

COMPELLED Intro: A Story of Full Devotion

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

MPS: God loves with a full devotion that compels us to live SENT for glory.

OBJ: A life of full devotion to God is compelled to four actions of response to His love.

INTRO Movie: Saving Private Ryan

Few stories exceed the greatness of a war story when it shows great heroism and love. One of the hardest, but greatest aspects in these stories is the sacrifice people make.

Academy award winning "Saving Private Ryan" was one such movie for me. Based on a true story from World War II, the story follows a band of soldiers led by Captain John Miller, played by Tom Hanks, sent behind enemy lines to rescue Private James Ryan. His three brothers had been killed in combat and they had orders to return him safely home. Along the way each member of the rescue team encounters personal struggles and challenges. When they find Private Ryan, he doesn't want to leave the battlefield because he's committed to serve the mission.

Movies like this stir our emotion, even seeming to tug on our soul, as we see such commitment to a higher cause, true dedication and devotion to a higher mission. They move us because they remind us that our lives were created for greater glory.

TRANS I want to share a story with you today. A story that demands our full devotion to live for greater glory.

God loves with a full devotion that compels us to live SENT for glory.

ILLUS Events that shape our life we respond with: "Always remember. Never forget." God tells His people the same.

Walk thru Deut 1-5

Turn to Deuteronomy 1. Deuteronomy is one of my favorite books in the Bible. This is no secret. I love it because it shows in real time the move of God on mission as He leads His people to greater glory by promise, command, provision and victory.

The beginning of Deuteronomy is a grand reminder of God's faithfulness to lead His people. First one should remember where the people hear these words, on the banks of the Jordan river for the second time. The Israelites have wandered in the wilderness for almost forty years. And here they stand again, at the edge of God's richest blessing, but where the generation before them chose to rebel against God and go their own way. Sin and rebellion always leads to habitual cycles of pain and destruction because only God can redeem. And God redeems that His people might learn to act on His promises in accordance with His commands.

Moses begins with God's command to go take the land He promised to His people. The same command given forty years prior. But the people chose to listen to the negative chatter of those who were afraid more than the testimony of God's promise. And when the prior generation allowed their hearts to be filled with fear, it caused them to rebel in disobedience. Moses reminds them that they chose fear over faith toward God's promise, and rebellion led to forty years of wandering.

They experienced many confusing situations and challenges in the wilderness. Each time God led them by His command to protect and provide for them. When opposition arose, God gave great blessing through victory. Each of these victories in their wandering was given to remind them of God's power to fulfill His promise. Now faced with the reality of the prior generation's rebellion, they would have to decide if their aimless wandering would prove pointless or purposeful for their lives.

APPL Fear and unbelief often cloaks itself as genuine concern or even calculated wisdom, but gets channeled in inappropriate ways to avoid confronting itself and being exposed. The fire of rebellion against God is always ignited by the

murmur of speculation and grumble of fear sparked by doubt and unbelief. One spark of fear or unbelief spoken often becomes a wildfire that consumes a whole people. [Fear and unbelief always robs faith and leads to rebellion and disobedience.](#)

But one resounding testimony summarized their wilderness wandering, the faithfulness of God to fulfill His promise and the power to obey His command. How powerful this story resonates to us today! The season of wilderness rebellion by God's people becomes a grand display of God's faithfulness to His people by His redeeming power. [What could we possibly fear? HOW can we not trust and follow God as He leads? God is gracious, faithful and powerful to redeem our unbelief and rebellion with unimaginable blessing when we trust and obey to follow Him.](#)

This brief reminder captures the whole narrative of God's redemptive story. [God loves with a full devotion to rescue and redeem people from unbelief's rebellion, and empowers for missional advancement in His Kingdom.](#)

TRANS God always rescue from rebellion, when we repent, to redeem for His Kingdom mission. But sometimes He calls us from faithfulness to greater faithfulness.

ILLUS In Fall 2003, Christin and I were in a very good place in life, but confronted by a very hard decision. We had served in ministry for fourteen years, and our current role for five. Everything was going great in my ministry responsibilities, and the church overall, but we were under a heavy burden within. Nine years before, while in seminary, God impressed upon my heart a desire to plant a church. But after numerous attempts to move forward and only watching every door shut, I put it away as not being God's will. I dismissed our struggle as being a situation that would pass.

While wrestling to discern God's calling on us, we reached several milestones that pointed us back to planting a church. Once I knew that planting a new church is how God was leading us, I began to wrestle with doubts and fears, offering God every excuse that I could imagine. My fears culminated on early morning as I drove to work. I was praying for God to show me how He planned to fulfill this call He put in my heart. Then, I reminded him of my family responsibilities. And, if I left my job who would take care of my family?

In that moment, God took me back to a breakfast table twenty years prior. My brother and sister were in college, and I was the only child in the house. As I sat at the table with my parents my father told me that he planned to resign as pastor from his church position on the coming Sunday morning. As a sophomore in High School, I Initially didn't think much about it. (As a matter of fact, I didn't think about anything very much that wasn't immediately focused on me.) I responded, "Okay. So where are you taking a new pastorate?" He said that he had no plans. There was no job waiting. He simply knew God told him to resign, and that's what he planned to do. I said, "okay.", and left to go to school. What I didn't say was what was going through my mind, "That's the dumbest thing I could imagine. How do you resign with no other job waiting? Have you forgotten about your family? What about me; what would this do to me?" The questions didn't linger long, but they were real.

If I've learned anything in my life it is this, one moment can change everything moving forward. I know some of you have heard this story a number of times. I have lived the last 14 years of my life on the "hinge of the moment" at the breakfast table as a 16 year old. Immediately God responded to my questions, "Lane, who do you think takes care of your family now? Who gave you your job, your home, your ability, your life?" In a flash, God reminded me of His great love and full devotion to fulfill His promise. It would be months later before plans would begin to move forward with planting, but from that moment there has been no retreat. God reminded me of His full devotion in saving and leading when I trust and obey to follow Him. [God loves and leads with a full devotion; He ransoms and rescues, redeems, reconciles and restores us to serve His Kingdom mission in the world.](#)

TRANS LifePoint is a story of God's full devotion to love and lead His people in His Kingdom mission for His glory.

Today begins the future of LifePoint following the Lord as He leads us in missional advancement. The next two weeks will remind us of how God established LifePoint as a church in this city to serve His Kingdom mission, *to lead people to be real*

Christ-followers in life...together, so people near and far can come to know God in a personal relationship through Jesus Christ.

Once we've been reminded of how the Lord has led by His full devotion to us, we will take four weeks to discern how we can follow Him to live out a full devotion in response to Him. **A life of full devotion to the Lord is COMPELLED by His love to live for His glory by serving His Kingdom mission!**

TRANS I want to introduce another family from LifePoint's beginning, and let you hear their testimony of full devotion.

I-view AI & Kellie Webb

- How did God lead you to LP (what challenges and confirmations arose for you)?
- How did God lead you through them?
- How do you see the future of LifePoint as we follow the Lord to move forward?

TRANS Engaging God's Kingdom mission is our response to His full devotion toward us.

OBJ: **Four actions demonstrate our right response in life to God's full devotion.**

1. When God loves, our right response begins in Surrender.

When God reveals Himself through His promises and commands, the first and only right response is surrender. This is easy to talk about, much harder to practice.

When the Israelites stood on the edge of the promised land they had one decision to make, believe or rebel. Moses reminds them of all God has done to bring them to this point. They spent the last forty years wandering in their own will. Moses charges them to surrender as God leads them forward by commanding them to a full devotion to God in response to His love.

I could fill hours with stories of the many ways that God has been faithful and provided for LifePoint at each stage of our mission. I confess that I don't know all God has for LifePoint in the weeks and months ahead. And, we will not know all that He wants to do. But, I can confidently tell you this, LifePoint, our first action to trust and follow the Lord is surrender in response to His love poured out on us. We can surrender out of full devotion to God because He has proven that He is worthy of our complete trust. **Surrender is our only right response to God's full devotion.**

Over the next several weeks God is going to move in our church as He leads us in this next step. I'm going to ask something that is unheard of today; I'm asking you to be present every week; adjust your schedule, change your plans, whatever it takes, be here with LifePoint. God has given us a vision that demands His power at work in and through us. The question that every person must address is this, **"will I surrender to what God is doing, how He is leading LifePoint?"** **Surrender means we will open our hearts and listen to God speak to trust and move forward as He leads.**

2. When God loves, our right response means I EXPEND my life.

When God leads in His Kingdom mission, it's never only about one compartment of our lives, but the whole of our life. God wants to grow LifePoint Church by growing LifePoint, the church. What I mean by this is that He wants to maximize the influence of each person for the gospel; who you are and where He's put you for His glory. God has no "B" Team in His Kingdom; everyone plays, every down all the time. As you surrender your life, God will lead you to expend your life for His glory.

Expend means that each person embraces who God created them to be, accepts the place where He has put them to engage the mission He has given to them. The most regular labor of LifePoint Church happens in the faithfulness of our

witness when we move out into our city where God is working to bring more people to Himself. God created each one to bear a specific and unique glory for His Name. He has given you a sphere of influence with people who live all around you every day. He has commissioned you to labor for the reconciliation of people to Himself through Jesus Christ. There is no part of your life that God does not want to fully redeem and utilize for His mission in our city and beyond. **All of a Christ-follower's life should be fully expended for the glory of God's Kingdom mission.**

Are you ready to expend your life? We can trust God and expend our life fully because He has proven that He is faithful, going before us and with us to lead us.

3. When God loves in His Kingdom mission, our right response INVEST my life.

God not only leads every Christ-follower to expend their life in the world for His glory, but also to invest their lives in the church body. The reverse of what I said earlier is also true; as God grows LifePoint, the church, He will grow LifePoint Church.

God's plan for our church is simple; each member fully invests their life to see each one grow to full maturity in the image of Jesus Christ. Every stage of LifePoint's growth and development has followed this one simple principle: every person fully invested to labor for missional advancement. This is a season for every person to fully invest in the life of our church to experience God growing His church by growing His church. That means that, just like we mentioned in the opening illustration from the movie Saving Private Ryan, as we journey along God's mission together, each person will encounter God working in their heart and life in a powerful way. Every person will experience the powerful working of God by fully investing your life. This is not a one-time offer, but the way God works. **We can Invest our life fully for God because He has proven He will supply all our needs and bless us with more than we could ask or imagine.**

4. When God loves, our right response is to Treasure the Transformation of life.

Finally, a life of full devotion to God learns to treasure the transformation that He produces in us. The most powerful move of God occurs when we stop taking our list of demands to Him, to tell Him what we want done, but cultivate the change that He is working in us. I guarantee you this one thing, LifePoint, by God's grace, in only a few short weeks we will not be the same church we are today.

The best way for us as a church to see God work is for each one of us to hunger for His transforming power to work in each of our lives. Whether you are a young Christian and have only begun to follow Jesus, or whether you've been walking with him for decades, God wants to work His transforming power in your life. The hungriest people for God to work powerfully in Deuteronomy were the few who had experienced Him the longest, Moses, Joshua and Caleb. Be careful, Christian, that familiarity does not cause you to lose the awe of God's transforming power in your own life. Let's fully engage together to see God do a transforming work that we can treasure in our lives.

We can live fully to treasure the transformation God produces because we know it brings greater glory and increasing good to our lives.

CLOSE

A story of full devotion doesn't champion people who have a perfect devotion, but a God who is faithful in His full devotion. And from His full devotion He grows a devotion within us to be like His. When God grows a full devotion in us, we live COMPELLED by His love.

God loves with a full devotion that compels us to live SENT for glory.