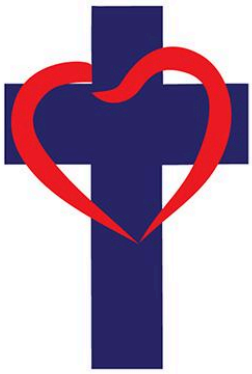

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Save the Lost · Grow the Saved

5-Day Devotional: Released to Live

Day 1: The Death That Brings Life
Reading: Romans 7:1-6

Devotional:
A seed must die before it produces fruit. This paradox lies at the heart of the Christian life. Just as a garden requires preparation—tilling, fertilizing, even killing what was there before—God prepares our hearts for new life. You were born "married" to the law, bound by its demands and condemned by your inability to meet them. But through Christ's death, you died to that old marriage. The seed of the gospel, planted in prepared soil, must die within you to produce repentance and salvation. This death isn't an ending; it's the beginning of true freedom. Have you allowed the seed to die, or are you clinging to the old life that can never produce lasting fruit?

Day 2: Cancelled Debt, Legal Freedom
Reading: Colossians 2:13-15

Devotional:
Imagine receiving a credit card statement showing a massive debt—one you could never repay. The legal demands are real: lawsuits, garnishment, consequences. Your sin created exactly this kind of record against you, with a penalty far worse than financial ruin: eternal death. But Christ took that statement of debt and nailed it to the cross. Every legal demand was satisfied through His blood. You are released—not because you earned it, not because you minimized the debt, but because it was paid in full. This isn't theoretical theology; it's your spiritual reality. The Holy Spirit now dwells where condemnation once lived. Are you living in the freedom of a cancelled debt, or still trying to make payments on what's already been paid?

Day 3: Led by the Spirit, Not the Law
Reading: Galatians 5:16-26

Devotional:
How do you know you've truly died to the law? The evidence is unmistakable: the Holy Spirit leads you. You respond to conviction. You grow. Scripture begins making sense in ways it never did before. This isn't about perfect obedience; it's about new direction. The Spirit produces fruit that the law never could: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These aren't achievements you manufacture through willpower; they're the natural overflow of Spirit-led living. Notice that "against such things there is no law." The law could command but never empower. The Spirit both directs and enables. Are you striving under law or thriving under Spirit? The difference isn't subtle—it's transformational.

Day 4: Pruned for Greater Fruitfulness
Reading: John 15:1-8

Devotional:
God doesn't save you and leave you unchanged. As the Master Gardener, He prunes every fruitful branch so it bears even more fruit. This pruning isn't pleasant—it involves cutting away thoughts, beliefs, and actions that contradict His will. Things you once defended, you now reject. Reactions that seemed justified now grieve you. This is sanctification: the ongoing process of becoming holy as God is holy. You're not saved by this transformation; you're transformed because you're saved. The pruning proves you're connected to the True Vine. Dead branches don't get pruned—only living ones. If God is cutting away something in your life right now, don't resist. He's not punishing you; He's preparing you for greater fruitfulness. Trust the Gardener's hands.

Day 5: Alive in Christ or Dead to Christ
Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Devotional:
There's no middle ground. You're either dead to the law and alive in Christ, or dead to Christ and condemned by the law. In Christ, you become the righteousness of God—not through your works, obedience, or beliefs, but through Jesus alone. Everything good flows from this union: the works, the obedience, the transformed thinking. They're results of salvation, not requirements for it. Salvation is the beginning, not the end. It launches you on the journey of becoming who you already are in Christ. Today, examine yourself honestly: Are you alive in Christ? Is the Holy Spirit producing evidence of new life? If something stands between you and this freedom, this is your moment. Nail it to the cross. Die to it. And discover the freedom of living released from the law and alive in the power of resurrection.