

Devotions: May 4 - May 8, 2026



Conflict can feel like a threat to everything we love about church: unity, relationships, and effective ministry, yet Scripture shows that when conflict is named and faced with humility, it can become a tool the Holy Spirit uses to strengthen, clarify, and advance the mission of Jesus. Over the next five days, you will explore how God meets His people in tension and forms them into faithful servants and bold witnesses.

Monday, May 4th

Acts 6:1-2

When things are going well, conflict can feel especially surprising. Pastor Chris talked about how, in Acts, growth and harmony are interrupted by a real complaint: certain widows are being overlooked. The issue is not trivial; it exposes how old identities and assumptions still shape the community and threatens trust among believers.

The church's first move is not denial or panic. The problem is named, brought into the light, and treated as spiritually significant. Rather than viewing tension as proof that God has left, we can learn to see it as a moment that reveals what needs attention so that love, justice, and unity can deepen. Avoiding conflict may preserve appearances, but it often postpones healing and discipleship.

Pray for the courage to bring one concern into the light with humility, clarity, and a desire for God's peace.

Here's to a great week!

Tuesday, May 5th

Acts 6:3-4

The apostles respond to the complaint by clarifying priorities and empowering others. They do not dismiss the needs of widows, nor do they abandon prayer and the ministry of the word. Conflict becomes the catalyst for a healthier structure. Roles are defined, responsibility is shared, and the church is strengthened for continued growth.

Pastor Chris emphasizes that conflict often exposes a gap between values and practices. The solution is not simply to work harder or to blame someone; it is a Spirit-guided order that protects what matters most. When we face tension honestly, God can form us into a community where care is real, leadership is wise, and ministry is sustained rather than burned out.

Pray for wisdom to distinguish between what you are called to do personally and what you should entrust to others.

Wednesday, May 6th

Acts 6:5-7

The church chooses trusted, Spirit-filled servants, and the result is not stagnation but growth: the word spreads, and disciples multiply. The conflict did not derail the mission; it refined the community, enabling the ministry to expand with integrity. What looked like a threat became an opportunity for deeper faithfulness.

This is a hopeful pattern for today. When conflict is handled in a Christ-centered way, it can produce maturity, greater clarity, stronger care for the vulnerable, and renewed focus on the gospel. Instead of measuring success by the absence of tension, we can look for the fruit of the Spirit and the strengthening of the church's witness through wise, humble action.

Pray that your community would be filled with Spirit-led servants who protect the mission and honor those who are often unseen.

Thursday, May 7th

Acts 6:8-10

Not all conflict comes from within. Stephen's faithful ministry draws opposition, and those who dispute with him cannot withstand the wisdom and Spirit by which he speaks. External resistance reminds us that the church is not merely a comfortable place to agree; it is a community that bears witness to the truth that the world may challenge.

This kind of conflict tests whether we will shrink back or speak with courage and grace. The goal is not to "win arguments," but to remain faithful to Jesus: the way, the truth, and the life; while trusting the Holy Spirit to supply wisdom beyond our own. Opposition can purify our motives and deepen our reliance on God rather than on approval.

Pray for a heart that values faithfulness over being liked, and for words that reflect Jesus' character.

Friday, May 8th

2 Timothy 1:7

Fear is often what drives us to avoid conflict: fear of losing relationships, fear of disruption, fear of being misunderstood. But God does not give His people a spirit of fear; He gives power, love, and self-control. That means we can face tension without panic because the Holy Spirit provides the strength to act, the love to pursue reconciliation, and the steadiness to stay wise.

Conflict will come, both inside and outside the church, but it does not have to weaken us. When we name what is real, face it with humility, and trust the Spirit's work, conflict can become a means of growth, deeper unity, and bolder witness. The church is not preserved by avoiding hard moments; it is strengthened by walking through them with Jesus at the center.

Write a short prayer surrendering one conflict to God, asking Him to strengthen your faith and advance His purposes through it.

Thanks be to God! Sunday's Coming!