



PART THREE: PRO MOTION

INTRODUCTION

This is the season of self-improvement. We challenge ourselves to get slimmer, stronger, and smarter. But if you want to become a better person, focus less on yourself and more on doing something to make the world a better place. The challenge is that making the world a better place requires giving up some part of our lives—time, money, or opportunities. It will cost you some life. We don't want to give up some life. We want to preserve our lives. But Jesus said that the only way to live a life of purpose and meaning is to give our lives away.

RECAP: What one thing from Sunday's message stood out for you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about someone you've known or seen that seemed to live with purpose and passion. What are some of the qualities that made that person unique?
2. What are some of the costs to our culture of Christians who know a lot about their faith but don't love well?
3. During the message, Phil said, "*Devotion to God doesn't stop at perfect moral behaviour. Devotion to God is authenticated by love for others.*" Respond to that statement. In what ways is it challenging? In what ways is it comforting?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–3. What aspects of faith do you tend to emphasize over love—knowledge, generosity, prayer, emotional connection to God? What draws you to those aspects of faith?
5. Think about what breaks your heart. In what ways might addressing that problem require you to step outside of your comfort zone? What can this group do to help you take a step?
6. What is one thing you can do this week to put your devotion into motion? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

To make the world a better place, you don't have to quit your job, but you may have to quit doing *something*. You don't have to become a missionary and leave the country, but you may have to leave your comfort zone. You don't have to give all of your money, but you may have to give a percentage. That's because your devotion to God is authenticated by love for others and love for others will cost you some life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2

IDEAS FOR YOUR EVENING:

Other Texts: Matt 7:24-29. On the London Underground you will often hear the phrase 'Mind the Gap'

Jesus identifies our problem. There's a gap - between our knowing and our doing. Here he highlights two people. Both hear his words, but only one trusts them enough to act on them. The other believes that simply knowing what Jesus says is enough.

'Knowing isn't enough' says Jesus. Knowing doesn't make us mature Christians. Living a life of love towards God and others does (the first and second commandment). We are meant to know God ever more deeply and intimately, but this is a means to an end. We are to know God so that we become more like him- more loving- for God is love. So here's the test- How loving am I? Would others describe me as 'loving'? Is this their experience of me?

Worship or Prayer (GBC Website 'Resources Tab')

Video: Lindsey's Story. GBC Website "Resources Tab")