

Feb 19, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

Devotion

Having devotion to
God and God alone!
What does this mean?



WHEN WE ARE DEVOTED TO GOD WE ARE MADE NEW

Become New Everyday!

Colossians 3:3-17

Put On the New Self

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your[a] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:[b] sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.[c] 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self[d] with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and

Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave,[e] free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**YOU CAN'T GO BACK
& MAKE A BRAND NEW START
BUT YOU CAN START NOW
& MAKE A BRAND NEW ENDING**

Any Change that you make will alter your path and change where you end. Where are you headed now? Where do you want to end it? Set your course now and choose a new ending!

Extreme Sacrifice = Devotion to God

LAY ME DOWN LYRICS - CHRIS TOMLIN

With this heart open wide
From the depths from the heights
I will bring a sacrifice
With these hands lifted high
Hear my song, hear my cry
I will bring a sacrifice
I will bring a sacrifice

[Chorus:]
I lay me down I'm not my own
I belong to you alone
Lay me down, lay me down
Hand on my heart this much is true
There's no life apart from you
Lay me down, lay me down
Lay me down, lay me down

Letting go of my pride
Giving up all my rights
Take this life and let it shine
Take this life and let it shine

[Chorus:]
I lay me down I'm not my own
I belong to you alone
Lay me down, lay me down
Hand on my heart this much is true
There's no life apart from you
Lay me down, lay me down
Lay me down, lay me down

[Bridge:]
It will be my joy to say Your will Your way
It will be my joy to say Your will Your way
It will be my joy to say Your will Your way always

STAYING FOCUSED ON GOD!

Staying focused on God is the challenge. Everything around us is trying to pull us away from being focused on God. Staying focused on God requires you to be devoted to Him and Him alone.

What does that look like, it looks like this.
PROVERBS 3:5-6 Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own.⁶ Listen for God 's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;he's the one who will keep you on track.
Trust Him with everything and you won't go wrong!

WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Have you ever thought about who you want to be? I mean you are you but we all want to be a something more than we are now. That is what moves us and lets us grow to be something more. But what is that more? Is it being cooler, being smarter, being more athletic, or is it being who you were created to be.

Romans 12:3b says this
The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

This is a big life changing verse, because we all want to understand ourselves, why do we do what we do, why do we feel the way we feel, why we think the way we think. This verse tells us that if we want to know ourselves better we need to do one thing. **GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER!**

Devotion to God will cause you to know God better and in turn you know yourself better! It is a win, win thing. We win when we devote our lives to God.

The thing everyone is in search of is right there in the Bible, go figure we need to look to God for everything and then we will not be disappointed. So when you think about who you want to be and who you want to become look to God and He will show you everything you were looking for!

Pretty cool. As you think this over review the Step by Step from last week!

The Challenge

Being new each and every day is the challenge! Romans 12:2 says we are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind through Gods Word. Be made new each day and renew your mind.

STEP BY STEP

 <p>Stay attached to God</p>	Follow these steps Stay Attached to God! He is the life line...
 <p>Depend on God</p>	Depend on God! Don't depend on what you know, depend on what He knows.
 <p>Stay Devoted to God</p>	Stay Devoted to God! Keep it real stay with the real thing...
 <p>Follow His Lead</p>	Follow His Lead! He will always lead you to great places! Check out Proverbs 3:5-6 Live by it!

MODERN EXTREMES

"My Life Is a Prayer"

Mary Khoury 17 Lebanon

"My Life Is a Prayer" Mary Khoury 17 years old Damour, Lebanon During the Lebanese civil war, 1975-1992 Mary Khoury and her family were forced to their knees before their home. The leader of the Muslim fanatics who had raided their village waved his pistol carelessly before their faces. His hatred for Christians burned in his eyes. "If you do not become a Muslim, w he threatened, "you will be shot." Mary knew Jesus had been given a similar choice, "Give up Your plan to save sinners, or You will be crucified. w He chose the cross. Mary's choice was similar. "I was baptized as a Christian, and His word came to me: 'Don't deny your faith.' I will obey Him. Go ahead and shoot." The report of a gun from behind her echoed in the valley and Mary's body fell limply to the ground. Two days later, the Red Cross came into her village. Of all her family, Mary was the only one still alive. But the bullet had cut her spinal cord, leaving both her arms paralyzed. They were stretched out from her body and bent at the elbows, reminiscent of Jesus at His crucifixion. She could do nothing with them. More words from the Lord came to Mary. Even though she was now handicapped, she knew God had a plan for her life. "Everyone has a vocation," she said. "I can never marry or do any physical work. So I will offer my life for Muslims, like the one who cut my father's throat, cursed my mother and stabbed her, and then tried to kill me. My life will be a prayer for them."

Such prayers shatter the governments of those who persecute Christians as billions of dollars spent on atomic bombs could never do. They also bring those who hate Christians face-to-face with the Son of God. Mary's example encouraged others to take a heroic stand in Lebanon. Many died, were wounded, or fled the country during Lebanon's civil war. Some stayed, as did one missionary who was too concerned with his flock to flee to safety. Though the blast from a shell exploding in his home left him deaf in one ear and killed the family of five who lived next door to him, he was still strong in spirit. One ear was enough for him to use in spreading the Gospel "People are coming to the Lord every day," he reported in 1990, one of the worst years of the war.

Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord... Don't let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good. Paul the Apostle Martyred in Rome, 65 AD (ROMANS 12:19,21 NLT)

Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

What if...

What if you lived your whole live devoted to God?
What if your life was beyond any dream you could ever have?
What if you were chosen by God to do Great things?
There is no what if...
Live with devotion to God and your life will be beyond
your dreams, and you will do great and wonderful
things that you never could imagine doing!



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

**EXTREME FAITH
MAGAZINE**

A product of XGT and CCAspen

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.