5-Day Devotional: Unashamed

Day 1: The Courage to Stand **Reading: Romans 1:14-17** **Devotional:** Paul wrote to believers in the most powerful city on earth and declared he was not ashamed. That word "ashamed" carries the idea of shrinking back, of quietly distancing yourself from something that might cost you socially or personally. Consider the world Paul was entering: Rome's power, philosophy, and pride stood in direct contrast to the message of a crucified carpenter from Galilee. Yet Paul did not soften his message or apologize for it. True gospel courage is not the absence of pressure. It is the refusal to shrink under pressure. Ask yourself today: In what areas of your life are you tempted to quietly distance yourself from Christ?

Day 2: The Gospel Is the Power **Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25** **Devotional:** Paul acknowledged openly that the gospel sounds foolish to those who do not believe. To the Jewish mind, a crucified Messiah was a scandal. To the Greek mind, it was intellectual nonsense. Yet Paul called this same message the power of God. The Greek word dynamis, translated as power, speaks of genuine might and ability. The gospel is not merely a story about God's power. It is the active instrument through which God's power moves into human lives. No philosophy, no institution, no system of self-improvement carries this kind of transforming force. The question is not whether the gospel has power. The question is whether you trust it.

Day 3: Saved From, Saved To **Reading: Romans 3:19-26** **Devotional:** The word salvation sounds familiar to most church-going people, and familiarity can quietly drain a word of its weight. The Greek word soteria means deliverance and rescue, the kind of language you use when someone is pulled from danger. Romans makes clear what humanity is being rescued from: sin, guilt, God's righteous judgment, spiritual death. But rescue always moves someone from one place to another. Through Christ, the believer is moved from condemnation to justification, from guilt to peace, from spiritual death to eternal life. Salvation is not simply a life improvement. It is a complete transformation of standing before a holy God. Let that settle deeply today.

Day 4: Faith That Receives **Reading: Romans 5:1-11** **Devotional:** Paul is precise about how salvation is received. Not by deserving it. Not by cleaning yourself up first. Not by accumulating enough religious activity. Salvation comes through faith, through trusting in what Christ accomplished in His death, burial, and resurrection. Romans 5 describes what this faith produces: justification, peace with God, access to grace, and reconciliation. Notice that none of these are things a person earns. They are all things a person receives. Faith is the open hand that takes what God freely gives. The gospel crosses every human boundary, reaching the religious and the irreligious, the moral and the immoral alike. Nobody is beyond its reach.

Day 5: From Belief to Public Testimony **Reading: Acts 2:37-47** **Devotional:** The Day of Pentecost demonstrates the full movement of the gospel's power in human lives. People heard the message, believed the message, and were changed by the message. Then they went public with their faith through baptism, openly identifying with Christ before the watching world. Baptism does not produce salvation. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. But baptism is a beautiful and obedient declaration that something real has happened on the inside. It is the believer saying without apology: I belong to Christ. Paul's confidence in the gospel produced his courage with the gospel. Let yours do the same.