

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: Stirred by God

### Devotional

Have you ever felt God nudging your heart toward something new? In the Book of Ezra, we see how God stirred the heart of King Cyrus—a pagan ruler—to release the Jewish people from captivity after 70 years. This wasn't random; it was the fulfillment of God's promise spoken through Jeremiah long before.

God is still in the business of stirring hearts today. He gently prompts us toward restoration, new beginnings, and deeper faith. Sometimes we feel these stirrings as a persistent thought, a growing passion, or even a divine discontent with where we are spiritually.

What's beautiful about God's stirrings is that they're always aligned with His character and promises. When He stirs us to take a step of faith, He's not setting us up for failure—He's inviting us into His redemptive story.

Perhaps you've been feeling a nudge to reconnect with God after drifting away, to serve in a new capacity, or to trust Him in an area where you've been holding back. These stirrings aren't random—they're divine invitations to experience God's faithfulness.

Just as God fulfilled His promise to bring the Israelites home after decades of exile, He remains faithful to His promises to us. No matter how far you've wandered or how long you've been away, God's heart is to restore, not to punish.

### Bible Verse

"This is what the LORD says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.'" - Jeremiah 29:10

### Reflection Question

What area of your life might God be stirring you to take a step of faith in right now, and what's holding you back from responding?

### Quote

"Have you ever said, how do I know God is leading me to take this step of faith? Let me give you three things we see there, things to check off for yourself. Number one, God's word. Number two, God's spirit is stirring the heart. Number three, the circumstances give proof."

### Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your gentle stirrings in my heart. Help me recognize Your voice and give me courage to respond when You call. I trust that Your stirrings always lead to good, even when the path seems uncertain. Open my heart to Your direction today. Amen.

## Day 2: You Belong to God

### Devotional

In Ezra, we find detailed genealogies of the returning exiles—long lists of names that might seem tedious to modern readers. Yet these records served a crucial purpose: they established who truly belonged among God's covenant people.

These genealogies remind us of a profound truth: our identity matters to God. He knows your name. He knows your history. He knows exactly where you fit in His family.

Many of us struggle with feelings of not belonging—wondering if we're truly accepted by God, especially

### **Bible Verse**

"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" - Galatians 4:6

### **Reflection Question**

How might your relationship with God and your service to others change if you fully embraced your identity as God's beloved child who permanently belongs in His family?

### **Quote**

"If you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the Bible tells you your name is on that list. In heaven. It's on the Lamb's Book of Life. It's in there. It's logged in there. Because you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ."

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus. When I feel like I don't belong or that I've wandered too far, remind me that my name is written in heaven. Help me to live with the confidence and joy that comes from knowing I am Yours forever. Amen.

## **Day 3: Rising from the Ruins**

### **Devotional**

The Israelites returned to Jerusalem to find their temple—once glorious and magnificent—lying in ruins. What had been destroyed seemed beyond repair. Yet God called them not to mourn what was lost but to rebuild what could be restored.

Many of us have areas in our lives that feel like ruins—relationships damaged by conflict, faith weakened by doubt, or dreams shattered by disappointment. We look at the rubble and wonder if restoration is even possible.

Ezra's message speaks powerfully to these moments: God specializes in rebuilding what seems beyond repair. No ruin is too devastating for His restorative power.

The rebuilding process wasn't instant for the Israelites. It took time, faced opposition, and required persistent effort. Our spiritual restoration often follows the same pattern. Healing rarely happens overnight, but God is patient with the process.

Whatever lies in ruins in your life today—whether through your own choices, others' actions, or circumstances beyond your control—God invites you to rise up and participate in the rebuilding process. He doesn't just command restoration; He provides everything needed to accomplish it.

The God who called His people to rise from captivity and rebuild His temple is calling you today: "Get up, don't give up!" Your story of restoration is just beginning.

### **Bible Verse**

"Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes people stagger." - Isaiah 44:28

### **Reflection Question**

What area of your life feels like it's in ruins right now, and what would it look like to partner with God in rebuilding it?

### **Quote**

"The world may ride you off and say you're worthless and you have no hope and have no future. But God would say to you, even this morning, get up, don't give up. Get up and run back to the Lord until you find his arms embrace you and the life beginning to be restored."

## **Prayer**

God of restoration, I bring before You the broken places in my life. Where I see only ruins, help me to see the possibility of rebuilding. Give me courage to rise up and not give up, trusting that You are working to restore what seems lost. Thank You that no situation is beyond Your redemptive power. Amen.

## **Day 4: Confidence in Christ**

### **Devotional**

One of the most beautiful themes in Ezra is the assurance of belonging. The returning exiles could verify their place among God's people through genealogical records. Today, we have something even more certain—the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Many believers live with nagging uncertainty about their standing with God. They wonder: "Am I really saved? Does God truly accept me? What if I've sinned too much?" This uncertainty can paralyze our spiritual growth and service.

God doesn't want us living in this state of spiritual insecurity. Through the apostle John, He tells us plainly that we can KNOW we have eternal life through faith in Jesus. This isn't arrogance—it's taking God at His word.

When we place our faith in Christ, we receive absolute assurance that we belong to God. Our salvation doesn't depend on our performance but on Christ's perfect sacrifice. We don't have to wonder if we've done enough or been good enough—Jesus has done it all.

This confidence transforms everything. When we know we're secure in Christ, we can serve God from a place of gratitude rather than fear. We can take risks in faith knowing our standing with God isn't at stake. We can approach God boldly as beloved children rather than trembling as uncertain servants.

Today, embrace the confidence that comes from knowing you belong to Christ—not because you've earned it, but because He has freely given it.

### **Bible Verse**

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." - 1 John 5:13

### **Reflection Question**

How might your relationship with God and your spiritual life change if you fully embraced the certainty of your salvation through Christ rather than questioning it?

### **Quote**

"God says, I want you to be confident this day that if you died today, you are in heaven because of the work of Jesus Christ for you."

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the assurance I have in Christ. Help me to live from a place of confidence in Your love rather than fear and uncertainty. When doubts creep in, remind me that my salvation rests not on my performance but on Jesus' finished work. I receive the gift of knowing I am Yours forever. Amen.

## **Day 5: Equipped for Every Good Work**

### **Devotional**

When the Israelites returned to rebuild the temple, they didn't come empty-handed. King Cyrus returned the sacred vessels that had been taken from the original temple, and many others contributed resources for the rebuilding effort. God ensured they had everything needed for the work He called them to do.

This pattern continues in our lives today. When God calls us to a task—whether rebuilding a broken relationship, serving in ministry, or taking a step of faith—He doesn't leave us to figure it out alone. He equips us with exactly what we need.

Sometimes we hesitate to respond to God's call because we feel inadequate. We focus on our limitations rather than God's provision. But throughout Scripture, we see that God's calling always includes His equipping. He doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

The resources God provides might come through unexpected channels—the skills you've developed in secular work, the wisdom gained through hardship, or the support of others in the body of Christ. God is creative in how He supplies what we need.

As you consider the stirrings God has placed in your heart, remember this truth: God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply. You can step out in faith knowing that the One who calls you is faithful to equip you for every good work He's prepared for you.

### **Bible Verse**

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." - Hebrews 6:10

### **Reflection Question**

What has God been calling you to do that you've hesitated to pursue because you felt inadequate or unprepared? How might remembering God's promise to equip you change your response?

### **Quote**

"When God stirs man, God's ready to equip. When he calls, he equips. And by giving my life away, I find myself gaining new life in a radical way."

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for not only calling me but equipping me for every good work You've prepared. Help me to focus more on Your faithfulness than on my inadequacies. Give me courage to step out in faith, trusting that You will provide everything I need to fulfill Your purposes. I surrender my fears of inadequacy and embrace Your promise to equip me. Amen.