



JANUARY CHALLENGE

## *Creating a Devotional Lifestyle with God*

### DAY 2: *Activation & Discovery*

Many of us are used to trying to have devotions with God. But, what if instead of settling for devotional **moments** this year, you created a devotional **lifestyle** with Him?

What if the simplicity of “The Law of Love,” plus God’s empowering grace to live in that law, can offer us a new perspective and a way of thinking that can untether us from striving and restore the joy of our salvation?

It is not uncommon for people to say, “It’s *hard* to live as a new creation in Christ.”

But what if it’s *not*?

Explore these truths as you relationally learn with the Lord through this event.

As you reflect on yesterday’s message, we hope you begin to feel the freedom available to you when you realize that you’re not responsible for fixing your old life.

Instead, you are only responsible to receive — and keep receiving — greater and greater depths of your new life in Christ. Focus on “being” with Him, rather than “doing.” On living out your day in awareness of Him, rather than relegating it to just a set time.

The keys we covered will unlock your freedom to explore a continuously wondrous and joyous connection with Jesus, and give you radical permission to lock up any need to fix the old you:

**Key #1: There’s only one Law: the Law of Love.**

**Key #2: God has a singular focus, and so can you!**

**Key #3: You can’t get to the new you from the old you.**

## REMEMBER:

- + Slow learning is great learning!
- + Focus on thanksgiving in rejoicing with God in your process of growth and development.
- + Practice giving thanks in ALL things because of who He is for you, and who you are with Him.
- + Embrace every real-life opportunity to practice His presence and awareness of Him, instead of any fear, anxiety, distraction, striving or the like.
- + See every day as a Day of Grace and *love the learning*.

## Activation Questions



Make a page in your notebook for each of these questions. Take your time as you answer.

- ***Based on what you've heard, what do you think you may need to "unlearn?" Any old habits, perceptions or mindsets about devotional life with God that you want to lay aside?***
  
- ***What new perspectives of God's thoughts towards you, and your freedom from striving and performance, do you want to choose instead?***

- *What current circumstances in your life are provoking negative perceptions, thinking and/or emotions? What could be driving you to feel the need to measure up, earn or perform in your relationship with Jesus?*
  
- + *Where does God want to love you and release you?*  
*(Hint: It's often in places we've been trying to be tough and fight through, or trying to prove ourselves.)*
  
- + *How does God want to walk with you in this? Ask Him.*
  
- + *Which of His ways of seeing, thinking and feeling does He want to share with you?*
  
- *How would you live differently if your thoughts were free from striving and performance (I should... I must... etc.)?*

## Key Scriptures:

+ Matthew 11:28-30

*“Come to Me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest. My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

+ Matthew 22: 34-40

*“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 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. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

+ Ephesians 4:20-24

*“But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”*

+ Romans 6:3-7

*“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”*

+ 2 Corinthians 5:14-18

*“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”*

+ 1 John 4:18-19

*“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.”*

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