

# **5-Day Devotional: Growing in Spiritual Maturity and Love**

## **Pastors Dana & Cheryl Everage**

### **101 Things to Know Season 4 Episode 10**

#### **Day 1: The Foundation of Real Love**

**Reading:** John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:7-12

**Devotional:** God's love is not abstract—it's demonstrated through giving. The Heavenly Father gave His most precious possession, Jesus Christ, to redeem us. This is the ultimate definition of real love: sacrificial giving without expectation of return. As you reflect today, consider how God's love has transformed your life. Real love doesn't keep score or demand reciprocation. It flows freely from a heart aligned with God's character. Ask yourself: Am I giving from a place of genuine love, or am I keeping a ledger of what others owe me? True spiritual maturity begins when we learn to love as God loves—unconditionally, sacrificially, and abundantly. Let God's giving nature inspire your own.

#### **Day 2: The Gift of Time**

**Reading:** Ephesians 5:15-17; Psalm 90:12

**Devotional:** Time is our most valuable currency. We convert our hours into money, relationships, and legacy. God doesn't just want our offerings; He desires our presence. When we give someone our undivided attention, we're saying, "You matter." Jesus modeled this perfectly—He made time for children, outcasts, and the hurting. Today, evaluate how you spend your time. Are you rushing through conversations? Do you make space for God in prayer? Spiritual maturity means recognizing that every moment is an opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love. Whether it's reading to a grandchild, listening to a struggling friend, or sitting quietly with God, your time is a gift. Don't wait for tragedy to realize you should have given more time to what truly matters.

#### **Day 3: Mature Communication and Listening**

**Reading:** James 1:19-20; Proverbs 18:13

**Devotional:** Spiritually mature relationships require the discipline of listening. Too often, we're so focused on our own experiences and opinions that we fail to truly hear

others. James instructs us to be quick to listen and slow to speak—wisdom that transforms relationships. Maturity means allowing others to have different opinions without becoming defensive. It means asking questions to understand rather than waiting for your turn to talk. Today, practice being fully present in conversations. Put down your phone. Make eye contact. Ask follow-up questions. Let others finish their thoughts without interrupting. This simple act of giving your attention demonstrates respect and love. Remember, God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason. Use them proportionally.

## Day 4: Financial and Social Maturity

**Reading:** Proverbs 21:5; Luke 14:28-30

**Devotional:** Spiritual maturity extends into every area of life, including finances and social interactions. A mature believer plans, communicates, and honors commitments. Whether it's consulting your spouse before making purchases, calling when you're running late, or being ready when someone is picking you up—these small acts reflect respect and self-discipline. Financial maturity means tracking your resources and living within your means. Social maturity means being reliable and considerate. These aren't trivial matters; they're reflections of your character and witness. When you honor your word and manage your resources wisely, you demonstrate the transforming power of Christ in practical ways. Today, examine one area where you can grow in responsibility. Take one concrete step toward greater maturity in that area.

## Day 5: Giving Without Strings Attached

**Reading:** Matthew 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

**Devotional:** The ultimate test of spiritual maturity is giving without expectation of recognition or reward. Jesus taught that our giving should be so discreet that our left hand doesn't know what our right hand is doing. When you pay for someone's groceries, hold a door, or offer help, do it from a heart of love, not for applause. Some people won't say thank you. Some won't even acknowledge your kindness. That's not the point. You're giving because God first gave to you. Your reward comes from Heaven, not from human recognition. Today, look for an opportunity to give anonymously—your time, resources, or kindness. Do something for someone who can never repay you. This is the heart of the Gospel: unmerited favor flowing through ordinary people who have been transformed by extraordinary love.

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*As you complete this devotional journey, remember that spiritual maturity is not a destination but a lifelong process of becoming more like Christ in every area of your life.*

