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**MOTIONS TO DEVOTION**

The church in Ephesus is called to move beyond routine religion and return to wholehearted devotion to Jesus. Revelation, often misunderstood, is actually a message of hope - reminding us that Jesus is alive, victorious, and present in His Church. The letter to the Ephesians shows that it’s possible to do all the right things yet lose our love for Christ. Jesus desires more than our service - He wants our hearts. We’re invited to remember our first love, repent of distractions, and realign our lives so that everything we do flows from genuine love for Him. This is a call to consecrate ourselves afresh and let passion, not obligation, define our faith.

REFLECTION

*Share something that stood out from the Sunday message ‘Motions to Devotion’.*

MESSAGE POINTS

One: Jesus Desires Our Devotion, Not Just Our Actions
Jesus calls us beyond routine and outward works to a living, passionate relationship with Him. He is not satisfied with mere activity or religious duty; He wants our hearts, our affection, and our wholehearted devotion. When we focus only on doing the right things, we risk losing the joy, strength, and intimacy that come from loving Him first. Let us remember that Jesus is in the midst of His church, longing for us to return to our first love, to seek Him above all else, and to let every act of service flow from a place of deep love for Him.

*Revelation 2:2-5 (ESV)
“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”*

**Discussion**

* **Take time for people to share the moment they decided to follow Jesus—what led up to it, how they felt, and what has changed since.**
* **What does it look like to “abandon your first love” while still doing the right things for Jesus?***How can good works mask a heart that’s grown distant?*
* **What were the “first works” or rhythms that marked your love for Jesus when your faith was fresh?***Is there anything you feel called to return to?*
* **Where in your life right now is your faith more routine than relational?***What would it look like to rekindle your affection for Jesus?*

Two: Our Strength Is Renewed in God’s Presence
True strength for life’s challenges comes not from our own efforts, but from time spent in God’s presence. When we are connected to Him, our passion is rekindled and our spiritual flame is fueled. Burnout often comes when we lose touch with the source of our strength—Jesus Himself. As we hope in the Lord, He renews us, enabling us to soar above weariness and walk in His power. Let us make space for Sabbath, worship, and daily moments of devotion, knowing that our strength is found in drawing near to Him.

*Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)
“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

**Discussion**

* **Where in your life right now do you feel weary or spiritually drained?***What might that be revealing about your connection to Jesus as your source of strength?*
* **What rhythms—like Sabbath, worship, or quiet time—help you truly “wait on the Lord”?***How can you prioritise those this week, not as a task, but as a lifeline?*
* **What does it practically look like for you to live from a place of God’s strength rather than your own effort?**
*How might your mindset, decisions, or relationships change if you did?*

Three: First Love Fuels Sacrifice and Generosity
When our hearts are set on Jesus as our first love, sacrifice and generosity become a joy, not a burden. We no longer count the cost or give out of obligation, but out of devotion and gratitude for all He has done. Our giving - whether of time, resources, or service - flows from a place of love, not duty. When we unite our hearts with God’s purpose, we find freedom and fulfillment, and our lives become a living testimony of His grace.
 *2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)
“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

**Discussion**

* **Where in your life has giving or serving started to feel like an obligation instead of an overflow of love?***What might Jesus be inviting you to surrender or rediscover in that area?*
* **How does remembering all Jesus has done for you shift your perspective on generosity and sacrifice?***What happens when love, not duty, becomes your motivation?*
* **What would it look like for your life to be a joyful testimony of God’s grace through how you give your time, resources, or energy?***Is there a fresh step of generosity God is prompting you to take?*

GROUPS PRAYER POINTS

**Pray for each other’s personal journey as a disciple and discipleship in our church**

* Being in the presence of Jesus, becoming more like Jesus and continuing the work He did.

**Pray for the Holy Spirit’s presence**

* That we would be led, filled and empowered to live surrendered, love God and serve others.

**Pray for Decade of Destiny**

* **Debt Free on Sims and Stage One** Believe that we could be debt free on the purchase of Sims St and the stage one fit-out costs.
* **Launch Two New LIFE Campuses** That we would pioneer two additional LIFE campuses across Melbourne and continue to make room for more people to discover the wonder of Jesus, find their family and step into all that God leads.
* **LIFE Homes** To have short-, medium- and long-term accommodation navigable to enable emergency support, crisis help and essential care to key areas of vulnerability.
* **Education Services Engaged** It is our vision that we will have multiple pathways that we will be able to bring lasting transformation to our communities through learning and education and reverse the cycle of poverty.
* **Sims Street Revival** God is entrusting us to first and foremost lift up the names of Jesus and see many thousands upon thousands discover His eternal life.

WATCH - Motions to Devotion – Ps Nadia https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk8ToEdIDXU

UPCOMING DATES

**July**

July 8th – YA All In @ Life 7pm

July 21st – Life Business Night @ Life 6pm

July 24th – Alpha @ Life 7pm

July 24th – Theology Night Course ‘The Gospel of Mathew’ @ Life 7pm

July 27th – Child Dedications @ Life 9am, 11am Services