



PODCAST

3 Daily Devotions

BELIEVING THROUGH IT ALL



From Passivity to Justice

Open your eyes. Let me show you what I see. Do not be overwhelmed by poverty. Do not be overwhelmed by hardships, trials, evil, disease. I do not get overwhelmed. I do not feel fear. I act, but I act from a place of abundance—the abundance of my Father’s love. A love that does not tire or diminish, a love that can be quiet and loud—gentle but not unsure.

It is a love with confidence, a love with action, a love with compassion and not guilt, with fullness and not depletion. I require nothing of you—and everything from you—to love in my Father’s name.

Love—justice—is only possible with the movement of my Father, the choice to move with Him, as he shows you what he sees. And when he does, you will know what to do—how to act—even if you feel unsure how initially to do it. For certainty comes only from faith in the Father, faith in his love, love that directs you and does not disappoint you.

So, ask for open eyes, his eyes to see. Ask for an open heart, a heart that loves like the Father. Expect direction—and courage—to act on this injustice you see. And receive faith to respond. And then love with the Father’s love in you.

This is how you are made to love—to act, in love, confident that you are not alone and the true love of God fuels you and equips you to do all things in love, in my name.

So the first step when you wonder what to do? Remember this: it is a lie that security does not mean risk. Risk everything and you will be secure in my name. Trust me, not yourself. Know I go with you. I do not leave your side.

EXERCISE :

When we begin following Jesus, he shapes for us new hearts—just as God promised for Israel. In the book of Ezekiel, God says, “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” These new hearts are softer. They move more like God’s heart. They are not, however, all shaped alike. They still reflect our God-created and God-anointed individuality. Notice when you view tough situations—sometimes your heart is moved, deeply. Notice also—sometimes it isn’t.

In Ephesians Chapter 2, the Apostle Paul wrote: “We have become . . . a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny he has given each of us, for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it!”

We are *all* created for good works. But, as individuals, we aren’t created for *every* work. We couldn’t possibly be. We’re all called to help those in need. But, as individuals, we aren’t called to every need. Near his death, St. Francis of Assisi prayed for his fellow friars: “I have done what is mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours.”

The movements of our new hearts are one way God teaches us what is ours. For our new hearts are made and empowered by Him to notice, to care, to move more for certain people and certain needs: and when their needs are met, our hearts are satisfied; and when they aren’t, our hearts hurt with their hearts.

So we must begin to observe and listen to the movements of our hearts: how they feel, how they break, what they break for.

Take a moment to consider the new heart Jesus has given to you. Can you identify the particular people and particular needs for which it moves, personally, uniquely?

When we become aware of how our new hearts are made to move, and when we actually begin working ourselves to meet the needs of people who are ours to help, we increase not only their peace and joy, but ours too.

The Key to a Changed Perspective

MESSAGE:

I know, from up high, when things in your life are going smoothly, it seems you can see forever. You have perspective from up high. Your feet are not in the weeds. It feels like you can find me easily, hear me clearly, be discouraged less quickly. You feel safe here—more sure of who you are and how things will turn out. It is not that you know the exact outcome, but you care about what happens next less.

Here, from up high, when you feel things are running smoothly, you assume your eyes are on me. You assume you've got it all figured out and that I am close. (Or, maybe you forget me all together.) In any case, I am with you, but you are distracted here.

But what will happen when your feet are back on the ground--when you feel less confident that you have it all together? When the noise of culture is raging and fear and temptation rise like bile in your throat? How do you not get blinded, deafened, overwhelmed so pressure is all you hear, all you feel, all you see? What will you do then? How will you find me then? How will you see me then? How will you remember I am close?

Let me tell you what you do: Know that you are my son. Know that you are my daughter. Know that you are equipped with the same Spirit in you that shepherded Jesus. No different. You are capable, as He was capable while on earth, to choose to heed me, seek me out, particularly where the crowds pressed in, when the noise of temptation was loud, when pride and greed and self-reliance were offered as paths to freedom and hope rather than me.

This spirit in you is your guide, your friend, your shepherd who never leaves. He is the whisperer of truth to your heart—and the provider of courage when faith is wavering and perseverance feels impossible.

Get to know him, son. daughter. Get to know your guide who never disappoints, never leaves, never tires, never steers you wrong.

This is your connection to me—Holy Spirit through Jesus. And it is love that binds the connection. Love is the reason Holy Spirit can be trusted. Trust him more than yourself, particularly when you are feeling distracted or that I am far away. I am not. I never am. Trust that love guides you, love chases you, love equips you. I am in you. I never leave.



EXERCISE :

As we grow and mature in faith, it's important to, at some point, come to know Holy Spirit, personally. Now, I get it. The prospect of that may seem a bit daunting. Or the process by which we do it may seem a little unclear. You might be saying, "I know He dwells within my heart, that He guides me, that He offers wisdom and clarity, comfort and strength. But how do I distinguish my relationship with Holy Spirit from the one I have with the Father . . . or with Jesus? And if I have a hard time distinguishing it, how do I deepen it? Where do I even begin?"

That's okay. Those are great questions. And this endeavour of going deeper with Holy Spirit, like anything having to do with God, is full of mystery and wonder—but it can be a lot of fun too.

So, let's just jump in and try. Let's try to get acquainted with Him in a new way today.

First, let's set a foundation. Remember, each member of the Trinity is the same. The Father is God. The Son is God. And the Holy Spirit is God. But remember too, they are each different. Throughout the Book of John, Jesus distinguishes himself from the Father. They have different identities, different roles, different journeys. And in John Chapters 14, 15, and 16, Jesus distinguishes the third member of the Trinity and speaks about asking the Father to send to us a Helper—the Holy Spirit. Again, different identity, different role.

And because each member is different, our relationships with the Father, and with Jesus, and with Holy Spirit, are going to be different too.

Now, narrowing in on just Holy Spirit, here is what our relationship with Him can look like, according to Scripture: He offers us comfort ([John 14:18](#)); He can help us recall the truth of God ([John 14:26](#)); He can bring peace ([John 14:27](#)); He can guide us and convict us of our sin ([John 16:8](#)); He can teach us what and how to pray, and even prays for us when we can't pray for ourselves ([Romans 8:26-27](#)). He is our Friend—the one we can count on, no matter what ([John 14:16](#)).

And here again: “You are equipped with the same Spirit in you that shepherded Jesus. No different. You are capable as He was capable while on earth . . . This Spirit in you is your guide, your Friend, your Shepherd who never leaves. He is the whisperer of truth to your heart—and the provider of courage when faith is wavering and perseverance feels impossible . . . Get to know Him, son, daughter. Get to know your Guide who never disappoints, never leaves, never tires, never steers you wrong . . . This is your connection to me—Holy Spirit through Jesus. And it is love that binds the connection . . . Trust Him more than yourself, particularly when you are feeling that I am far away.”

So, let’s do that. Let’s get to know Holy Spirit a bit more—so that we can begin trusting Him more. Let’s acquaint ourselves with Him in a new way by engaging in a visualization exercise right now.

So, God, we consecrate our minds, now. We turn our imaginations over to you. We give you permission to originate the thoughts you want to originate, to bring to mind the pictures you want to create. Amen

Now, just imagine yourself in one of your favorite places—a place where you feel relaxed, a place where you can have fun, where you can be yourself. Take a moment to find the setting.

Ask Holy Spirit to show Himself. In your imagination, in the place you’ve chosen, ask Holy Spirit where He is in the scene. What is He doing? What is He inviting you to do, with Him?

What happened? What did you see? What did you hear? As we get to know Holy Spirit, as we learn to recognize Him, as we become attuned to His ways, His voice, His nudges, the ways He guides our hearts, our relationship with Him *will* deepen and we *will* begin to walk more intimately with Him.

Remember, He is with us, right now. He is always here.

So, stay with Him. Stay present to His presence. There is so much adventure and hope and life ahead.

(What Saves) When You Doubt Your Very Worth

MESSAGE:

Do you believe that what I've given you is enough? Let's start here. You wonder about many things—looking in amazement at the success of others. You look at their many gifts, their productivity, their use of time and talents and resources. You say, *surely, they are loved. Or, surely, you enjoy being with them.*

But, you ask, do you love me, Father? Do you enjoy me? Do you enjoy being with me? Do you give gifts to me, things to do with my time and my talents, that bring joy to your heart? Are you proud of me, Father? Am I doing enough so that you are pleased with me? Are what others are doing with their time and their talents something that pleases you more?

And you live in turmoil. Your heart a storm of doubt, of insecurity, of unrest. How do you find rest here, you wonder.

And I tell you this now, so pay attention: In the kingdom there is a star. It is small, this star, at least to your eyes. But it twinkles. Its light shimmering and dancing as you look. It feels far away, a miracle of matter and dream. It sits in the sky, a spectacle, a wonder. You marvel at its glow, how it illuminates the dark sky without even trying. It is what it is, shining the light I give it, a piece of wildness and beauty. It exudes no effort in being what it is. This is who you are, the truth of you, too.

I did not make you for fear, for dissension, for enmity with others and with your own self. I have made you to shine. In the way only you can shine. So, son, daughter, put to death the distortions, the temptations, the distractions, the noise. And set your mind on what is Truth. Fill your mind with what is

good. Look to Me for answers and nowhere else. Measure your worth by this one action item, your whole life: letting yourself be loved . . . by Me. It is only my love for you that saves you from yourself. It is only my love that cancels out the lies that rob you of peace. It is only my love for you that allows you to shine like you are meant to shine.

Come, now. Shine.



EXERCISE :

In this message, Holy Spirit says, "Set your mind on what is *Truth* . . . Fill your mind with what is *good*."

Eugene Peterson wrote a book about reading the Bible called *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. In it he writes about the tremendous impact the Bible has on us when we read it—not passively, not gingerly—but with expectation, excitement, *gusto*. The Bible, after all, is not just some set of words or set of stories. It is the beginning of conversation with the One who loves us. It is the beginning of relationship with our Father God. He speaks, and the words on the page are more than words. His words nourish us. The words in the Bible are food, sustenance for our souls.

There is something important for you to do here; there is much for you to receive. For God, in his love, in his Word, has something to say to you—*just for you*.

Let the words settle in deep. Mull them over. Taste them. Feel them. Imagine them. See them. Let God's "I love you," each time, penetrate your heart.

Here is the first verse, Zephaniah 3:17:

"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

What words stood out to you? What image did you see? What was your favorite thing He said?

Here is the second verse. Pay attention to what God is saying to you, through these words, about his love for you. His "I love you," will sound different each time. Romans 8:38-39:

"So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God's love. I'm convinced that his love will triumph over death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. There is no power above us or beneath us—no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One!"

What did you hear? What did He say to you? What words or images resonate most deeply?

Now, let's respond to him . . .

Father, Your love for me astounds me. It is way beyond what I can ever understand. But I receive it, I am filled with it, and I love You back. I love You. You rescue me, and I love You. You dance over me, and I love you. You quiet me when I am worried, when I am overwhelmed, when I am tired, and I love You. You sent your Son to die for me that I might be in relationship with You and receive Your love, and I love You. Nothing can separate me from your love. Thank You Father. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Holy Spirit. Fill me with even more of Your love.

I love You. Amen.

ENCOUNTER HOLY SPIRIT

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The Rush podcast, inspired by the Holy Spirit, helps you get still, create space, and encounter God, 15 minutes at a time. New episodes drop weekly and tackle topics like distraction, love, complacency, forgiveness, and discouragement. Free, no ads, and found wherever you like to listen.

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