



Devotion: *We Need Easter Every Day*

When I first started thinking about this devotion I planned to write about a personal journey with chronic illness. Then came a family tragedy and the loss of two loved ones, young adults who left behind three young children. Then the looming specter of a spreading virus surged into a pandemic nightmare.

Nothing shoves us to our knees like a crisis. We suddenly realize we have no control over anything. The truth is, we never had control. People of faith cling to God desperately in such times. We long to awaken each morning the in arms of Jesus. After the crisis fades, and somehow it does, we often forget to cling to God and try to take control again. Like Peter, we take our eyes off Jesus, look at the storm, and sink into the water.

In John 11, Jesus risked death to travel to Bethany to comfort the family of his dead friend Lazarus. Lazarus' sister Martha told Jesus she believed her brother would rise again on the last day of the world. Jesus corrected her, saying, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." Then the crowd of mourners and comforters witnessed the resurrection of the man Lazarus. In a short time, many of these same people would bear witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

We need Easter every day. When Jesus died on that cross He took the sins of humanity on Himself and forever cleansed believers. But He did so much more than that. His greatest earthly miracle, the resurrection, became our greatest promise. Two millennia later, the resurrection remains humankind's singular hope.

- Laura Porter