

5-Day Devotional: Rooted Deep Through Life's Storms
Pastor Jay Hassman
July 26, 2026

Day 1: The Foundation That Holds

Reading: Matthew 7:24-27; Philippians 1:6

Devotional: Jesus tells us that storms come to every life and the question isn't *if* but *when*. The wise builder constructs on rock, not sand. Today, examine your foundation. Is your life built on Christ, or on circumstances that shift like sand? Perhaps you've attended church, been baptized, or grown up in a Christian home; however, the question is have you ever personally surrendered your life to Jesus? The storms of life reveal what we're truly standing on. God promises that He who began a good work in you will complete it. Your past doesn't disqualify you; His grace redeems you. If you've never trusted Christ as Savior, today is your day to build on the only foundation that cannot be shaken. Don't wait for the next storm to discover your foundation is faulty.

Day 2: Nourished by Truth

Reading: Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Devotional: A tree planted by streams of water yields fruit in season and doesn't wither. Notice the tree doesn't create the water. It simply stays connected to the source. God's Word is that life-giving stream. When trials come, we need more than good intentions or positive thinking; we need truth that anchors our souls. The psalmist describes someone who meditates on God's Word day and night and not out of legalistic duty, but out of desperate need. In seasons of confusion, Scripture brings clarity. In moments of fear, it speaks peace. When you feel weak, it reminds you of God's strength. How deeply are your roots drinking from the Word? Make time today not just to read Scripture, but to meditate on it, letting truth saturate the soil of your heart.

Day 3: The Power of Dependent Prayer

Reading: James 5:13-16; Philippians 4:6-7

Devotional: Prayer isn't our last resort when everything else fails but it's the daily conversation of children who know their Father. James asks a penetrating question: "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray." Notice he doesn't say, "Try harder" or "Figure it out." He says, *pray*. Prayer keeps us connected to the source of all strength. It's in our weakness that we discover God's sufficiency. Perhaps you've been carrying a burden alone, trying to be strong enough, wise enough, faithful enough. Today, bring that burden to your Heavenly Father. He already knows what you need, but He invites you into relationship through prayer. The peace that surpasses understanding doesn't come from having all the answers as it comes from knowing the One who does. Prayer transforms us from self-reliant to God-dependent, and that's where true strength is found.

Day 4: Refined Through Fire

Reading: 1 Peter 1:6-9; Romans 5:3-5

Devotional: Gold doesn't fear the fire because it's refined by it. The heat doesn't destroy its value; it reveals and increases it. Peter reminds us that trials test the genuineness of our faith, proving it

more precious than gold. This doesn't mean we enjoy suffering or pretend it doesn't hurt. Jesus wept at Lazarus's tomb. David cried out in the Psalms. God never asks us to deny pain. Instead, He invites us to bring it into His presence. The question isn't whether you'll face trials, but what those trials will produce in you. Will they make you bitter or better? Will they drive you from God or draw you to Him? Today, ask God not just to remove your trial, but to reveal what He's teaching you through it. Tribulation produces perseverance, character, and hope and understand that it is not because suffering is good, but because God is faithful.

Day 5: Mature and Complete

Reading: James 1:2-4; Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional: God's goal isn't just that you survive the storm. It is that you become mature, complete, lacking nothing. The word "perfect" here doesn't mean sinless; it means fully developed, like a tree that has reached its purpose. God is more interested in developing your character than your comfort. That's hard to hear when you're hurting, but it's profoundly hopeful. It means nothing is wasted. Every tear, every prayer, every sleepless night means that God is weaving it all into His greater purpose. Don't quit halfway through what God is doing. The struggle you're facing may be the very thing that strengthens you for what's ahead. Fix your eyes on Jesus, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. One day, faith will become sight. Until then, let patience complete its work, trusting that He who began this good work will be faithful to finish it.