

## **5-Day Devotional — Hidden with Christ — Colossians 3:1–4**

### **Day 1 — Raised with Christ**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Colossians 3:1–4, Colossians 2:12–13, Romans 6:3–11, Ephesians 2:4–6, Galatians 2:20

#### **Devotional**

Paul begins Colossians 3 with a stunning statement: “If then you have been raised with Christ.” He is not wondering whether this is true for believers. He is reasoning from a settled reality. If you belong to Christ, you have been raised with Him.

That means the Christian life does not begin with self-improvement. It begins with resurrection. Christianity is not “old me, but slightly more religious.” It is not a spiritual makeover, as if God simply tidied up the mess and gave us a new calendar app. In Christ, God has done something far deeper. We have died with Christ, and we have been raised with Christ.

This is union with Christ. By faith, through the work of the Spirit, God joins us to His Son so that what belongs to Christ savingly becomes ours by grace. His death counts for us. His resurrection life comes to us. His victory belongs to us. His future glory will include us.

That changes how we understand obedience. Paul does not say, “Seek the things above so that you might become raised with Christ.” He says, “Since you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above.” Identity comes before obedience. Grace comes before command. Union comes before action.

This protects us from two common errors. Moralism says, “Do enough, improve enough, clean yourself up enough, and maybe God will accept you.” That is not the gospel. Passivity says, “Since God has done everything in Christ, I do not need to pursue holiness.” That is not the gospel either.

The gospel says: you have been raised with Christ, so live from the life He has given you. You are not trying to become spiritually alive by trying harder. If you are in Christ, you have been made alive by grace.

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. Where am I tempted to treat Christianity as self-improvement rather than resurrection life?
2. How does knowing I have been raised with Christ change the way I think about obedience?
3. Which error do I tend to drift toward more often: moralism or passivity?

### **Practical Application**

Today, when you face a temptation or duty, remind yourself: “I am not obeying to become alive. I am obeying because Christ has made me alive.”

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for raising me with Christ. Forgive me for the times I reduce the Christian life to self-improvement, religious effort, or trying harder in my own strength. Help me remember that my life begins with Your grace, not my performance. Teach me to live from the resurrection life You have given me in Your Son. Strengthen me to obey, not so I can earn Your love, but because I have already received life in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 2 — Seek the Things Above**

### **Scripture Reading**

Colossians 3:1–2, Psalm 110:1, Matthew 6:19–34, Hebrews 1:3, Romans 8:34, Philippians 3:20–21

### **Devotional**

Paul says, “Seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” That command can be misunderstood if we are not careful. Paul is not telling us to become detached, dreamy, or useless. He is not telling us to ignore work, family, bills, neighbors, laundry, and all the other holy realities of ordinary life. Spiritual maturity does not mean staring into the clouds until someone kindly asks if we are okay.

The key phrase is “where Christ is.” The things above are not heavenly geography or mystical speculation. The things above are the realities connected to Christ’s reign: His lordship, His kingdom, His purposes, His wisdom, His intercession, His holiness, and His glory.

Christ is seated at the right hand of God. That means His saving work is finished, His authority is supreme, and His reign is present. He is not waiting to become King. He is King now. His visible appearing is future, but His throne is not. He reigns now, gathers His people now, intercedes now, preserves His church now, and will one day return in glory.

That is why the Christian life begins by looking to Christ. Not looking within for enough strength. Not looking around for comparison. Not looking backward at failure as if failure gets the final word. Not looking downward to man-made religion as if rules can raise the dead.

We seek the things above because Christ is above. And if we are united to Him, our desires must be governed by Him.

This does not mean earthly things are bad. Work matters. Family matters. Health matters. Money must be handled wisely. The created world is good. But none of these things are your life. They are gifts, responsibilities, and arenas for obedience. They are not ultimate.

Earthly gifts make terrible gods. They cannot bear the weight of your soul. Only Christ can.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What earthly thing am I most tempted to treat as ultimate?
2. How does Christ's present reign give me confidence today?
3. What would it look like for me to seek Christ's kingdom first in my ordinary responsibilities?

### **Practical Application**

Choose one ordinary responsibility today — work, parenting, school, finances, or service — and intentionally do it under the reign of Christ, asking, “How does Christ's lordship shape this?”

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You that Christ is seated at Your right hand. Thank You that His work is finished, His reign is present, and His authority is sure. Forgive me for seeking life in earthly things and treating Your gifts as if they were gods. Lift my eyes to Christ today. Teach me to seek what belongs to His kingdom and to live my ordinary life under His rule. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 3 — Set Your Mind Where Christ Reigns**

### **Scripture Reading**

Colossians 3:1–2, Romans 12:1–2, Philippians 4:8–9, Matthew 6:21, Psalm 1:1–3, 2 Corinthians 10:4–5

### **Devotional**

Paul does not only say, “Seek the things above.” He also says, “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” The first command deals with pursuit. The second deals with orientation. Paul is asking: what governs your mind? What shapes your desires, imagination, fears, ambitions, and expectations?

That question is uncomfortable because we can be outwardly religious while inwardly earthbound. We can attend worship, sing the songs, serve faithfully, and still have minds dominated by the same things that dominate the world: approval, comfort, money, control, pleasure, image, success, fear, and security.

We are constantly being disciplined by something. Our phones disciple us. The news disciples us. Advertisements disciple us. Social media disciples us. Our anxieties disciple us. Our ambitions disciple us. Everything around us is trying to tell us what matters, what to fear, what to chase, and what we must have in order to be okay.

Paul says, “Set your minds on things above.” He is not calling us to think less. He is calling us to think Christianly. A mind set on things above is not an impractical mind. It is the only sane mind, because it sees reality through Christ.

It sees sin as deadly. It sees Christ as supreme. It sees suffering as temporary. It sees obedience as worth it. It sees death as defeated. It sees earthly gifts as gifts, not gods.

So ask yourself honestly: What is shaping my thinking right now? What am I chasing? What am I afraid of losing? What do I think I must have to be okay? What makes me feel secure, important, loved, or in control?

Your mind feeds your desires, and your desires direct your life. That is why setting your mind on Christ is not optional decoration. It is daily warfare.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What most often shapes my thoughts: Scripture, prayer, fear, news, social media, ambition, or comparison?

2. What do I tend to think about when my mind is free?
3. How can I intentionally train my mind toward Christ this week?

### **Practical Application**

Before checking your phone or the news tomorrow morning, read Colossians 3:1–4 and pray through it slowly.

### **Prayer**

Father, renew my mind by Your Word and Spirit. Forgive me for letting fear, comparison, anger, entertainment, and earthly ambition shape my thoughts more than Christ. Help me set my mind where Christ reigns. Teach me to see my life, my responsibilities, my suffering, and my hopes through Him. Make my thoughts obedient to Christ and my desires pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 4 — Hidden with Christ**

### **Scripture Reading**

Colossians 3:3, Psalm 27:1–5, John 10:27–30, Romans 8:31–39, 1 Peter 1:3–5, 1 John 3:1–3

### **Devotional**

Paul gives the reason believers are to seek the things above: “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” That is not fragile language. That is fortress language.

First, Paul says, “You died.” If you belong to Christ, you have died to the old realm. The world can still tempt you, pressure you, and trouble you, but it no longer owns you. Sin can still grieve you, but it is no longer your master. Man-made religion can still impress you, but it cannot save you. Your old identity no longer has the final word.

Then Paul says, “Your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Hidden means secure, but it also means not yet fully seen. The world cannot see what you truly are in Christ. Honestly, some days neither can you.

You may look at your weakness and wonder if God is really at work. You may look at your suffering and wonder if He is near. You may look at your slow growth and feel discouraged. But hidden does not mean unreal. Seeds are hidden before harvest. Foundations are hidden beneath houses. A lot of important things are not immediately visible.

Your life is hidden with Christ in God. Not hidden in your mood. Not hidden in your consistency. Not hidden in your strongest day. Not hidden in your grip strength. Hidden with Christ.

That means your assurance does not rest on the steadiness of your focus. It rests on the security of Christ. That does not excuse laziness. Paul still says seek. Paul still says set your mind. Paul will soon say put sin to death. But the command rests on an anchor, not a whip.

So yes, repent. Yes, fight sin. Yes, pursue holiness. But do not confuse the fruit with the root. The root is Christ. Your life is hidden with Him.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Where do I tend to base my assurance: Christ's finished work or my spiritual performance?
2. How does it comfort me to know my life is hidden with Christ in God?
3. What sin do I need to fight from a place of grace rather than for a place of grace?

### **Practical Application**

Write this sentence somewhere visible today: "My life is hidden with Christ in God."  
Return to it whenever guilt, fear, or insecurity rises.

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You that my life is hidden with Christ in You. Forgive me for grounding my assurance in my performance, emotions, or consistency. Help me rest in Christ's finished work and present intercession. Teach me to fight sin from the safety of Your grace, not from fear of losing Your love. Keep me, strengthen me, and remind me that my life is secure in Your Son. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 5 — When Christ Appears**

### **Scripture Reading**

Colossians 3:4, Romans 8:18–30, Philippians 3:20–21, Titus 2:11–14, 1 Corinthians 15:42–58, Revelation 22:12–21

### **Devotional**

Paul ends this short passage by lifting our eyes to the future: “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” Not if Christ appears. When.

Christ is now hidden from the sight of the world, but He is not absent. He reigns now. One day His reign will be visible to all. The One who was crucified in weakness will appear in glory. The One many ignore, mock, misuse, or reject will be revealed as Lord over all.

And Paul says that when Christ appears, believers will appear with Him in glory. Your life is hidden now, but it will not remain hidden forever. Your glory is concealed now, but it will be revealed then. Your body is weak now, but it will be raised then. Your holiness is incomplete now, but it will be perfected then. Your tears are real now, but they are not final.

This is not vague optimism. This is resurrection hope.

The final word over your life is not shame. Not failure. Not suffering. Not aging. Not cancer. Not grief. Not loneliness. Not persecution. Not your worst day. Not even death. The final word is glory with Christ.

That future changes how we live now. We can suffer without despair because glory is coming. We can obey when it is costly because glory is coming. We can repent honestly and forgive freely because glory is coming. We can loosen our grip on this world because this world is not our life.

Christ is our life.

If you are not a Christian, true life is found only in Him. Success, pleasure, control, money, and comfort cannot save you. They make horrible gods. Come to Christ empty-handed. Trust the One who died and rose for sinners.

The One seated in glory is not too far away to save. He receives sinners still.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. How does the certainty of Christ's return reshape my view of suffering?
2. What earthly thing do I need to loosen my grip on because Christ is my life?
3. How does future glory strengthen present obedience?

### **Practical Application**

Take five minutes today to pray over one area of suffering, obedience, or fear in light of this promise: "When Christ appears, I will appear with Him in glory."

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for the sure hope of Christ's appearing. Thank You that my hidden life will one day be revealed with Him in glory. Forgive me for living as if this world gets the final word. Help me suffer with hope, obey with courage, repent with honesty, and hold earthly things with open hands. Keep my eyes on Christ, who is my life, until the day I see Him face to face. In Jesus' name, Amen.