**FOCUS** in 2020

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**In Times Like These**

***We Need Devotion***



**Devotion** – Loving so much that we are attached and loyal to the end.

***No servant can serve two masters****, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or* ***he will be devoted to the one*** *and* ***despise the other****. You cannot serve God and money.”* Luke 16:13

Discipline says, “I **need** to.”

Duty says, “I **ought** to.”

Devotion says, “I **want** to.”

**Being precedes Doing**

***The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service to Him****. It is never 'Do, do' with the Lord, but* ***'Be, be'*** *and* ***He will 'do'******through you****. The only way to keep true to God is by a steady persistent refusal to be interested in Christian work and to be* ***interested alone in Jesus Christ****.* Oswald Chambers

God looks at your **heart** before your **hands**.

*But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance,* ***but the Lord looks on the heart.****”* 1 Samuel 16:7

*And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse* ***a man after my heart, who will do all my will.****’ Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.* Acts 13:22–23

The more we love an object, the more devoted we are to it.

Devotion is **love** manifested.

*And he said to him, “You shall* ***love the Lord your God*** *with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall* ***love your neighbor*** *as yourself.”* Matthew 22:37–39

The secret of devotion is **loving** *much*. Luke 7:36–50

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and reclined at table.

*And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to* ***wet his feet with her tears*** *and* ***wiped them with the hair*** *of her head and* ***kissed his feet*** *and* ***anointed them with the ointment****.* Luke 7:37-38

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.” And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me **no water for my feet**, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **You gave me no kiss**, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. **You did not anoint my head with oil**, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

*“Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—****for she loved much.*** *But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”* Luke 7:47

And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Developing a **“Much Love Devotion”**

Longing to **love** increases your **capacity** to love.

Beloved, **let us love one another**, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **In this is love,** not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and **his love is perfected in us**. 1 John 4:7–12

God’s love is indeterminate. Our spiritual lives are indeterminate. We will just keep growing in our capacity to love, growing in our devotion to God.

Your **why** is more important than your **what**.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or* ***whatever you do****, do all to the* ***glory of God****.* 1 Corinthians 10:31

*It is a state of the mind or of the heart. It is that state of the will in which everything--****our whole life****, and being, and possessions,* ***are a continual offering to God****; i.e. are continually devoted to God.* ***True devotion****, so far from consisting in any individual act, or feelings, must, of necessity, be the* ***supreme devotion of the will****, extending to all we have and are--to all times, places, employments, thoughts, and feelings.* Charles Finney

Your **devotional** life will grow your devotion and your **devotion** will grow your devotional life.

*Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me,* ***when you seek me with all your heart.*** Jeremiah 29:12–13