

Living the resurrection life, we know we can't turn to ourselves because we don't have enough. Instead, we turn to Jesus over and over again – our faith in Him and to His Word that continually points us back to Him. I want to commend you for doing just that, by using these devotions as you do. This is part of resurrection life as we come back to Him day after day, leaning on Him, looking to Him, trusting Him with all the times of our lives, knowing that it is Jesus, The Word of God, that is indeed living and enduring!

### Saturday – “Who Am I?”

Today, I want to share a powerful song with you that speaks of our resurrection life in Christ, the theme we've been looking at all week long. It's a song by Casting Crowns called, “Who Am I?” If you have the capability to watch the music video of it, I would encourage you to click it and take in these powerful promises of our Lord to you and what He's done to give you a resurrection life. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C53GgUJ6y-Y>. If you aren't able to watch and listen, I'm putting the words here and for your reflection today, I invite you to read through, or sing through if you know the tune, and let these precious promises encourage you in heart, mind, and spirit. “Who am I? That the Lord of all the earth, Would care to know my name, Would care to feel my hurt. Who am I? That the bright and morning star, Would choose to light the way, For my ever wandering heart. (Bridge) Not because of who I am, But because of what you've done. Not because of what I've done, But because of who you are. (Chorus) I am a flower quickly fading, Here today and gone tomorrow, A wave tossed in the ocean, A vapor in the wind. Still you hear me when I'm calling, Lord, you catch me when I'm falling, And you've told me who I am. I am yours. I am yours. (stanza 2) Who am I? That the eyes that see my sin Would look on me with love And watch me rise again. Who am I? That the voice that calmed the sea, Would call out through the rain, And calm the storm in me. Whom shall I fear Whom shall I fear I am yours.. I am yours..”

“Who Am I,” words and music by Mark Hall © Copyright 2003 Club Zoo Music and SWECS Music, adm. By EMI CMG Publishing.

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### WHAT NOW?

1. In what practical, visible, and/or tangible ways can you let your “resurrection life” show through your lifestyle?
2. Are there changes you want to make to your current lifestyle that might better reflect a “resurrection lifestyle”? If so, pray about it and try to take one step toward that change.
3. Continue with the “Love Assignment” of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. We're now at week 11 of 16, love as it's expressed in “rejoicing with the truth.” How can you practice love by rejoicing with the truth this week? Let Jesus' Love continue to work in you and through you in amazing ways!

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## Monday — Resurrection Realities

We are in week 2 of our Resurrection Realities series, looking at the letter of 1 Peter and how he addressed some of the harsh realities of life that Christians were facing at that time when it came to persecution and suffering because of their faith in Jesus. How does the reality of Jesus' resurrection from the dead help us face the difficult realities of our lives today? This week we're focusing on our lifestyle which includes the work we do and the lives we lead. As we did last week, I want to start our week by giving you the opportunity to reflect on these verses from 1 Peter we looked at yesterday which I preached on. As you read these verses, I want you to reflect on what God has to say to you and the life you are leading right now. How does the Lord encourage you in these verses? Where are you challenged? What's helpful? What's comforting? What's hard? What insights stand out for you? Once again, I would love to hear some of those reflections and if you're open to it, please email me at [gschlecht@ImmanuelLoveland.org](mailto:gschlecht@ImmanuelLoveland.org). With that, read and reflect on 1 Peter 1:17-25.

## Tuesday — Your Lifestyle

Read 1 Peter 1:17-21. How would you describe your current lifestyle – as a treadmill, a roller coaster, an escalator, a slide, or something else? Would you describe your current lifestyle as empty or full – or somewhere in between? Why? One of the realities of life in this world is that neither we nor the lifestyles we lead will ever be totally and completely perfect. We all have ideals of what we would like our lives, our vocations, and our complete lifestyle to be – and we strive for those ideals. The question then becomes, what are those ideals? Are they aligned with what we're calling this week, a "resurrection lifestyle," or are those ideals aligned with something else? It can be easy to get caught up in our consumeristic world and find ourselves simply clamoring for and striving for more stuff – more money, more power, a bigger house, better cars, more toys, more stuff. That is the temptation that every single one of us faces when it comes to answering the question of what kind of lifestyle are we striving to lead. We're going to continue to unpack a "resurrection lifestyle" throughout this week. For today, I'm going to leave you with a rather simple encouragement. Understand that Jesus rose again from the dead for YOU! He rose to give you life, a true and real life that only He offers. And that is a life that is filled with hope and with the opportunity to enjoy all that God has given you in this world. So fix your eyes on Jesus, rest in His love, and live your life both in Him and for Him.

## Wednesday — Redeemed

Read 1 Peter 1:17-25. What exactly is a "resurrection lifestyle"? It starts with faith, belief in Jesus. Simple enough, right? What Peter was writing in verses 18-21 was a reminder of this basic reality. We have been redeemed. And what does that mean? From the Merriam-Webster dictionary we get these definitions: "To buy back; to free from captivity by payment of ransom; to free from the consequences of sin." Peter reminds us that this redemption didn't come with "silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ."

Jesus' resurrection has given us our lives back. In Him we have been "redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to us." That means that in Jesus we have been given forgiveness and are free once again to live, not in fear or with shame or guilt, but freely and joyfully, regardless of the circumstances we may face. Our lives are not merely lives lived striving for empty things that cannot help us but living life knowing we are redeemed children of God and have all that need for this life – and more! And it starts with faith – that belief and trust we have in Jesus, knowing that what He accomplished for us in His cross and resurrection give to us a firm foundation on which to live our lives. Pause today to give thanks to your Savior for the life He has given to you.

## Thursday — Therefore...

Read 1 Peter 1:22. A resurrection life flows from faith in Jesus and the life He lives and has also given to us. This past January and February we had a series called, "Love Works," where we explored the depth of our Lord's love for us and how that love inspires and leads us to live lives of love – to let His love work in us and to let that same love work throughout our lives. Here in today's verse from 1 Peter we have an echo of that and another reminder of what our lives as Easter people, resurrection people, looks like. A resurrection life is one that demonstrates a sincere love for each other. And as Peter expands on that, it's not just a lip-service kind of love but a love that is sincere, is deep, and is from the heart. Because we have been loved and redeemed, as resurrection people we have the opportunity to share that love in the day-to-day of our lives. It is a love that takes intentionality and it isn't necessarily always easy. But the more we remember how deeply we've been loved, the more readily and easily we can let our changed hearts love in the same way. Think about a person in your life who could use some love. It may be a fellow believer or it may be someone who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for that person and pray for the Lord to help you to love that person in a sincere, deep, and heart-felt way.

## Friday — Suffering

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25. A resurrection life is a life that stands on solid ground. As we've talked about this week, the resurrection life we've been given is a life that flows from faith in Jesus, believing all that He did for us and believing that God the Father did indeed raise Him from the dead. It's a life that expresses that faith as we love the people in our lives with the love Christ has shown to us. And in these next verses, we're reminded that it's a life that stands on the living and enduring Word of God – the Word that points us to Jesus and all He has done for us. It is through this Word of God, both the written Word that we call the Bible and also the "flesh and blood" Word, which is Jesus, that we have been born again. We have been given new life, resurrection life, through this Word. And this Word is most certainly living and enduring. Peter quotes the prophet Isaiah in contrasting God's Word with human beings, flowers, and grass. We're not strong enough, enduring enough, but God's Word is. So when the challenges and troubles and hardships come, where are we to turn?