

The Contraction of the Contracti

NOV. 6, 7 • 7PM & NOV. 9 • 9AM

31-DAY DEVOTIONAL







DEDICATION

Prepared for New Psalmist Baptist Church as we enter a fresh season under the leadership of Rev. Walter Thomas, Jr., with gratitude, by Bishop Walter S. Thomas, Sr., Pastor Emeritus. May our community know Christ more deeply, stand courageously, and hope fiercely.

REvival Encounter 2025

Theme: Come Alive

Dates: November 2-9, 2025

REnew. REfresh. REvive. REveal. Come Alive.

Revival Structure:

- Sun 11/2 Kickoff Worship (9AM)
- Mon 11/3 Wed 11/5 Churchwide Fast
- Thu 11/6 RE Night 1 (7PM) Worship Night
- Fri 11/7 RE Night 2 (7PM) Worship Night
- Sat 11/8 Sabbath Day No events
- Sun 11/9 Closing Worship (9AM)

DEVOTIONAL GUIDELINES

- Read the Scripture aloud.
 Sit in silence for one minute.
- Read the Reflection (≈200 words), then the Summary.
- Pray the Closing Thought and the Prayer.
- Write your line under "Today I will trust Jesus by...".
- Weekly arc: Release → Renewal → Resilience
 → Rejoicing → Re-Centering.

This devotional begins Friday October 10th and goes through the end of revival. Let's study together on one accord as we prepare to Come Alive in RE:25.



Philippians 3:7-10

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."









WEEK 1

Release: Laying It Down (Days 1-7)



The Great Exchange

Philippians 3:7-8; Matthew 13:44

Reflection: Paul tallies his finest achievements and stamps them loss compared to Christ. In Philippians 3:7–8, he isn't despising education or effort; he's repricing them. Christ is the treasure that makes lesser goods look small. Jesus' parable of the hidden treasure (Mt 13:44) pictures a laborer who stumbles upon a field rich with glory. He sells "all" with joy-not because the field is cheap, but because the treasure is priceless. Revival begins when we revise our spreadsheets: reputation, success, and self-reliance move from the assets column to available to surrender. Consider a sister who lost her job and said, "I didn't lose my calling." She pivoted to serving neighbors, and in time, God opened better work. She traded the illusion of control for the reality of Christ's presence and found freedom. Today, ask: What must I lay down so my hands can hold Him?

Paul calls his résumé "loss" compared to Christ. Revival begins with an exchange: we trade the illusion of control for the treasure in the field. Lay down reputation, regret, and the need to be right, so we can pick up Christ.

Closing Thought:

What I release. God can redeem.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I trade my grasping for Your grace. Be my surpassing worth today. Amen.

DAY 2

Letting Go of Yesterday

Philippians 3:13; Isaiah 43:18-19

Reflection: "Forgetting what is behind" (Phil 3:13) is not erasing memory; it is refusing to be ruled by it. Isaiah announces God's fresh river in the desert (Isa 43:18-19). The exiles carried both failure and grief; God carried a future. Many in our community carry the sting of layoffs, strained relationships, and missed chances. Like a seed's shell cracking, loss can feel like breaking—but the breaking makes room for life. A brother once told how he clutched a past promotion like a trophy until the company folded. Only when he opened his hands did he notice God's "new thing": time to study, serve, and start anew. Name yesterday honestly; then place it in nail-scarred hands. God is not done creating.

Yesterday may have held a pink slip, a harsh word, or a quiet ache. God says, "See, I'm doing a new thing." New doesn't erase the old; it transforms it—like a seed that must split to sprout.

Closing Thought:

New mercy needs open hands.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: God of new beginnings, help me release yesterday and recognize Your river in my desert. Amen.



Counting Loss Differently

Philippians 3:8; Romans 8:28

Reflection: Paul uses accounting language: consider all things loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. Romans 8:28 doesn't say all things are good; it says God works them together for good. When income drops or plans collapse, we can learn to count differently. Think of a mother who leveraged a season of unemployment to mentor teens after school. Paychecks were thin; purpose overflowed. Later, doors opened for a new career shaped by that service. She did not deny the pain; she discovered the profit—Christ known more intimately, character refined, neighbor loved. In God's economy, subtraction can set the stage for multiplication.

Paul reframes loss as a doorway to deeper knowledge of Christ. In God's arithmetic, subtraction can lead to multiplication. Let faith audit your books today.

Closing Thought:

Heaven's ledger turns loss into learning.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Father, teach me to count like Paul—considering Christ my profit in every season. Amen.



Philippians 3:10; Psalm 27:4

Reflection: "I want to know Christ"—Paul names his ambition. Psalm 27:4 echoes: "One thing I ask... to gaze on the beauty of the Lord." Ambition is not the enemy; misdirected ambition is. Careers, campaigns, and calendars can scatter the heart. Revival gathers it into one thing. Imagine writing a one-line résumé: "Pursues Jesus." From that center, decisions clarify: Does this move help me behold Him, obey Him, become like Him? Success then becomes service; recognition, intercession; achievement, worship. When our "one thing" is Christ, our many things find peace.

Ambition isn't the enemy; misdirected ambition is. Make your résumé one line: "Pursues Jesus." Everything else finds its proper size in that light.

Closing Thought:

One holy aim simplifies a noisy life.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord, narrow my desires until knowing You is my single pursuit. Amen.



When Suffering Knocks

Philippians 3:10; John 16:33

Reflection: Paul longs to know the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. That sounds strange until we remember: Jesus meets us in pain, not just beyond it. He promised trouble (Jn 16:33) and His overcoming presence. In hospital rooms, kitchen tables covered with bills, and silent commutes home, He shares the seat beside us. A deacon once whispered after chemotherapy, "I'm not brave—but I'm kept." He felt seen, not forgotten; accompanied, not abandoned. Suffering is not a test to pass for God's love; it is a place to discover it. Fellowship means sharing—He shares our wounds; we share His comfort.

Revival doesn't avoid pain—it invites Christ into it. Fellowship with His sufferings means we never hurt alone.

Closing Thought:

I don't suffer to be saved; I suffer with the Savior.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Man of Sorrows, sit with me today. Turn my pain into communion. Amen.



The Power That Raises

Philippians 3:10; Ephesians 1:19-20

Reflection: The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is toward us who believe (Eph 1:19–20). That power doesn't always split seas; sometimes it strengthens spines and softens hearts. Resurrection power gets us out of bed, back to the application, into the reconciliation, and onto our knees. A furloughed worker prayed, "Lord, raise my hope." Over weeks, despair loosened and new skills were learned. Then a call came. Coincidence? Perhaps. But in the Kingdom, coincidences line up behind providence. Expect quiet miracles—the kind that turn a closed Friday into an open Monday.

Resurrection power is not just for Easter—it's for Monday morning. Expect a quiet miracle.

Closing Thought:

Resurrection is God's accent on every sentence.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Risen Lord, lift what in me is lifeless. Breathe Your power into my day. Amen.



Sabbath Surrender

Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 23:1-3

Reflection: Jesus invites the weary to come, learn, and rest. Rest is not laziness; it is trust. Psalm 23 shows rest as restoration—the Shepherd leads, feeds, and renews. In anxious times, we try to outrun the ache. Sabbath stands still, letting our Shepherd catch us. Consider scheduling one hour this week with no screens, no headlines—only Scripture, a walk, and a simple prayer: "You are my Shepherd; I lack nothing." In that quiet, God restores what hurry has thinned.

Rest is resistance in an anxious age. Let the Shepherd restore your soul—the ministry of "nothing lacking."

Closing Thought:

Rest is how faith breathes.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Gentle Shepherd, lead me beside still waters. Restore my soul. Amen.







WEEK 2

Renewal: Heart on Fire (Days 8-14)



Philippians 3:8-9; Psalm 42:1-2

Reflection: Paul prizes the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. The psalmist pants for God like a deer for water—this is survival, not sentiment. Holy hunger grows when lesser snacks fail us. When the news cycle exhausts and achievement rings hollow, the Spirit awakens ache for the Living God. Try a simple fast from one distraction today, and replace it with prayerful reading of the Gospels. As appetite shifts, joy follows.

Revival kindles appetite. Ask God to turn polite interest into holy hunger.

Closing Thought:

God meets us at the level of our thirst.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Living Water, deepen my thirst and satisfy my soul in You. Amen.



Righteousness Received

Philippians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Reflection: Paul contrasts a righteousness of my own with the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ. We are not on probation with God; we are adopted. Jesus became sin so we might become God's righteousness. In economic uncertainty, one thing is certain: your status in Christ. You don't work for love; you work from love. That changes the temperature of the soul from frantic to faithful.

Our standing with God is gifted, not earned. In uncertain economies, anchor in a certain gospel: Jesus is enough.

Closing Thought:

Grace is God doing the heavy lifting.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord, I rest in Your righteousness, not my record. Amen.



Mindset of Resurrection

Philippians 3:10; Romans 12:2

Reflection: To know the power of his resurrection requires a renewed mind. We reject conforming to fear and are transformed by truth. Practice a mental exchange: when a doom thought arrives, answer with a resurrection promise (John 11:25; 1 Peter 1:3). Our ancestors did this instinctively—singing hope in sorrow. Train your mind to rehearse rising.

The renewed mind rehearses resurrection.
Replace doom loops with "But God..." stories.

Closing Thought:

Renewed minds recognize rising mornings.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Spirit, transform my thinking. Let resurrection be my reflex. Amen.



Hope in Hard Times

Psalm 46:1-3; Philippians 4:19

Reflection: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help. The psalm imagines mountains falling into the sea—national and personal upheaval. Yet there is a river that makes glad the city of God. In Christ, we carry an internal climate of hope. A member once said after a layoff, "The river kept running." God supplied groceries through friends, guidance through counsel, and peace beyond reason. Expect God's nearness as provision and presence.

Bills, ballots, and bad news don't set the weather in Zion. We carry an internal climate of hope.

Closing Thought:

Circumstances shout; hope sings back.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Refuge of my life, steady me. Provide what I lack and strengthen what remains. Amen.

DAY 12

Joy in the Journey

Philippians 4:4; Nehemiah 8:10

Reflection: "Rejoice in the Lord always" is not denial; it is defiance: joy against despair. Nehemiah says the joy of the Lord is our strength. Joy comes from Who holds us, not what we hold. Practice "joy spotting" today—notice small gifts (a smile, a verse, a sunrise) and say, "Thank You, Lord." Joy is the oil that keeps courage from grinding.

Joy is resistance fuel. Revival laughs in the face of despair because Jesus is risen.

Closing Thought:

The joy of the Lord is strength, not decoration.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord of joy, lighten my face and fortify my steps. Amen.



Peace That Guards

Philippians 4:6-7; John 14:27

Reflection: Prayer with thanksgiving ushers our anxieties into God's presence, and His peace stands guard—like a soldier at the gate of our minds. Jesus' peace is not the world's fragile calm; it is durable, blood-bought shalom. Try this rhythm: Pause (breathe), Present (name the worry), Praise (thank God for a past mercy), and Proceed (do the next right thing). The guard takes his post.

God's peace stands guard over anxious hearts. Pray, thank, and hand over the keys.

Closing Thought:

Peace is heaven's security detail.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Prince of Peace, post Your guard over my mind today. Amen.



Strength to Endure

Philippians 4:12-13; Isaiah 40:31

Reflection: Paul learned contentment in scarcity and abundance. Strength arrived as sufficiency in Christ, not as a life without challenges. Isaiah promises renewed strength for those who wait on the Lord—eagles still feel wind; they just use it. Waiting is not inactivity; it is expectant reliance. Practice a three-minute "wait" today: breathe, whisper "Jesus," and surrender outcomes.

Strength isn't the absence of struggle; it's the presence of Christ in it.

Closing Thought:

I can because Christ is in me.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Strong Savior, teach me contentment and give me endurance. Amen.







WEEK 3

Resilience: Standing Tall (Days 15-21)



Pressing On

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14

Reflection: Paul hasn't arrived, but he presses toward the upward call. Forgetting what is behind is not pretending; it is prioritizing. On a marathon course, glancing back breaks stride. Fix your gaze on Christ's finish line. When shame or nostalgia tugs, answer with the call: upward, onward, with Jesus.

Forgetting what's behind means refusing to be governed by it. Eyes forward; heart upward.

Closing Thought:

Direction beats perfection.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord, set my face like flint toward the upward call. Amen.

Community Courage

Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:42-47

Reflection: Hope holds fast and holds together. Hebrews urges us to spur one another on; Acts shows a Spirit-formed community devoted to teaching, table, and prayer. Revival is relational—kitchen tables, church basements, group texts. A small circle of saints once pooled rides to interviews, shared meals, and prayed weekly. Jobs came, but more—joy came. Consider how you might devote yourself this week: to Scripture, to a table, to prayer with others. Courage compounds in community.

We heal in company. Revival is relational.

Closing Thought:

Isolation shrinks faith; fellowship stretches it.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Father, knit me into the body. Make me a giver and receiver of courage. Amen.



Work, Worth, and Worship

Colossians 3:23-24; Psalm 90:17

Reflection: Work is worship when done unto the Lord. Your worth precedes your wage; your identity is beloved. Psalm 90 asks God to establish the work of our hands. Even temporary tasks become sacred when offered to God. A temp cashier greeted every customer with dignity; a manager noticed—and hired her full-time. Offer today's labor, however humble, as an altar.

Your worth predates your work. Small tasks become sacred when done in His name.

Closing Thought:

My identity is beloved, not employed.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Provider, dignify my labor and open new doors in due season. Amen.

God of the Open Door

Revelation 3:7-8; Proverbs 3:5-6

Reflection: Jesus holds the key of David—when He opens, no one shuts. Providence is not random luck; it is the care of a King. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and He will make your paths straight. Pray over applications, interviews, and decisions. Ask for favor and fit. When a door closes, don't camp in the hallway; keep walking with the One who has the keys.

Jesus holds keys. When one door slams, He can set before you another. Trust, listen, and walk.

Closing Thought:

Closed doors can be divine detours.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Way-Maker, align my steps with Your open doors. Amen.



Lament and Lift

Psalm 34:17-19; Lamentations 3:21-23

Reflection: The righteous cry, and the Lord hears; He is near to the brokenhearted. Lament tells the truth of pain without losing the grip of hope. Jeremiah's tears did not drown his faith; they irrigated it: "Great is Your faithfulness." A widow shared how she prayed Psalm 34 daily through loss. Over time, grief didn't vanish, but it learned to walk with hope. Let your tears become the water for tomorrow's joy.

Lament is faith telling the truth. Tears water the ground where joy will grow.

Closing Thought:

Honest tears become holy seeds.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Father, hear my cry and renew my hope morning by morning. Amen.

Spiritual Warfare, Gentle Weapons

Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Reflection: Our struggle is real, but our weapons are different: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word, and prayer. These are gentle in the hand but mighty in God. Put them on intentionally—speak truth over lies, choose righteousness when tempted, carry peace into conflict, lift the shield of faith against fiery doubts, wear salvation identity, wield Scripture promises, and pray in the Spirit on all occasions.

Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the Word, prayer—gentle in hand, mighty in God. Armor up.

Closing Thought:

Soft hands, strong armor.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord of Hosts, clothe me in Your armor and keep me standing. Amen.

Generosity in Scarcity

2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Luke 6:38

Reflection: The Macedonian churches gave beyond their ability because grace had first given to them. Generosity is not about surplus; it is about surrender. Jesus promises that the measure we use will be measured back to us. During a lean season, one family chose to tithe groceries to a neighbor each week. Their pantry never overflowed—but neither did it run out. Giving pried open fear's fingers and made room for joy.

Generosity isn't about amount; it's about allegiance. Even in lean months, open your palm.

Closing Thought:

Open hands invite open heavens.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Giver of every good gift, make me a cheerful giver today. Amen.







WEEK 4

Rejoicing: Songs in the Night (Days 22-28)



Singing at Midnight

Acts 16:25-26; Psalm 42:8

Reflection: In a Philippian jail, Paul and Silas sang—and chains fell. Praise does not deny prison walls; it declares a greater Power within them. Psalm 42:8 says God commands His lovingkindness by day, and His song is with us by night. Adopt a midnight melody—one hymn or chorus to carry into dark hours. As you sing, you align with heaven's truth and invite other prisoners to listen—and hope.

Songs can rattle chains nothing else moves. Make a midnight melody.

Closing Thought:

Worship is a jailbreak.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: God of the midnight song, break what binds as I praise You. Amen.

Gratitude Therapy

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Psalm 103:2-5

Reflection: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances—this is not cruel advice; it is curative practice. Gratitude does not gaslight pain; it gives it context. Psalm 103 catalogs benefits: forgiveness, healing, redemption, love, renewal. Begin and end today by naming three mercies. Watch how your soul lifts under the weight of wonder.

Gratitude is spiritual therapy. Name three mercies before you check your phone.

Closing Thought:

Thankfulness widens the heart.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Faithful One, teach me to count benefits, not just burdens. Amen.



Testimony Time

Revelation 12:11; Psalm 66:16

Reflection: We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. Your story is a sermon someone needs. Psalm 66 invites us to say, "Come and hear what God has done for me." Share briefly, honestly, and hopefully. A young man once testified: "I thought I'd drown in debt and shame. Jesus sent people, wisdom, and work. I'm not finished, but I'm free." Testimony turns private grace into public light.

Your story is a sermon someone needs. Testimony multiplies strength.

Closing Thought:

A told story multiplies strength.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord, give me courage to tell what You've done for me. Amen.



Justice and Joy

Micah 6:8; Luke 4:18-19

Reflection: The Lord requires us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Jesus announced Jubilee—good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed. Revival is personal and public: transformed hearts and engaged hands. Ask: Where can I act justly this week—at work, school, or city hall? Mercy and humility are not soft—they are Spirit-strong. Justice without Jesus can grow harsh; Jesus without justice is not Jesus. Let joy fuel your service.

Revival is personal and public—holy hearts and just hands. It's Jesus' mission and ours.

Closing Thought:

Spirit-filled people seek Spirit-shaped justice.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Anointed Savior, anoint me to serve the brokenhearted with Your good news. Amen.



Family Revival

Joshua 24:15; Psalm 127:1

Reflection: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Households become altars when Christ is Lord at the table, not just the pew. Psalm 127 reminds us that unless the Lord builds, we labor in vain. Choose one simple practice: pray the Lord's Prayer together before bed; bless each doorway with Psalm 121; forgive quickly; plan a weekly meal of gratitude. As homes align with heaven, neighborhoods notice.

Revival at church overflows around the table. Make forgiveness your family language.

Closing Thought:

My address can be an altar.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord, build this house with Your wisdom and peace. Amen.



The Gift of Work

Proverbs 16:3; Psalm 37:3-5

Reflection: Commit your plans to the Lord, and He will establish them. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell and befriend faithfulness. Apply, learn, network, rest—then leave results with God. A brother kept a simple rhythm: three applications a day, one skill learned a week, daily prayer with a friend. In time, a job came that fit like answered prayer. Work is a gift; so is waiting.

Do the next small faithful thing. God directs moving feet.

Closing Thought:

I plant; God provides.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Father, establish the work of my hands and open the right opportunity. Amen.

Courage for Tomorrow

Joshua 1:9; Matthew 6:33-34

Reflection: God charges Joshua: be strong and courageous; I am with you. Jesus counsels us to seek first the Kingdom and let tomorrow worry about itself. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is fear that has prayed. Name the worry; seek the King; step forward. Tomorrow's giants often shrink under today's obedience.

Seek first the Kingdom, and tomorrow loses its terror.

Closing Thought:

Courage is fear that has said its prayers.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Captain of my future, go before me into tomorrow. Amen.







WEEK 5

Re-Centering: Know Him (Days 29-31)

The Prize of His Presence

Philippians 3:14; Psalm 16:11

Reflection: The prize of the upward call is not a platform but a Person. Psalm 16 locates joy and pleasure in God's presence. Revival is not hype; it's Him. Practice awareness today: set small alarms labeled "With Jesus." When they chime, whisper, "You are here." Let His nearness steady your heart and sweeten your tasks.

The upward call is ultimately a Person. Fullness of joy is found where He is.

Closing Thought:

His presence is my prize.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Lord, keep me near. Be my joy and my journey. Amen.



Conformed to Christ

Philippians 3:10; Romans 8:29

Reflection: The Spirit's mission is to form Christ in us. Suffering becomes a chisel; Scripture, a mirror; the church, a workshop. God is not making us famous; He is making us faithful. Yield to His forming today—confess, forgive, serve, bless. The image of Christ is our destiny and dignity.

God's endgame is Christ-likeness—our character carved to resemble Jesus.

Closing Thought:

The Spirit shapes me for glory.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: Holy Spirit, form Jesus in me—thought, word, and deed. Amen.

Resurrection People

Philippians 3:10-11; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Reflection: We are born again to a living hope through Jesus' resurrection, to an inheritance that cannot spoil. Resurrection is not just Jesus' story; it is our identity. We outlast the night because morning belongs to God. Carry this hope into Baltimore—into boardrooms and bus stops, schools and sanctuaries. Let your life hum with Easter's song.

We are a risen people heading toward a living hope and an unfading inheritance. The last word is life.

Closing Thought:

Because He lives, we outlast the night.

Today I will trust Jesus by:

Prayer: God of living hope, make us revival carriers—brave, gentle, and joyful. In Jesus' name, Amen.

