

FROM  
grave clothes  
TO  
GLORY

7-DAY DEVOTIONAL

PURPOSE LIFE CHURCH



# You walked out. But what came with you?

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The most overlooked detail in the story of Lazarus is not the resurrection. It's what happened the moment after. **He came out of the grave still wearing grave clothes.**

Wrapped. Bound. Alive, but dressed like a dead man.

That is the tension this devotional lives in. Because many of us have experienced real moments of God's power in our lives. We've had Sundays that shook us. Altars that broke us open. Encounters that told us something had changed. And yet we still reach for the same old responses. We still default to the same old fears. We still wear the clothes of who we used to be to places God is trying to take us.

The Easter message was never just about getting out of the grave. It was about **what you wear on the other side.**

Over the next seven days, you are going to identify, shed, exchange, and step fully into the garments God prepared for you before you ever entered the tomb.

*“And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go!’”*

JOHN 11:44, NLT

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DAY ONE

# Named by the Grave

*Identifying what the grave clothes represent*

*“And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go!’”*

JOHN 11:44, NLT

Grave clothes were not designed to humiliate. They were designed to identify. **The grave clothes were the last word the world got to speak over you.**

But Lazarus walked out alive while still wearing them. Most of us are walking around breathing, functioning, even thriving in certain areas, while still being identified by something that should have stayed in the tomb. Old failures that still get the first introduction. Childhood wounds that still answer the door before you do. Shame that has not been told yet that it no longer lives here.

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*“You came out. But the question Jesus is asking is: did you bring them with you?”*

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The grave clothes in your life are not always obvious. Sometimes they look like *protection*, patterns that once kept you safe but now keep you small. Sometimes they look like *identity*, labels you inherited, names you did not choose. Today is not about shame. It is about **naming**. Because you cannot unwrap what you have not acknowledged.

REFLECTION

- > What “grave clothes” have you carried out of a past season? Labels, fears, or patterns that still shape how you see yourself?

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- > If the people who love you could name one thing still wrapped around you, what would they say?

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- > What would it feel like to be fully unwrapped, no old definitions, no old limitations?

TODAY'S STEP

*Write down three things you have been carrying out of a past season. Then place your hand on that paper and pray: “**Lord, I am alive. These do not belong on me anymore.**”*

MY RESPONSE

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DAY TWO

# The Stone Is Already Gone

*God moved the obstacle before you arrived*

*“Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it.”*

MATTHEW 28:2, NLT

The women came to the tomb carrying spices, while it was still dark, and as they walked they asked each other the most practical question: **Who will roll away the stone?** The obstacle was massive. The stone was sealed. They had no way to move it.

But when they arrived, it was already gone.

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*“You have been carrying the weight of an obstacle God already moved.”*

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One of the most spiritually exhausting things a person can do is prepare to fight a battle that God has already won. We rehearse the confrontation. We brace for the closed door. And then we arrive to find the stone rolled back and heaven waiting to say: *Why are you looking for the living among the dead?* God has a history of solving our problems in advance of our arrival.

REFLECTION

- > What is the “stone” you have been dreading, the obstacle you have been certain would stop you?  
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- > Have you been spending more energy preparing for the obstacle than moving toward the promise?  
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- > What would it look like to walk toward your calling as if the stone is already moved?

TODAY'S STEP

*Write down the one obstacle you have been using as a reason to stay still. Then in bold letters below it, write: “**Already handled.**” Then take one action toward the promise today, even a small one.*

MY RESPONSE

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DAY THREE

# Unbind Me

*The unwrapping requires more than just you*

*“So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.”*

GALATIANS 5:1, NLT

Here is the detail most people miss in John 11: **Jesus did not unwrap Lazarus.** He called him out. He raised him. But the practical work of removing the burial cloths, Jesus handed that to the people standing around the tomb. *“Unbind him and let him go.”*

*“Jesus gave you your miracle. He gave the people around you the assignment of helping you walk in it.”*

The reason so many people stay partially wrapped is because they try to do the unwrapping alone. They have heard the sermon. They received the prayer. But they have not allowed anyone close enough to help them out of the linen. Being unwrapped requires being *seen*. Paul’s instruction to “stay free” is written to a church, to people who are responsible for each other’s freedom. The community is not just a witness to your resurrection. They are instruments of your unwrapping.

REFLECTION

- > Are there areas where you have been trying to unwrap yourself, refusing help, community, or accountability?

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- > Who in your life has God positioned to help you walk in freedom? Have you been transparent with them?

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- > What is one thing you have never told anyone that, if spoken aloud to a trusted person, might lose its power over you?

TODAY'S STEP

*Reach out to one trusted person today. Not to perform. Just to say: **"I am still working through some things, and I need people around me."** That one sentence can be the beginning of your unwrapping.*

MY RESPONSE

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DAY FOUR

# Old Clothes Don't Fit Anymore

*Shedding the self that was built for the grave*

*“Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.”*

COLOSSIANS 3:9-10, NLT

Grave clothes were not designed for living. Every stitch was made for a body that had no future left. **The fit was final.** Which is why it is so strange, and so human, that we try to keep wearing them.

*“The problem is not that the old clothes still fit. It is that we keep reaching for them because they are familiar.”*

Paul says you have *already stripped off* the old nature. Past tense. In Christ, the removal already happened. You are not trying to become someone different. **You already are that person.** The work is learning to live from that truth instead of against it. The most seductive lie of the enemy is that the thing trying to keep you small actually feels like home.

REFLECTION

- › What behaviors, habits, or mindsets do you keep returning to, even though they no longer serve who God has called you to be?

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- › What makes the “old clothes” feel comfortable? What do they offer that you are afraid the new life will not?

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- › What would you have to believe about yourself to fully put on the new nature?

TODAY'S STEP

*Choose one specific habit that belongs to the old you. Write down what the new nature version looks like. Every time that old pattern comes up today, **pause for three seconds and choose the new version instead.***

MY RESPONSE

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DAY FIVE

# The Exchange

*Every grave cloth has a glory trade*

*“To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.”*

ISAIAH 61:3, NLT

God does not just remove. He **replaces**.

Isaiah 61 is not a list of consolations. It is a formal declaration of trade. You bring the ashes, He brings the crown. You surrender the mourning, He gives the oil of joy. Every line is an exchange. And notice the imbalance: *what you give is always worth less than what He returns*. He is not interested in a fair trade. He is interested in your glory.

*“Your grave is not your story. It is your supply. And God never wastes what He has already paid for.”*

God wastes nothing. Every cloth that wrapped you in the grave becomes material for the crown He is building over you. The grief becomes compassion. The rejection becomes freedom. The failure becomes the curriculum that makes you qualified. **Your grave is not your story. It is your supply.**

REFLECTION

- > What is the “ash” in your story you have never quite believed God could turn into something beautiful?  
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- > If you could name one thing you carried into the grave that God could exchange for something greater, what would it be?  
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- > What would your “crown of beauty” look like in this season of your life?

TODAY'S STEP

Write your personal version of Isaiah 61:3. Fill in the blanks: “**For my \_\_\_\_\_, God is giving me \_\_\_\_\_.**” Make it specific to your actual story. Then read it aloud three times as a declaration, not a request.

MY RESPONSE

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DAY SIX

# Walk Like Glory Fits You

*Letting your posture match your new wardrobe*

*“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”*

COLOSSIANS 3:12, NLT

Lazarus did not walk out of the tomb at full stride. He shuffled. He was still bound. The resurrection was complete, but the walk had not caught up yet. That is the gap between receiving new life and living from it. **Glory is not just placed on you. It flows out of you.**

*“You do not earn the new garment. But you do have to decide every morning whether you are going to put it on.”*

Mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. These are not soft qualities. **They are the wardrobe of someone who knows exactly how much power they carry and chooses not to abuse it.** People who wear their glory well do not announce their upgrade. They simply carry themselves differently. Their presence brings peace into a room instead of performance.

REFLECTION

- > What does your “walk” communicate about what you believe about yourself and God’s view of you?
- > Which of Paul’s listed garments do you most need to consciously put on today?
- > Who in your life needs you to walk in your glory right now, not to impress them, but to show them it is possible?

TODAY’S STEP

*Before you leave home today, stand in front of a mirror for sixty seconds and say aloud: “**I have been raised. I have been dressed. I walk in what God has given me.**” Then let that truth lead the first interaction you have today.*

MY RESPONSE

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DAY SEVEN

# This Is Glory

*Not the destination. The direction.*

*“So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord, who is the Spirit, makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18, NLT

The most powerful phrase in this verse is three words long: *more and more*.

Glory is not a level you reach. It is not a state you arrive at and maintain. **Glory is a direction.** The place where you are standing right now is not the ceiling. It is the floor of the next room God is preparing you for.

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*“This is not the end of the journey. This is the moment you stopped heading toward the grave and started heading toward your purpose.”*

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This week you named what the grave wrapped around you. You walked toward promises God had already cleared the path for. You let people into the unwrapping. You chose differently. You made the exchange. You practiced walking like you believed it. Now the invitation is: **do not stop**. Let this be the beginning of a posture. The grave is behind you. Keep walking.

REFLECTION

- › Looking back at this week, what has shifted in your thinking, your posture, your sense of who you are?

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- › What is one thing you are carrying forward that you were not carrying seven days ago?

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- › If “from glory to glory” is the direction, what is the next step God is inviting you into from this point?

TODAY'S STEP

*Spend 10 minutes in silence. No music, no phone. Just you and God. Ask one question and listen: “**Lord, what is the first thing You want me to do with the freedom I have received?**” Write down what comes. Then do it.*

MY RESPONSE

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FINAL CHARGE

# You Made It.

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Seven days ago, you came to this devotional fresh off a resurrection message. Something in you shifted. And this week you did the work of walking it out.

You named what belonged in the grave and had the courage to hold it up in the light. You stood before the stone that was already rolled back and took a step anyway. You let people in close enough to help with the unwrapping. You recognized when familiarity was masquerading as comfort. You made the exchange and received what God had prepared in return. You carried yourself like you believed it.

**That is not a small week. That is a consecrated one.**

The grave clothes do not get the final word. They never did. What gets the last word is a God who looked at a tomb, spoke a name, and watched something dead walk toward a new assignment. That is your story.

*“The tomb couldn’t hold you, so don’t let the grave continue to dress you.”*

Purpose Life Church

FROM GRAVE CLOTHES TO GLORY