
GOD ON FILM

Brand New Day

A Five-Day Devotional

*“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,
but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

GALATIANS 2:20

Pastor Lawrence Williams

Higher Purpose Church

Real People. Real Life. Real Love.

DAY 1

Surrender the Life You Built

SCRIPTURE

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” ... “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

— Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:4

DEVOTIONAL

In the Greek, “I have been crucified” is perfect tense and passive voice — which means it already happened, it is finished, and it was done to Paul, not by him. That is not a goal he is working toward. It is a verdict that has already been executed. Most of us are still treating surrender like a project we manage instead of a death we accept, and that is why we stay tired.

Here is what makes it hard: the old life almost never feels like bondage. It feels like comfort. Nobody stays in chains that hurt every day — we stay in the ones that are broken in just right. And nobody in the history of the world has ever drifted toward grace. Left alone, we drift toward earning every single time.

God is not asking you to hand Him a life to improve. He is asking you to hand Him one to end — because what He wants to give you back is not your life restored. It is a different order of life altogether.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What part of your old life have you been calling “comfortable” when God has already called it dead?

PRAYER

Father, I have been managing what You already crucified. Today I stop negotiating and I hand it over — not to be improved, but to be ended. Bury what needs to stay buried, and raise me into the life You already paid for. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 2

Stop Paying for What He Gave

SCRIPTURE

“I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

— Galatians 2:21

DEVOTIONAL

Paul puts the entire cross on one side of the scale and our self-improvement on the other, and he says plainly: they cannot both be true. If there is any path where you can get righteous on your own steam, then Calvary was a waste. Anything you add to the cross does not decorate it — it becomes a wall around it.

We rarely say it the way Paul said it. We say it three other ways: “Let me clean myself up first.” “God, if You get me out of this one thing, I promise I’ll never again.” And the church version — “God, You owe me, I have been faithful.” None of that is in the text. We added it.

Underneath all of it is the same thing: we need our hands on something before we will value it. A debt we are paying is a debt we can control, but a gift we cannot repay leaves us standing there with nothing in our hands. That is exactly the position grace requires — and it is the one we fight hardest to avoid.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What are you still trying to pay God back for — and what would change this week if you simply said thank You instead?

PRAYER

Father, forgive me for handing You receipts when You asked for my heart. You did not want the money back. You wanted me. Teach me to receive without flinching and to stop paying for what has already been marked paid in full. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 3

Strip Off the Life That Died

SCRIPTURE

“...and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” ... “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

— Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3

DEVOTIONAL

The phrase “no longer” describes a state that has permanently ended. Not paused. Not on a break. Over. And yet Paul says “I no longer live” while he is still writing the sentence — which means somebody is walking around in a body a dead man used to occupy.

That is where most believers actually live. Not in rebellion, and not in freedom either. Somewhere in the middle: saved but not changed, forgiven but not free, still wearing what God already buried. The hard truth is that half dead and half living is worse than either one — you have just enough of Jesus to feel guilty and just enough of the old life to stay stuck.

The old man is already dead. God is not asking you to kill him. He is asking you to stop dressing him every morning. Identify it, take it back to the cross where it legally died, and then make sure it stays dead — because we love a resurrection, and we will nail it up on Sunday and go get it down on Thursday.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Name one thing God has already buried that you are still getting up and dressing every morning.

PRAYER

Father, I have been maintaining what You crucified. Show me the specific thing I keep bringing back to life, and give me the courage to leave it in the ground. I do not want to live in the middle anymore. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 4

Step Into the Life He Gave

SCRIPTURE

“The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God...” ... “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

— Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:6

DEVOTIONAL

Catch what this life actually is. It is not your life with better habits and a cleaner mouth and a church schedule attached. He did not give you a better life — He gave you His life, being lived through you, in this body, at this job, in this season.

And that life represents somebody. When you carry the old temper into the office, the old bitterness into the family reunion, the old tongue into the comment section — people do not stop and evaluate you. They look at your Father and draw a conclusion about Him. He stands there and absorbs a hit for a decision you made in private.

But this is an invitation, not a scolding. The new life is not something you have to go earn or qualify for. It is already bought, already hanging there with your name in it — no guilt in it, no shame in it, no condemnation in it, and a seat at the right hand of the Father that is a current address, not a future one. He is waiting on you to put it on.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who is watching your life this week and quietly forming an opinion about your Father?

PRAYER

Father, I did not understand that I was representing You. Forgive me for the days I walked out carrying the old thing. Clothe me in what You already purchased, and let somebody see You in me this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 5

Put Your Name In It

SCRIPTURE

“...who loved me and gave himself for me.”
— Galatians 2:20

DEVOTIONAL

Watch what Paul does at the end of this verse. He has just given us some of the deepest theology in the New Testament — crucified with Christ, no longer I, Christ in me. And then he cannot finish the sentence without going personal again. Not for the world. Not for the church. Not for Galatia. For me.

Six verses of corporate doctrine, and the man simply cannot hold it. He has to put his own name in it. That is the difference between believing the cross and having been to it.

So here is the only question that really matters. If the cross is still general to you — a fact you would defend, a doctrine you affirm, something true in the abstract — you have been near it, but you have not been to it. But if it is personal, if you know exactly what He pulled you out of, then you will never again try to pay for it. You have seen the price tag. And gratitude is the receipt: if you are still working, you never took the gift.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Can you say it with your own name in it — “He loved me, and He gave Himself for me”?

PRAYER

Jesus, You did not do this for a crowd. You did it for me. Make the cross personal to me until every attempt to earn it falls out of my hands. I stop performing today, and I start praising. In Your name, amen.

NOTES

**His life doesn't fit
until yours comes off.**

Take it off.

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