions for how you will apply these principles in the coming week.
3. **Share the Message:** Share the key takeaways from this week's devotionals with a friend or family member.

## A Moment With God

Father, thank You for the transformative power of the resurrection. Help me to integrate these five principles into my daily life so that I may live as a new creation, empowered to serve You and bless others.

# Sunday - Seeking His Presence

## In a Nutshell

Preparing our hearts for worship involves setting our priorities on seeking God's presence, beholding His beauty, and dwelling in His house, allowing the Holy Spirit to move freely among us as we gather to encounter God's presence.

## Anchor Verse

Psalm 27:4 (NIV) - "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."

## Unpacking the Word

As we approach another Sunday, it's a time to consider how we prepare our hearts for worship. Psalm 27:4 reveals a profound desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord, to gaze upon His beauty, and to seek Him in His temple. This verse speaks not just of physical presence, but a deep longing for intimacy with God. It's a call to align our hearts with David's singular focus on seeking God above all else, prioritizing His presence in our lives.

Preparing our hearts begins with examining our desires. What do we truly seek? Often, we are consumed with worldly pursuits, chasing after fleeting pleasures and material possessions. But David reminds us that true fulfillment is found in seeking God's presence. It involves making a conscious decision to prioritize our relationship with Him, setting aside distractions, and cultivating a hunger for His Word. This is about more than just attending a service; it's about drawing near to God with a heart of reverence and expectancy.

David also longs to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. This speaks of a deep appreciation for God's character, His holiness, His love, and His grace. When we meditate on His attributes, we are drawn into a deeper understanding of who He is and what He has done for us. It fuels our worship and inspires us to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Finally, David desires to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. This speaks of a commitment to consistent fellowship with God's people. It involves actively participating in the life of the church, serving others, and building up the body of Christ. As we gather together, we create an atmosphere of unity and love that draws us closer to God.

## A Moment With God

Holy Spirit, we invite You to move among us this morning. Prepare our hearts to worship You in spirit and in truth. Break down any barriers that may hinder us from fully encountering Your presence. Fill us with a spirit of humility, expectation, and unity, that we may be transformed by Your love and grace.