



RAISE YOUR
Gaze
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Pastor Mason Phillips | April 12, 2026

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Day 1: The Authority of "I Am"

Devotional: When Moses encountered God at the burning bush, he asked for God's name. The response—"I AM"—revealed God as the self-sufficient, eternal One. Centuries later, Jesus used this same divine identifier, declaring His authority over creation, storms, and circumstances. Before you can step into miracles, you must know who you're walking with. The same "I AM" who delivered Israel from bondage walks alongside you today. Your circumstances may seem overwhelming, but they bow to His authority. When Jesus says "come," the water becomes solid ground beneath your feet. Take time today to meditate on God's eternal nature. What impossible situation are you facing that needs the authority of the Great "I AM"?

Reading:

Exodus 3:1-14 NKJV

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

"Now therefore, behold. The cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

John 8:48-59 NKJV

Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. “And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. “Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You said, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ “Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “ If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.

“Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Revelation: How does understanding Jesus as the 'I Am' change your perspective on the authority behind His commands and promises in your life?

Day 2: Moving on Command, Not Circumstance

Devotional: Peter didn't wait for calm seas before stepping out of the boat—he moved at Jesus's command. Faith doesn't require perfect conditions; it requires obedience to God's word. Like sprinters waiting for the starting gun, we must position ourselves to respond immediately when God speaks, regardless of how we feel or what we see. The Christian life isn't about waiting until everything makes sense or feels comfortable. It's about trusting God's word more than your

circumstances. The storm you're facing may actually be confirmation that you're in God's will, not evidence that you've missed it. God knew the storm was coming when He sent the disciples across the sea. What command from God are you delaying because the circumstances aren't "right"?

Reading:

Matthew 14:22-33 NKJV

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other said, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. "But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the bot, the wind ceased.

Then those who were I the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Hebrews 11:1-6 NKJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By fiat we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

By father Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Revelation: Peter walked on water not by his own ability but by the authority of God's word - what impossible thing might God be calling you to do that requires His authority rather than your capability?

Day 3: Corporate Faith and Kingdom Mission

Devotional: Faith was never meant to be a solo journey. Just as Marines redistribute weight when someone falls, believers must carry one another toward the finish line. Your personal relationship with Jesus connects you to a corporate body with a collective mission. The lost are counting on us to complete God's work together. When we isolate our faith, making it merely "personal," we miss the power of unified purpose. Jesus didn't call individual disciples; He formed them into a movement that would turn the world upside down. Your brothers and sisters need your faith to stay strong so they can make it across too. Who in your life is struggling under weight they can't carry alone? How can you step into their storm today?

Reading:

Acts 2:42-47 NKJV

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by water every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Revelation: How does the corporate nature of faith challenge the individualistic 'personal savior' mindset that is prevalent in modern Christianity?

Day 4: Escaping the Algorithm, Agenda, and Appetite

Devotional: Our attention is under constant assault. Social media algorithms train us for distraction, political agendas divide us, and consumeristic appetites make us approach faith like a buffet—taking what we like and leaving the rest. These forces shrink our spiritual focus to the size of a phone screen, weakening our witness and undermining our faith. God calls us to a transformed mind, one that sets its gaze on things above, not the endless scroll of earthly distractions. Relevance without obedience produces powerless Christianity. When you're obedient to Christ, God shows up and does miraculous things. Examine your life today: What has captured more of your attention than Jesus? What agenda, appetite, or algorithm is keeping you in the boat?

Reading:

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Colossians 3:1-4 NKJV

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Revelation: What 'algorithms, agendas, appetites, or analysis' are currently competing for your spiritual focus and pulling your gaze away from Christ?

Day 5: Finishing Strong Together

Devotional: The author and finisher of our faith has already crossed the boundary of death and waits for us at the finish line. He's made a path through impossible waters and invites us to follow. The most tragic outcome isn't never starting the race—it's starting well but falling short due to winds and waves. Peter walked on water, but when he looked at circumstances instead of Christ, he began to sink. Yet even in his sinking, Jesus immediately reached out and saved him. Your past failures don't disqualify you; they teach you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Don't let analysis paralysis, comparison, or fear keep you from the other side. Raise your gaze. Focus on Jesus. He will bring you all the way across, and you won't cross alone.

Reading:

Hebrews 12:1-3 NKJV.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensues us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in you souls.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Revelation: Who in your life is counting on you to finish strong in faith, and how does that corporate responsibility affect your commitment to continue walking with Jesus despite the storms?