

Daily Devotional – July 26th, 2025

Recipe for Discipleship – Part 1

Romans 12:9-12

Day 1: Pursuing Genuine Love

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Devotional: As we begin this journey, let's reflect on Paul's powerful words about love in 1 Corinthians 13. The sermon emphasized that "genuine love is the bedrock of discipleship." How often do we find ourselves going through the motions of Christianity without truly loving others? Today, examine your heart. Are there areas where your love has become hypocritical or self-serving? Ask God to renew your love, making it patient, kind, and selfless. Consider one practical way you can demonstrate genuine love to someone in your life today, whether through a kind word, act of service, or simply giving your full attention to listen.

Day 2: Abhorring Evil, Clinging to Good

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Devotional: Today's passage includes the key verse from the sermon: "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good." In a world that often blurs the lines between right and wrong, how can we develop a stronger sense of discernment? Reflect on areas in your life or in society where you may have become too comfortable with evil. Ask the Holy Spirit to sharpen your spiritual senses, helping you to recognize and reject what dishonors God. At the same time, consider what it means to "cling to what is good." How can you more actively pursue righteousness, kindness, and truth in your daily life? Make a commitment to replace one negative habit or influence with something that draws you closer to God.

Day 3: Unity in the Body of Christ

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Devotional: The sermon emphasized the importance of brotherly love and unity within the church. Paul's words in Ephesians 4 paint a beautiful picture of how the body of Christ should function. Reflect on your role within your local church community. Are you actively contributing to unity, or have you become isolated or divisive? Consider Paul's call to "bear with one another in love" and to use your gifts to build up the body. Is there a way you can serve that you've been hesitant about? Perhaps it's time to step into a small group

leadership role or to reach out to someone you've had conflict with. Pray for God to show you how you can foster greater unity and love within your church family.

Day 4: Persevering in Hope

Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Devotional: The sermon touched on the theme of "rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation." Today's passage reminds us that our sufferings produce perseverance, character, and hope. Think about a current struggle in your life. How might God be using this difficulty to refine your character and deepen your hope? Remember that our hope is not in changing circumstances, but in the unchanging love of God demonstrated through Christ. Take time to "rejoice in hope" today by listing specific reasons you have to be hopeful, even in the midst of challenges. Ask God to strengthen your faith and help you see your trials through the lens of His eternal purposes.

Day 5: Fervency in Spirit, Serving the Lord

Reading: Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Devotional: Our final day focuses on being "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." The sermon described this as being "boiling with passion that is disciplined." Reflect on your current spiritual temperature. Have you become lukewarm or apathetic in your faith? Or are you zealous without wisdom? Ask God to ignite a renewed passion for Him while also deepening your spiritual disciplines. Consider how you can serve the Lord with excellence in every area of your life – your work, your relationships, your private devotions. The Thessalonians passage reminds us to "pray without ceasing." How can you cultivate a more constant awareness of God's presence throughout your day? End this devotional series by committing to serve the Lord with joy and dedication, knowing that your labor in Him is never in vain.