

Love God first

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. (Hebrews 6:10)

As I’m sure you’ve figured out, the first six daily devotions of our 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting have all centered around the first element of the City Church mission statement: Love God.

Week Two will focus on the second element: Love People.

Here’s the cool thing about what God has directed us to do; when you Love God, you automatically Love People. And when you Love People, you automatically Serve the City.

But there’s a catch...you cannot Love Others or Serve the City until you first Love God with all you’ve got. The moment you undertake to love or serve in your own capacity, your efforts will be compromised and you will ultimately quit in frustration.

Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait for empowerment from the Holy Spirit before they took up their assignment of taking the gospel to the world (Acts 1:4-8). In the same way, Jesus tells us to come to Him and love Him before we turn to the task of loving others.

At the beginning of this new year, let’s focus our devotion on God. He doesn’t want our efforts as much as He wants our affection. As we come to Him in relationship we will slowly be transformed into the likeness of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). Then—and ONLY then—will we be able to carry out the mission He has called us to as individuals and as a fellowship.

Pray

Lord, I don’t know how to love you. I really want to love you, but when I think about how much you love me, everything I do to love you better seems so lame. By your Holy Spirit, please give me a heart to love you like I want to. Give me prayers to pray and reveal the things in me that I must lay down. I won’t stop submitting until I’m fully and completely in love with You.

DAY 7
Sunday, January 14th

RECURRING NEEDS

Revival
Repentance
Wisdom
Marriages
Families
Sick/Grieving
Depression/Mental illness
City Church
Church leaders
Children
Youth
Singles
Senior citizens
Volunteers
Teachers and support staff
Emergency personnel
Business community
Elected officials
Missionaries
Worldwide church
The lost

REFLECTIONS
