

## REVD MARK'S DAILY DEVOTIONALS #291 9<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

### MONDAY

WE HAVE TWO DAYS OF DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS. THEY MAKE EVERYTHING ELSE STOP, BUT THEY ARE ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR THE RUNNING OF THE CHURCH.

REV MARK DEVOTIONAL MAKES US ASK - WHAT IF TODAY'S GREATEST BATTLE ISN'T WHAT SURROUNDS YOU, BUT WHAT YOU'RE ABLE - OR UNABLE TO SEE?

9th February – Morning all... What if the greatest reality surrounding you right now is one you cannot see? Elisha's servant woke to a terrifying sight, an enemy army encircling the city. Horses. Chariots. Soldiers. No escape. From a human perspective, the situation was already decided. Fear felt reasonable. Panic felt justified. But Elisha saw the same scene differently. Where the servant saw danger, Elisha saw God's presence. Where the servant saw limitation, Elisha saw heaven's resources. Where the servant saw the visible, Elisha trusted the invisible. "There are more with us than with them." (2 Kings 6:16) Fear has a way of narrowing our vision until threats feel absolute and God feels distant. Where faith does the opposite. Faith widens our sight beyond circumstances and reminds us that what is unseen is often more powerful than what is seen. God's help is not always obvious. But it is always real. His presence is not always visible. But it is always near. So today, instead of asking first for changed circumstances, try asking for opened eyes. Ask God to help you see His faithfulness in the middle of your situation... His peace within your anxiety... His protection around your life... His nearness closer than your fears. And as your vision shifts, you may discover that the truest security was never the absence of enemies, but the presence of God all along.

Revd Mark Spiers

### TUESDAY

I LOVE THE SCRIPTURE QUOTE THAT REVD MARK USES TODAY, IT SPEAKS VOLUMES IN TODAY'S BROKEN WORLD.

10th February – Morning all... For me this week's headlines have carried painful reminders of how broken our world really is. In London, two young boys have been seriously injured in a school stabbing, leaving families, classmates, and a whole community shaken. In Birmingham, the family of a 12-year-old boy killed in a knife attack continues to grieve as the teenage attacker is sentenced, highlighting the devastating reality of youth violence. Moments like these make suffering feel very close to home. They raise questions we struggle to answer: Where is hope? Where is God in all this pain? Into that honest tension, God's Word speaks to our hearts. "We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." (Romans 5:3-4) The apostle Paul does not pretend suffering is pleasant. He doesn't call pain good. Instead, he reveals something deeper: God is able to use what hurts to shape something eternal within us. Our suffering stretches our souls in ways comfort never can. Perseverance is formed when we keep walking with God even when answers are slow. Character is refined when faith becomes more than words and settles into daily trust. And hope, real, unshakeable hope rises not from easy days, but from seeing God carry us through hard ones. C.S. Lewis once wrote, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." So today, if you're walking through something heavy, remember this: Your suffering is not the end of the story. God is forming something in you that comfort alone could never create.

Revd Mark Spiers

### WEDNESDAY

REVD MARK AND I, ALONG WITH SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS OVER THE YEARS, HAVE MET FAITHFULLY EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING BEFORE THE CHALLENGES OF THE DAY BEGIN - FOR ME IT WAS COOKING AND FOR MARK IT'S ALLOCATING VULNERABLE CHILDREN TO TOO LITTLE STAFF. YET THE MOMENT IN PRAYER WAS FILLED WITH THE LORD'S PRESENCE AND A PEACE WITHIN. AMAZING GRACE!

11th February – Morning all... There's something about starting Wednesday mornings with prayers at church, the quiet peace of God's presence, the stillness that reminds us we are not walking this life alone. It's a moment to pause, breathe, and remember that even in the ordinary routine of a Wednesday, God is near. Life can feel heavy. Responsibilities, worries, and unexpected challenges often press in from every side. It's easy to wonder if we have enough - enough strength, enough time, enough resources, to keep going. But God's Word brings a different perspective, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8) God doesn't just give us enough to get by. He gives abundantly, so that we can keep living generously, trusting fully, and serving faithfully. Our strength and joy, don't just come from our own efforts; they flow from His faithful provision. Even in the ordinary, even in the moments when life feels overwhelming, God is already equipping us with what we need to face today's challenges, to bless others, and to walk in confidence that His grace is sufficient.

Revd Mark Spiers

## THURSDAY

IN SEASONS WHEN THE WORLD FEELS HEAVY AND HOPE SEEMS DIMMED, GOD'S PROMISES QUIETLY REMIND US THAT DARKNESS IS NEVER THE END OF THE STORY. TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL TURNS OUR HEARTS TOWARD THE GENTLE, PERSISTENT LIGHT OF GOD, WHICH CONTINUES TO SHINE EVEN THROUGH LIFE'S BENT AND BROKEN PLACES.

12th February – Morning all... Recently some mornings are starting to feel heavier than others. Another news alert, another reminder of how fragile and uncertain life can be. Stories of conflict, loss, and struggle sit alongside our own daily battles. God's Word speaks to us gently today, just as powerfully as it did centuries ago: "Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light." (Micah 7:8) This is not the voice of someone untouched by hardship. It's the voice of someone who knows what it is to fall and yet refuses to give up hope because God is still present. Recently, I noticed a lamppost on the corner of a street that had been struck by a car. For a moment it looked as though it no longer had any purpose. But when evening came, that same bent lamppost still shone. It wasn't straight. It wasn't perfect. But it still gave light. And that's the quiet beauty of God's grace. He doesn't wait for everything in us to be repaired before His light shines again. He meets us in the bent places, the fragile faith, the unfinished healing, and He restores light right there. So, if today feels uncertain... hold on to this steady truth, your fall is not final. Darkness does not get the last word. With God, rising is always possible and hope is never as far away as it feels.

Revd Mark Spiers

## FRIDAY

AS VALENTINE'S DAY APPROACHES, CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LOVE NATURALLY RISE TO THE SURFACE - SOMETIMES PLAYFULLY, SOMETIMES TENDERLY. TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL INVITES US TO LOOK BEYOND THE CARDS AND GESTURES, TOWARD THE STEADY, UNFAILING LOVE THAT NEVER WAVERS AND NEVER LETS US GO.

13th February – Morning all... My dad often jokes that he won't be able to get out of the door tomorrow because of all the Valentine's cards that will be delivered. It's said with a smile, of course, but it turns our attention towards love, who receives it, who gives it, and what it really means to be cherished. Tomorrow will bring flowers, messages, and quiet expectations. For some it will feel joyful, for others, more reflective. I love the way my granddaughter reaches for my hand without hesitation, as we get out of the car on a Sunday completely certain I will be there. Even when she lets go for a moment, distracted by the world around her, her hand soon finds mine again. That reminds me of a deeper love that sits beneath every human expression of love. Scripture says, "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19). God's love is not shaped by seasons, emotions, or perfect circumstances. It's steady, patient, and faithful, the kind of love that stays when we wander and gently welcomes us back when we reach for Him again. So whatever Valentine's Day feels like for you this year, rest in this quiet truth: before any card is opened or any words are spoken, your heart is already held by the One whose love never fails. You are not overlooked or forgotten, but deeply cherished - today, tomorrow, and always.

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