

**LIVING IN THE WORLD**  
**OF THE**  
**WALKING**  
**DEAD**

*ALIVE MINISTRIES*  
*STUDENT CONFERENCE*  
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## DEVOTIONAL #1

SC: But Mom!

Mom: Don't give me that "*But Mom,*" stuff, young man.

SC: Okay, but do I really have to take Cindy along with me? That would be the never-stops-asking-all-kinds-of-questions Cindy? She'll ruin the zombie movie marathon, Mom! And after working all night at the Waffle Place because the other cook didn't show up, I can't take all of her questions today.

Mom: I know it's asking a lot to take your little sister along with you, but your dad got called into work, and I have to go over to Grandpa's and help him with his medications and some other things. I'm sorry, but there really is no other choice. And hey, those are all PG movies, right?

SC: Yes, Ma'am. It's just some vintage flicks, and nothing rated worse than PG. Well, if I gotta take her, I gotta take her. *Cindy! (calling into the other room) Time to go!*

Mom: Thanks, dear.

Cindy (*entering the room*): Oh, am I really going? Am I really going? What movie are we going to see first? Can we get some popcorn? And can we get.....

*SC rolls his eyes and heads out the door, with little sister and her non-stop questions close behind. Soon they arrive at the theatre, and the two get settled in for the marathon.*

*The lights dim, an old black-and-white movie begins, Cindy's questions momentarily taper off..., and feeling the effect of his sleepless night SC starts to doze off. In his dream he finds himself back at home – and zombies are attacking. He hears his sister scream.*

SC: Cindy! Cindy, where are you?!

Cindy: I'm in here! Help!!

*SC rushes into the kitchen and the zombies are trying to get in through the back door.*

SC (*grabbing a large butcher knife*): There, take that! (*He whacks off a couple of zombie arms reaching around the door.*) And you too! (*SC stabs the knife through the brain of a zombie trying to climb through the window.*) Cindy, lock the door, quick!

*Then SC and Cindy hear moans entering the room behind them, and turn around to see their dad shuffling into the room, reaching for Cindy, with nothing in his eyes but the characteristic zombie dead stare.*

Cindy: NOOO!!

SC: Oh no you don't! (*as he plants a meat cleaver in his brain*)

Cindy: What made him like that?

SC: Looks like one of the zombies bit him and made him like them.

Cindy: SC, how do we get away from all these zombies? Where is a safe place?

SC: I don't know.

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Finding yourself trying to survive in a world taken over by the walking dead – that would be a very scary thing. But in a way that is exactly the situation we are in.

The Bible describes people who don't know God as being "dead in their sins" (Eph 2:1), which is somewhat like being a zombie. They may look and move around like the living, but inside they are missing the real life that God intended for people to have.

Just like in some of the old zombie movies, at times it can be hard for us to tell the truly living from the walking dead. Some people pretend or even think that they are Christians – they may go through the outward motions of going to church at times, or of reading the Bible or praying. But just as Jesus told the zombie-like Pharisees, down inside they are as dead as a grave and "full of dead men's bones" (Matt 23:27).

Sometimes even people who are really saved don't have much more life than a zombie. They mindlessly walk through their life shuffling from one thing to another. Jesus wants something far better than a mindless zombie-like existence for people. He said, "I came that you might have life – and that you might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Fortunately the "spiritual zombies" aren't walking around trying to eat our brains or to make us zombies like they are. But in a way, many of them want to twist our minds into thinking and being just like them. We have to be careful to not allow ourselves to be infected with the world's dead perspective (1Cor 3:3).

It can be hard to live as we should in a world full of spiritual zombies. We may even wonder how we can get away from all that would try to harm or sway us, and if there is a safe place to be. But there is no way to totally remove ourselves from all of it. Instead, God wants His people to mature enough in our walk with Him so that they can make an impact on all those who are spiritually dead around us.

Yet still, we do need a safe place to go. We can find the same place of comfort the Psalmist wrote about:

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Ps 46:1)*

Do you feel that you are living in a world of spiritual zombies? Do you need to find a safe place where you feel protected? Are you growing in your relationship with God in order that He can use you to defend yourself and others against the attacks of those that are spiritually dead?

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## **DEVOTIONAL #2**

*SC is awakened from his dream by a sudden barrage of questions from his sister. He opens his eyes to see the credits rolling at the end of the first movie, and the house lights starting to rise. So after a quick break to get refills on*

*their sodas and popcorn, SC and Cindy settle back in moments before the second movie.*

Cindy: This is just so creepy. I think I'm going to have bad dreams tonight.

SC (*with a smile*): Don't worry, you talk too much to ever go to sleep and have dreams.

Cindy: Very funny. So why does a person who is bitten by a zombie become a zombie, too?

SC: I guess it's some kind of virus, or something.

*The house lights dim, and the second movie begins....*

Cindy: So where did the virus come from in the first place, and how did the first person that turned to a zombie get it, and...

SC: Shhh!

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The living dead – where did such a thing begin? To find the answer to that we have to go back to the very first people that ever lived. After God created Adam and Eve, He told them to not eat the fruit that grew on a particular tree in the Garden where they lived. If they disobeyed, God warned, they would “surely die” (Gen 2:17).

Before long, Adam and Eve did eat the fruit..., yet they still kept on living. Well, kind of living. But as they walked around alive physically, on the inside death was slowly taking over. So, we could say that when Adam and Eve sinned they became the first walking dead.

What about the way that their zombie-like disease continues to spread? Like their disobedience, all sin brings death (Rom 6:23). But unlike the zombie virus, the inner death caused by sin is not transferred by being bitten or scratched by someone who is a carrier.

What happened to Eve (Gen 3:4-6) shows exactly how the “virus” of sin infects people. First, she was tempted. Being tempted is not a sin, but it is the nudge that will push us into sin

if we let it. That is why Jesus said we should pray that God will help us avoid temptation (Matt 6:13).

When she was tempted Eve allowed herself to desire the fruit that she knew she wasn't suppose to have. This is where the sin began. Then after allowing herself to desire the fruit, she acted upon that desire – doing on the outside what she had allowed herself to want to do in her heart.

So, the sin (and the death it brings) infects us when we allow ourselves to inwardly desire what we are tempted with, and we are even more infected when we act upon those desires.

The way to reduce the impact of sin and its death is (1) to decrease our chances of being tempted by being careful about the people we have as our close companions, the places we go, and the things that we do; (2) to refuse to allow ourselves to continue to desire what God says is wrong; and (3) to refuse to do those wrong things that we're tempted to do.

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### DEVOTIONAL #3

*The second movie starts up, and it isn't long before SC is again in the Zombieland of his own dreams.*

SC: Cindy, there are zombies all around the house, and they are breaking in! We're going to have to make a run for it.

Cindy: A run for it? Are you crazy? There are dozens of them out there and they will get us.

SC: But we are faster than they are. We'll have to try.

*SC grabs a shotgun and they head out the front door. Just then Mom happens to pull into the driveway. SC and Cindy jump into the van, and Mom speeds away.*

Mom: Are you kids alright?

SC: Yes...

Cindy (*interrupting SC*): ...but Dad got bit and became a zombie and tried to get us. SC stopped him. What are we going to do now?

Mom: We can go back to Grandpa's house. It will be a safe place once we can get inside.

*They drive over to Grandpa's farm. But as they are running for the side door, two zombies come around the corner and attack them. SC stands between the zombies and his mom and sister, and lifts the shotgun. Ka-BOOM.*

SC: Yeah, that's what I'm talking about!

*He pumps the shotgun to put another shell into the chamber, but the gun jams. He swings the gun at the zombie just as the monster reaches to grab him. SC screams as he turns and runs into the farmhouse with the others, locking the door behind him.*

SC: Oh Mom, the zombie scratched my hand! Now I've got the virus!

Cindy: No!! You can't die, too – you can't die!

SC: Mom, you gotta do something!

Mom: Good thing I'm an ER nurse, because the only way to stop the virus from spreading and turning you into a zombie is to stop the blood flow and amputate that part of your arm.

SC: Amputate?! Are you sure?

Mom: Yes, I'm sure. Let me put on this tourniquet. And here's a shot to deaden the pain. Sorry son, but it may hurt a little bit.

SC: A little bit?! (*as he passes out from the pain*)

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Wow, what a decision to have to make – to be in such a difficult situation that you either lose part of your arm and live, or keep your arm whole and die? Good thing that SC was just dreaming.

But you know, at times we do have to make that kind of decision. Jesus used the very same kind of situation – cutting off a person’s arm – to illustrate just how critical some of our choices are:

*And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. (Matthew 18:8)*

Of course we understand that Jesus is using a hyperbole (an exaggerated statement) here. That is, He gives a very extreme example to show a principle that also applies in less extreme situations. Here He is saying that if a person has anything that keeps him from Christ (even something as dear to him as a hand or a foot), then it is better to remove that thing (even if it hurt like amputate a hand or foot would) in order to give his heart to Christ and avoid the eternal fire of hell.

We are to do all we can to avoid sin and its decay. But sometimes we find that sin is already biting at us, and we must take measures to remove it. Of course we will never get totally away from sinning, but we need to ask God to remove those things that don’t belong and will allow sin to eat away at the life that He wants for us.

Do you make choices or have a habit that keeps you from doing or being all that God wants you to? Are you in a girlfriend or boyfriend situation that God isn’t pleased with – maybe with someone who is not a good Christian or who regularly tempts you to do what you shouldn’t? If so, the lesson here is that you need to cut these out of your life – even if it is as painful as cutting off a hand or foot.

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#### DEVOTIONAL #4

Cindy: You know, you are absolutely hopeless! (*She gives SC a not-so-gentle shove.*)

SC (*sleepily*): Huh..., ahh..., *what?*

Cindy: How am I going to find out what is going on if you keep falling asleep? This is the third movie that you slept through. Just go on back to sleep and I'll get me some more popcorn, then watch the next movie *by myself* – again!

SC: Doesn't sound like a bad idea....

*But even though he may be missing the zombie movie, there is no shortage of them awaiting him in his dream.*

Cindy: SC, there are *hundreds* of them! (*as she shoots a nearby zombie in the head with the shotgun*)

SC (*stabbing another zombie*): I know, Cindy. We have to just keep fighting.

Mom (screaming): AAHHH! They got me! (*as several zombies attack her at once*) Run, children! Run!!

SC: We gotta go, Cindy.

Cindy: We can't leave Mom!!

SC: She's already dead, Cindy. We have to get out of here!

*The two run down the street and find shelter in a demolished little store building. Cindy starts to cry.*

Cindy: I can't believe all this is happening. When is it ever going to end? It's hopeless, SC – just hopeless. We might as well just quit.

SC: We can't quit Cindy. We have to keep trying. That's what Mom and Dad would want us to do.

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One theme that seems common to many of the zombie movies is how the good guys seem so outnumbered, and how they sometimes feel that it's hopeless. The zombies often gather into a massive herd, and when that herd comes after the living there just seems to be little chance of survival. Sometimes it feels the same for those of us who are the spiritually living as we live in the world of the spiritually walking dead.

But we must remember that we are not in this alone. For one thing, we know that for those who genuinely love God and live as He wishes, He said,

*I will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)*

We must also remember that we are not intended to fight alone, and that we are supposed to be an active part of a church that helps us and prepares us for the battles we face:

*[Do] not neglect to meet together [in church], but encourage one another. (Heb 10:25)*

Do you feel overwhelmed and even hopeless when you think about taking a stand for God? Remember that this is a fight, so it's not surprising that we sometimes struggle. But do you make it worse by doing it alone – by not asking God for help, and by not being active with your fellow believers in church?

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### DEVOTIONAL #5

Hi. My name is Don Burke, and I have been blessed with the opportunity to write the devotionals in this booklet.

I don't know if you are a zombie movie fan, but one of the questions in many of the movies is whether there is a way to cure the zombies. Just today I was watching an old zombie movie from the 1940's. In that movie the zombies were freed when their master who had a spell on them was killed.

The Bible describes something very much like this kind of thing for the “spiritual zombies.” Sin is the master to anyone who serves it (John 8:34), and death is the consequence of that sin. But Jesus conquered sin and death (Rom. 8:2) when He died on the cross and then came back to life on the third day. The master (sin) has been conquered, and all the spiritually walking dead can be free if they want to be.

Jesus offers life, even to those who are spiritually dead.

*Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26)*

If you have come to understand that you are spiritually dead because of your sin, and if you feel God drawing you away from that death toward His life, here's what you need to do:

A – Admit (to yourself and to God) that you have done things that the Bible says are wrong (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

B – Believe what the Bible tells us about Jesus. That means that you genuinely believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross so that you can be forgiven of the wrong you've done.

C – Commit. Pray to God, and (if you really mean it) ask Him to forgive your sins, commit your heart and life to Him, and ask Jesus to save you.

If God has stirred your heart to be saved and if you have truly believed these things and prayed to God committing your life to Him, then here is God's promise to you: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

If you made this commitment, then as a new Christian you need to talk regularly with God in prayer, and you need to read your Bible to hear what God has to say to you. You need to go regularly to a good, Bible-teaching church. You also need to talk to your pastor about being baptized.

If you have made the decision to accept Jesus as your Savior while reading these devotionals or during the ALIVE conference this year, I would love to hear from you. You can share your good news with me at [PotosiPastor@gmail.com](mailto:PotosiPastor@gmail.com).

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*These devotionals are written in loving memory of my childhood best friend and fellow sci-fi enthusiast, Sandy C. Huckabee.*

*Sandy died four years ago, a real-life victim of the zombie-like affects that sin caused within the heart of another who violently took his life.*

*With fondest memories and confidence of seeing him once again because of his trust in Jesus who gives eternal life to all who will accept Him....*