

Feb 26, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

Devotion

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



WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND & STRENGTH

Follow the Two Greatest Commands as a guide to living with Devotion!

Can you imagine matching wits with Jesus? He was so smart and so witty. But that is exactly what happened in this gospel account. Jesus was teaching and answering questions. People were trying to catch him up and make Him make a mistake in His teaching. One by one Jesus shut them out and they had nothing left to say. Then this one guy comes out from the back of the crowd, I imagine that he was walking kinda proud, thinking that he had the great question that Jesus would trip up on. Read on and watch what happens.
Mark 12:28-34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, Of all the commandments, which is the most important?

29 The most important one, answered Jesus, is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 31 The second is this:

Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

32 Well said, teacher, the man replied. You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, You are not far from the kingdom of God. And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

No one dared ask Him any more questions. That is called a shut out in any sport! Jesus sets our hearts on fire as we learn to be devoted to God more than anything else. This is pretty awesome, we have only two things to focus on, Loving God with all that we have and loving everybody else as we love ourselves. Not a big list here, in a word DEVOTION. Do you have it in you?



Devotion is it in you?

A simple question, you either have it or you don't. But there is the middle ground, the place where you decided to go for it and run after it because you want it and you need it! Having devotion to God is the best thing ever, and when you have it your life will never be the same! It might be tough at times, but the best was never easy, if it was then it would not be the best! Go for it and be devoted to God!

Devotion = Power = Responsibility

Speak Life - Toby Mac

Some days life feels perfect
Other days, it just ain't workin'
The good, the bad, the right, the wrong
And everything in between

You it's crazy, amazing
We can turn our heart through the words we say
Mountains crumble with every syllable
Hope you live or die

So speak life, speak life
To dearest darkest night
Speak life, speak life
When the sun won't shine and you don't know why
Look into the eyes of the broken hearted
Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope
You speak love, you speak..
You speak life
You speak life

Some days the tongue gets twisted
Other day my thoughts just fall apart
I do, I don't, I will, I won't
It's like I'm drowning in the deep

Well, it's crazy to imagine
Words from my lips as the arms of compassion
Mountains crumble with every syllable
Hope you live or die

So speak life, speak life
To dearest darkest night
Speak life, speak life
When the sun won't shine and you don't know why
Look into the eyes of the broken hearted
Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope
You speak love, you speak..
You speak life
You speak life

Lift your head a little higher
Spread the love like fire
Hope will fall like rain
When you speak life with the words you say
Raise your thoughts a little higher
Use your words to inspire
Joy will fall like rain when you speak life with the
things you say

Lift your head a little higher
Spread the love like fire
Hope will fall like rain
When you speak life with the words you say

So speak life, speak life
To dearest darkest night
Speak life, speak life

When the sun won't shine and you don't know why
Look into the eyes of the broken hearted
Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope
You speak love, you speak..
You speak life
You speak life
You speak life
You speak life

Some days life feels perfect



DEVOTION & RESPONSIBILITY

When we live with Devotion for God, we are filled with the Spirit of God and we grow into the people that God has always called us to be. It is a powerful thing to know God, and to live in Devotion with God as we are Devoted to Him He is Devoted to us. We live with God we have the very thing that the world is looking for. You have what all of your friends are looking for, you have a purpose and God has a plan. Everyone is searching for what you have, so with Devotion to God there is a responsibility that we have to share all that we know, and lead others to what they are searching for. Live with Devotion to God and live with Responsibility and be the light that you were called to be!

The Challenge

Live with the Responsibility
make everyday count and
live with Devotion to God.
James (Jesus's brother) said
it this way. James 1:22
But don't just listen to God's
word. You must do what it
says. Otherwise, you are only
fooling yourselves.
Don't fool yourself be
Devoted to God in Acton and
in Knowledge.

One Conversation

One conversation changed everything for the woman at the well. One conversation changed her life for eternity! From someone who was so far from being Devoted to God to a person who ran after God in complete Devotion. One conversation with an outcast changed an entire village!

How have your conversations with God been going? What are you hearing Him say as you pray? Do you get excited, do you get pumped up, ready to move mountains? Having an encounter with God is a powerful thing, but you have to want it you have to go for it, you have to be Devoted. I remember the first time that I had an encounter with God, it was when I became a follower of Jesus. I was in college and my girlfriend dumped me, I was bummed out, I was really bummed out, and then I picked up the Bible and looked up the words spiritual leader, (she was a christian, I wasn't and she dumped me because I was not a spiritual leader.) I remember as I read the verses that described a spiritual leader, I ask this question, God where are you? Then I asked God where am I? I felt the room move and I felt a burning in my heart, my head was spinning and I met God. He showed me where He was and who He was. My life was never the same! One conversation change my life and 20 years latter the conversation is still going, I hear from God everyday and it is awesome! That experience has lead to many more and it has created a Devotion in me for God that I fight to make stronger every day!

Think about your story, what are your experiences with God? How are they creating a greater Devotion in you for God?

God is always listening and He is always talking, we just have to listen to Him and never ever give up. Having a tight relationship is something that you have to work on everyday. Just like your friends at school, and youth group you have to work at the relationship and be devoted one conversation and one experience at a time. It is the same with God, One conversation and one experience at a time, when you add them all up it is a powerful history.

Take some time and think about it what is your story with God? How is the relationship going, you hanging with Him? Are you going for it?

Check out the story of the woman at the well, and look at how one conversation change her life and the lives of all the people that would listen to her, it is an awesome account of how Jesus loved people.

Read the Story in John chapter four.

Keep the conversations going one at a time and your life will be changed!...

MODERN EXTREMES

Preaching From the Rooftop

James, the Less
Jerusalem, Israel 63 AD

James looked down from where he stood, balanced carefully at the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem. Far below, he could see that the streets were filled with people. It was Passover, and Jews from all over the known world had come to the Holy City. A hand grabbed his arm, pulling him off balance. "Get on with it!" a voice threatened. Behind him, a safe distance from the dangerous ledge, stood the chief priest, scribes, and Pharisees. "Deny that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah! Before all these people, deny that Jesus was the Son of God and that He was resurrected from the dead," they demanded. James the Less was one of the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus. He was also one of Jesus* younger brothers, as was Jude. He had obviously known Jesus and walked with Him for many years. He had seen Jesus alive again after His crucifixion and resurrection. James risked another glance at the street below. Many of the people down there knew him. For thirty years, he had been the bishop of the church at Jerusalem. During that time, he wrote a book of the Bible, the Epistle of James. He had openly preached Jesus as the Messiah and the resurrected Son of God on almost every street corner. How could he deny what he had seen with his own eyes, heard with his own ears, and touched with his own hands: his risen Lord? Through his preaching, his prayers, and his example, James converted many people to Christ. He was on his bare knees so often, worshipping God and praying for forgiveness for the sins of the people,

that his knees became numb and calloused, like the knees of a camel. This also earned him the nickname of "James the Just." He was respected by everyone, even many who opposed what he taught and believed. Feeling threatened by the rapid growth of the church, the chief priest, scribes, and Pharisees came up with a plan. They would force this well-known church leader to deny his faith before the multitude. But James refused to cooperate. From his place at the top of the temple, he preached with more boldness than ever. Every person in the crowd below looked up as he proclaimed, "Jesus is the promised Messiah! He is sitting at the right hand of God, and shall come again in the clouds of heaven, to judge the quick and the dead!" When the crowd below saw his courage and heard his bold words, they loudly praised God and magnified the name of Jesus. Enraged, two or three of the religious leaders jumped forward and pushed James off the temple roof. Miraculously, James was not killed by the fall; only his legs were broken. Then the priests, scribes, and Pharisees said, "Let's stone the 'just man* James.'" They picked up rocks to stone him to death. James, kneeling on his broken legs, prayed, "Lord, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." One of the priests, when he heard James praying, begged the others to stop, saying, "What are we doing? 'The Just' is praying for us. Stop the stoning! Stop the stoning! * While he was shouting this, another man ran up with a big,



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

heavy stick in his hand and struck James in the head. James died instantly from the blow, still in prayer.

The word "martyr" originally meant someone who tells what he has seen, an eyewitness. Jesus Freaks are people who have seen Jesus's power in their own lives and just can't help telling others about it. A favorite saying of a teenage girl who boldly approaches other teens is, "If you knew what I know about Jesus, I'd want you to tell me!"

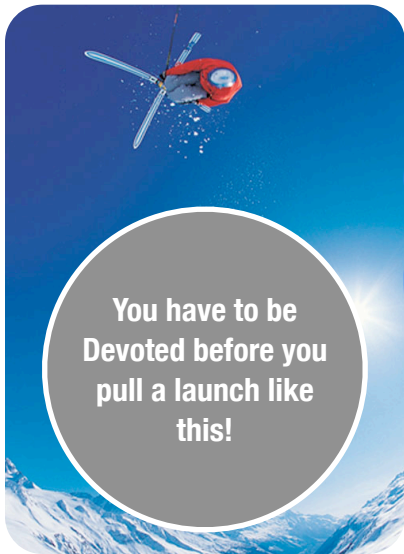
We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it" we say what we believe. And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise to Paul the Apostle. Martyred in Rome, 65 AD (2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-15 THE MESSAGE)



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

EXTREME FAITH
MAGAZINE

A product of XGT and CCAspen



STEP BY STEP

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Love the Lord God with all of your heart and soul!

What you are devoted to is what you love, what you love is what you will pour your life into. Be devoted to God! Love what God Loves!

Write out what it means to you to Love God with all of your heart and soul...

Love the Lord God with all of your understanding!

What you are devoted to is what you will be thinking about.

(the way you think and process life around you should be the way God process and thinks about the life around you)

Write out what it means to you to think as God thinks... (what does God think about the life around you?)

Love the Lord God with all of your strength!

What you are devoted to is where you will put all of your resources (time, money, energy and life) God says it is best if we put all of these resources to work in our efforts to love Him!

STEP ONE:

Put your heart focus on God Love what He Loves (Fall in Love with God)

STEP TWO:

Think about God and Learn to think the way that He thinks. (Change the way you think)

STEP THREE:

Put all of your resources before God and allow Him to use them to guide your life for His Kingdom work. (Live your life to bring God glory)

STEP ONE:

STEP TWO:

STEP THREE:

STEP ONE:

STEP TWO:

STEP THREE:

STEP ONE:

STEP TWO:

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.