

# A Life of Full Devotion

Matthew 4:19

Deut 6:4-5 | Matt 22:37-40 | Mark 10:45 | Luke 9:23 | Matt 28:18-20

**MPS:** God's love grows a full devotion to Jesus that compels me to live in His transforming power.

**OBJ:** Every Christian can strengthen God's love to live by three Areas of Priority.

**INTRO** (a story of how love changed me.)

Last week we looked at the people of Israel standing the edge of the Jordan river. Moses reminded them of all that God had done for them, of His saving love. Then, he culminates with a charge to the people by commanding them in this way.

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. **Deuteronomy 6:4-9***

This passage forms the central teaching of God's commands, His highest and most glorious Law, to His people. A life of full devotion to God by following Jesus is our supreme glory in response to His saving love. **A life of full devotion to God, our response to His saving love, is this, obedience to the commands of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Obedience is the distinctive mark of devotion to Jesus.**<sup>1John2:3</sup>

When we move to the New Testament we see that Jesus became our fulfillment of the Law to establish the New Covenant in Him. With his whole life, Jesus demonstrated a life of full devotion to the Father. This is the way Jesus fulfilled the Law for us and all of its demands upon us, by perfect obedience through His suffering.<sup>Heb5:8</sup> By God's love Jesus came and lived a perfect life. By God's grace we receive credit for His righteousness from perfect obedience. By faith we walk in obedience to live out a full devotion to Him. **Jesus' full devotion made a way for us to be made righteous and live in obedience to His commands.**

Jesus' first and culminating command to his disciples was simple, *"Follow me,"*<sup>Matthew4:19</sup> I assure you it sounded easier at first than it turned out to be, but that's the way of life when we follow Him. Follow Jesus means we learn to walk in God's love as our defining joy and strength for all of life. And the more we walk with Him, the more we serve Him, the more we obey Him, the more His love fills us to overflowing. **Following Jesus means walking in his redeeming love that transforms us into His likeness.**

Obedience by faith to Jesus lead us to live a life of full devotion. A life of full devotion is so full of the presence and power of God's love that one lives in a distinct manner that reflects that which fills it. **When we follow Him, we learn how Jesus works by redeeming love as we experience His transforming power in every aspect of our life.**

**God's love grows a full devotion to Jesus that compels me to live in His transforming power.**

**TRANS** **What does a life of full devotion unto God look like?**

**OBJ** Three areas of priority for every Christian to build a thriving life of full devotion.

**#1. a life shaped by gospel-fueled transformation.**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **2 Cor 5:17***

Every person that trusts in Jesus for salvation is made new. Every person needs a right understanding of their new identity in Jesus. The new that Jesus is transforming in you by His redeeming love is what it means to be a follower of Christ. When

Jesus saves, he makes us new. The old is gone! The new is what we must behold! **Christians live ruled by a gospel-fueled transformation when we hold as our focused priority the NEW that Jesus is shaping in you.**

**Do you know the new that Jesus is making in you?**

LifePoint Church holds forth as the center of our vision the transformed shape of a life formed by full devotion; the ethos of a Christ-follower. Our mission focuses on equipping every person to live a full devotion in God’s redeeming love to experience His transforming power, *leading people to be real Christ-follower’s in life...together.*

**ILLUS original image of LPC vision from MLH journal.**

**ILLUS Life Together image on screen.**

A full devotion to God’s love shapes a life of gospel-fueled transformation that begins by **engaging the heart as a Worshiper** to grow a comprehensive love for God. A new heart from God filled with His Spirit is the center of God’s new covenant in Jesus. **Christians live out of our new heart to source our whole life with God’s love.**

A full devotion to God’s love shapes a life of gospel-fueled transformation that **engages the hands as a Servant to model God’s love in spirit and deed by ministering to others.** The moment we begin to live in God’s love we cease to live for self. **Christians live to serve others in Jesus’ name because we live filled with a great love.**

A full devotion to God’s love shapes a life of gospel-fueled transformation that **engages the mind as the Disciple to appropriate the truth of God into faithful obedience of life.** Our new heart sources the renewing of our mind to think in new ways about all things. **Christians live to appropriate gospel truths to every realm of life from our renewed mind.**

A full devotion to God’s love shapes a life of gospel-fueled transformation that **engages the feet as a Missioner to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.** A redeemed life is fully equipped to share God’s redeeming love in Jesus. **Christians live to send the gospel to every person.**

A full devotion to God’s love shapes a life of gospel-fueled transformation that **engages the whole of life to live as a steward who serves God’s mission with all of life to multiply His glory over the whole earth.**

**Testimony Peter & Jaye Anderson**

- **Why did you choose join LifePoint (personally, for your marriage and for your family/kids)?**
- **How have LPC disciple-making ministries (Community Group, serving & KidLife) impacted you / meant to you?**

**THIS is LifePoint’s aim, our guiding vision and culminating mission; every life shaped by a gospel-fueled transformation.**

**ILLUS** People would think I had lost my marbles if I placed a seed on the communion table, believing it would do anything other than dry up and decay. But that’s exactly what Christians do when they remain outside the church.

**TRANS** Christianity needs a soil to grow a life of gospel-fueled transformation. Soil for life is known as culture.

**#2. a Jesus-centered culture of incomparable love and joy that cultivates a Christ-follower’s ethos.**

*42And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and*

*generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47*

Acts describes the culture that grows gospel-fueled transformation in the Christ-follower's life. Culture synergizes through values (what we celebrate), practices and traditions, economy and language to form a distinct environment and experience among a people. A distinct culture forms when Christ-followers hold to the faithful teaching of God's Word, a Spirit-filled fellowship among God's people, communion with God among the gathered body of Christ and the ministry of one another with one another.

Acts demonstrates this by showing how a "Jesus-centered culture" affected and influenced every person with the word "And...". They were filled with joy and awe. They demonstrated love in the practical needs of life and in spiritual ministry to one another. They resonated with praise and thanksgiving to God for all that was taking place among them. Jesus redeems from rebellious, self-centered independence to redemptive interdependence with other Christians. [Every Christian needs a Jesus-centered culture to cultivate a Christ-centered ethos in life.](#)

We build a culture of incomparable love and joy that cultivates a Christ-follower's ethos when we center all our values, practices and traditions, economy and language on Jesus. We want the atmosphere of our fellowship to be filled with the love of God and consume our hearts and minds with one resonating message, the truth of God spoken in love. We labor to build a culture that cultivates a Christ-follower's ethos, to continually strengthen and grow our identity in God's love through Jesus Christ. This is our purpose for all we do at LifePoint every time we are gathered. [Jesus is the center of our all.](#)

#### **Testimony Ryan & Rachel Opel**

- Tell us about your life, how you become a Christian and when you came to LPC? (Where you were with God and how you became a Christian?)
- How did LPC impact / encourage and walk with to follow Jesus, and what has that meant to you?

**APPL** Christ-follower, have you accepted personal responsibility to ensure your participation at LPC strengthens and increases this kind of culture?

[The culture of a church that is Jesus-centered cultivates in the life of a Christ-follower what Jesus originates through the gospel.](#)

**TRANS** And third, we are not here for ourselves or even for our gatherings, but through all our activity and ministry we serve a higher purpose. The gospel-centric rhythm of community is the rotation that drives the mission of the church.

#### **#3. a mission of world-transcending glory that engages every person to serve King Jesus.**

The last verse of Acts, 2:47, records a powerful response from a culture that grows every Christ-follower's ethos, a multiplication of God's glory over all the earth.

The church exists to serve the mission of God's Kingdom in this world. One leader described the church by saying, "The church is the only organization whose membership exists for those who are not yet members." We all come to a point in life when we ask "what is the purpose of my life?" We long to know that our life matters for more than only the here and now. We long to know that our life exists for more, more purpose and glory. [Serving God's Kingdom mission engages our life to make an eternal impact that far exceeds our personal or individual ability.](#)

God's Kingdom mission extends to all people to the ends of the earth, but it begins right here with every person that we can engage with the gospel. Jesus' call to "*Follow me*" leads each person to engage God's redeeming mission. [A mission of world-transcending glory to serve King Jesus begins by engaging and equipping every person to serve that mission in the way they live their life.](#)

**APPL** LifePoint has sought to faithfully serve God’s Kingdom mission. We recognize that the whole of God’s Kingdom is not comprised in any one church, but He commissions each church to engage for His glory.

**ILLUS COMPELLED Campaign book cover**

**TRANS** Last week you heard testimony from Al & Kellie Webb. They are serving as two of our Campaign Co-Directors. I want to introduce you to our other Co-Directors.

**Testimony Chuck & Joyce Penland**

- You’ve been around LPC for about 3 years now. **Why?**
- Share how the Lord has spoken to and led you in preparing for this season.

COMPELLED is an intentional strategy to strengthen and expand the ministries and maximize the missional influence of LifePoint Church for the Kingdom of God. LifePoint remains committed to *lead people to be real Christ-followers in life...together*. Every day of following Jesus for every person requires His power at work within us.

**God’s love grows a full devotion to Jesus that compels me to live in His transforming power.**

**CLOSE**

**What’s your testimony of what God has done in your life, how God has used LifePoint church in your life? Have you told anybody lately? Why not this week? Why not invite them to come with you next Sunday?**