

Devotions for Women

With all my Heart



Mark Zimmermann

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.

LUKE 10:27



Introduction



The love that comes from the heart of God is poured into your heart as a woman of faith, no matter what your role or position in life. The love God gives to you, you return to him in worship and praise. And the love that you share with those around you speaks to the depth of love our Lord has for you in Jesus. Being loved by our God strengthens you for being loving in what you say and do on a daily basis in such things as being a mother, wife, friend, sister, cousin, daughter, coworker or neighbor. Just as God loves fully and unconditionally, may you, too, be inspired by him to love with all your heart as a treasured child of God. Let these devotions help you do that.

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Trust in Him

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

So much of life involves trusting in the Lord. Notice the Bible doesn't say to trust just a little or once in a while. It says to trust in the Lord *with all your heart*. What does that mean? Consider Mary, the mother of Jesus, who said to the angel Gabriel, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). She did not fully understand how the Christ Child would come to be born through her, but she trusted wholeheartedly, without reservation and without a second thought. The love Mary had for Jesus lasted throughout his life, even as she stood at the foot of his cross on Good Friday. She trusted in God's plan for him and for her all the way until the end. Trust does not rely on intellect or great insight. It simply guides the soul and points to the path that God wants you to go as a woman of faith.

Guide my footsteps, O God, in the way that you would have me follow, trusting in your direction. Amen.



What to Wear

Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

COLOSSIANS 3:14

What to wear? That is a question that presents itself every day of our lives. But the question provides us with an opportunity to consider that we must first clothe ourselves with love.

Love should always be a part of our wardrobe. We know the expression “wearing your heart on your sleeve,” meaning that people can clearly see our emotions and our compassion toward others. But we are talking here about something even more.

We’re talking about a deeper love that should be like a garment that covers us completely head to toe. It’s a love that should be seen by all and should point to its designer, Christ, who enables us to live selfless, godly, humble yet confident lives in him and for him. That kind of love may not be considered fashionable or in, but it is what is always needed to bring peace and harmony to a broken and often unloving world.

Help me, dear Lord, to be dressed with your love and to wear it well, for your sake and for the sake of those around me. Amen.






Compassion

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.

MARK 6:34

We see the compassionate heart of Jesus at work as he approaches those who have come to listen to him. Your hearts have often gone out in a similar way to those who have come to you for help. You see your children, your friends, your husband, your coworkers in need, and you cannot do anything but love them with all your heart. Jesus taught and fed the people gathered before him. You can do the same by giving counsel and advice in a loving manner and by feeding people not only with actual food, if that is what is appropriate, but with the Word of God and with the lessons learned from your own experiences. A heart of compassion is a heart that calms and soothes and connects to the larger love of God in Christ at work in us all.

Open my eyes to care for those around me who are hurting, and fill me with the compassion that can come only from you. Amen.



Have Love

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1

There are many ingredients that go into being a good mother, sister, friend and coworker. But the Bible says that really only one thing matters: love. People know if your heart is not in it. People can tell when you are just going through the motions. Everything is just white noise if it is not backed up with a heart of love.

Letting love come through in your speech and actions can be difficult at times when the kids aren't listening or when schedules are busy or work is piling up at home and at the office. But love can make an appearance in the simplest of ways that go a long way to express the desires of your heart as a woman of faith. A hug, a handshake, a pat on the shoulder, a kiss on the forehead, the words "I love you" whispered in the ear let your loved ones know loud and clear that your love for them is real.

O Christ, allow me to show how much I love others in genuine and meaningful ways. Amen.



The devotions in this booklet reflect on the love God has poured into women of faith that they might care for others with all their heart in Christlike ways as mothers, wives, aunts, friends, neighbors and coworkers.



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