



UNRELENTING

LOVE

DEVOTIONAL

BRANDON KERR

AUTHOR'S NOTES

The purpose of this devotional is to help you apply the principles in my book, ***Unrelenting Love***, on a daily basis. I believe if you follow these simple daily devotionals for the next ten days it will help catapult you to a new way of living. I would ask you to say, "Yes!", each day you go through this devotional. Don't read it and allow your day to go by without responding to the challenges presented to you. Allow God to speak to you and use you each day to show someone His unrelenting love. Each day I will be giving you action steps to begin reaching out to one specific person. During the next ten days consistently respond to the action steps and I believe God will open a door to allow you to share His unrelenting love with them.

-Brandon Kerr

DAY ONE

The thing I love about Jesus is, he hasn't gone anywhere. He was there at the beginning, and He's here now. That's unrelenting love. That's the kind of love that doesn't stop, doesn't yield, but keeps on fighting, keeps on going. God's love is so powerful, more powerful than we can ever even understand. It's unrelenting because it doesn't let up; it doesn't weaken in strength or pace. God's love is unrelenting, that is the love of God.

1 John 4:8-10 says:

"My beloved friends let's continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God because God is love, so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us, God sent his only son into the world, so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about, not that we once upon a time loved God, that he loved us, sent his son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins, and the damage they've done to our relationship with God." (The Message Bible)

ASK YOURSELF:

1. HOW HAS GOD'S LOVE CHANGED MY LIFE?
2. HOW COULD A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S LOVE CHANGE MY LIFE?

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

1. ASK GOD TO HELP REVEAL HIS LOVE IN A DEEPER AND MORE PROFOUND WAY TO YOU RIGHT NOW.

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

1. START A CONVERSATION WITH A COMPLETE STRANGER TODAY. GENUINELY ASK THEM HOW THEIR DAY IS GOING OR ASK THEM SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR LIFE.
2. THINK OF ONE PERSON YOU SEE ON A REGULAR BASIS THAT DOESN'T KNOW JESUS AND PRAY FOR THEM AND ASK GOD TO BEGIN TO SOFTEN THEIR HEART TO THE MESSAGE OF HIS LOVE.

DAY TWO

Repentance means to “change your mind.”¹ I like to think of it as turning the opposite direction I was going before, which was toward my sin. When I repent, I am changing directions and moving toward God and away from my sin..

The problem is too often we add more to that definition of repentance. We make it more complicated than it really is. We say things like, "I have to read my Bible for one month straight before I can move on with what God has for me.

I have to go to church for every service for two months before God will want to look at me. I have to jump through this hoop or that hoop before God will ever speak to me. "

None of that is true.

I think John 3:17 says it best. Most of us know John 3:16, but oftentimes, we miss the next verse that is equally important.

¹ THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2002, 2003, 2006, 2011 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

"God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted. Anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him." (The Message)

God loves you. He's not mad at you. He desires to help you and to have a relationship with you.

If you feel shame because of what you've done, I'm here to tell you right now, that's not from God. That's from the devil.

ASK YOURSELF:

- 1. WHAT AM I HOLDING ON TO THAT IS STOPPING ME FROM MOVING FORWARD? (i.e. SIN, SHAME, GUILT, UN-FORGIVENESS, ETC.)**

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

- 1. ALLOW GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE TAKE AWAY ANY SHAME AWAY SO YOU CAN MOVE FORWARD IN LIFE.**

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

- 1. CALL OR TALK TO THE PERSON YOU PRAYED FOR YESTERDAY AND GIVE AN ENCOURAGING WORD. DON'T OVERCOMPLICATE IT, BUT MAKE SURE IT COMES FROM THE HEART.**

DAY THREE

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says,

***"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud, does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."* (NIV)**

Love is Patient

God isn't mad at you. He's not up in heaven, trying to make you slip up, or waiting for you to mess up again. He hasn't left you. ***He is constantly present.*** He's unrelenting in His desire to have an ongoing relationship with you and to be there to help you in all you go through in life. We should be showing that same kind of love to others. If you say, "I'm just not a patient person," I have great news for you, ***patience can be learned.***

Patience is a mindset that desires to help see someone succeed instead of wanting to see someone fail. It's a mindset that works at seeing things from another perspective than your own, to help produce a genuine care for another person. Patience, even though it's very hard, is essential to love.

ASK YOURSELF:

- 1. HOW HAS GOD'S PATIENCE WITH YOU BLESSED YOUR LIFE?**
- 2. HOW HAS THE PATIENCE OF OTHERS SHOWN YOU LOVE?**

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

- 1. REMEMBER PATIENCE IS LEARNED...SO START LEARNING HOW TO BE MORE PATIENT EVERYDAY. TAKE IT CASE BY CASE AND ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BRING ABOUT THAT CHANGE.**

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

- 1. REMEMBER THAT SAME PERSON WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE LAST 2 DAYS...YOU'VE PRAYED FOR THEM...YOU'VE REACHED OUT TO THEM...NOW SHOW THEM PATIENCE. IT'S AMAZING WHAT A LITTLE PATIENCE WILL DO. LET THAT PERSON KNOW YOUR COMMITTED TO HELPING THEM...BEING FOR THEM AND THAT YOU WILL BE PATIENT WITH THEM.**

DAY FOUR

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says,

"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud, does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (NIV)

Love is Kind

Kindness is more than just being nice. The original translation of this portion of scripture really deals with the tone in which we speak and the attitude in which we do things. I can do something nice for my wife in two entirely different ways. I can do it because I feel like I have to or because I want to. Let's be honest, taking out the trash is not the most enjoyable task. If I take the trash out with a bad attitude, that's not really kind, is it? No. It's just taking out the trash. But if I take out the trash with a good attitude and a desire to serve my wife, it becomes a kindness. See the difference? If I sarcastically say to someone, "You're not half bad at basketball." That's not really kind; it's just 50% of a compliment. But if I pause, make eye contact, and let that person know

I really mean it, then that becomes a kind word. Are you doing and saying things without kindness, thinking you're being kind? Or are you actually doing and saying kind things?

We all fall into this trap all the time. But I'd say it's time to change.

ASK YOURSELF:

- 1. HOW KIND OF A PERSON AM I?**
- 2. HOW CAN I BE MORE KIND TO OTHERS?**

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

- 1. NO MATTER HOW YOUR DAY IS GOING CHOOSE RIGHT NOW THAT YOU ARE GOING TO RECEIVE THE KINDNESS OF GOD...HE LOVES YOU AND DESIRES TO SHOW YOU KINDNESS EVERYDAY!**

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

- 1. TODAY FIND A WAY TO SHOW A COMPLETE STRANGER A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS. (i.e. BUY THEIR COFFEE, PAY FOR THEIR GROCERIES, FLASH A SMILE OR COMPLIMENT.)**
- 2. SAME PERSON?? YOU ALREADY GUESSED IT. FIND A WAY TO SHOW THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN REACHING OUT TO KINDNESS - GENUINE KINDNESS. MAYBE FIND SOMETHING NEW ABOUT THEM SO THAT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING FOR THEM THAT WOULD REALLY SHOW THEM THAT KINDNESS.**

DAY FIVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, ***"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud, does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*** (NIV)

Love Does Not Envy or Boast, and It is Not Proud

It's interesting to me that these three attributes are placed together into one thought. Envy speaks of having hatred toward and jealousy toward another. To boast is to talk up yourself to others. And being proud is to put yourself higher than others in your mind.

All these attributes surround the way we think of ourselves internally, and how we project that idea onto others.

Yeah, I know, that stings a little, but it's true. We all have ideas of ourselves that, if we don't allow God to fix, will turn into an outward expression in how we treat people.

It's our job to build up, support, and encourage.

When we talk about dishonoring someone and self-seeking, I equate it to a critical spirit. A spirit that is

constantly looking to critique and get its own way. Oddly enough, this can be a great strength if we give this back to God. Instead of having a critical spirit, it turns into a supporting, encouraging, and a “I-got-your-back” mentality.

Instead of looking for everything wrong with something, you begin to anticipate ways you can help another achieve what they're trying to do. Instead of always thinking your way is best, you look to see how you can contribute to the idea of another.

You begin to have a collaborative mindset, instead of a controlling one.

Love is not critical; it's constructive. Love is not self-seeking; it puts others first. Aren't you glad Jesus decided to selflessly act this out on the cross for us?

ASK YOURSELF:

1. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN CRITICAL OF OTHERS THIS WEEK?

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

1. SHIFT YOUR MINDSET TO HAVE A COLLABORATIVE MINDSET INSTEAD OF A CONTROLLING ONE.

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

1. FIND A WAY TODAY TO BUILD UP, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THAT SAME PERSON YOU'VE BEEN REACHING OUT TO?

DAY SIX

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, ***"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud, does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*** (NIV)

Love Keeps NO Record of Wrongs

Have you ever felt like God is frustrated with how many times you mess up in the same area? When you mess up, do you feel like God is placing another tally mark on a score sheet? Thank God He's not like that. Lamentations 3:22-24 says,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercy has never come to an end. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I will hope in him.'" (ESV)

God has a new kind of mercy for you every single day. I love that. It's not the same mercy you experienced yesterday. It's a brand new kind, created for right now. God's not keeping a tally of all your

wrongs. He literally wipes them away and never brings them up again. Isaiah 44:22 says,

"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud. Your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." (NIV)

I believe the revelation of this in your life will stop you from doing this to others. When we embrace that God has not only forgiven our sins but has also forgotten them, it will change us. It will also change the way we forgive others.

ASK YOURSELF:

- 1. DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE GOD IS KEEPING A TALLY SHEET OF ALL THE TIMES YOU MESS UP? GOOD NEWS...HE IS NOT.**

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

- 1. ACCEPT THE GRACE AND MERCY OF GOD AND ALLOW HIS FORGIVENESS TO TAKE ROOT IN YOUR LIFE.**

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

- 1. TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY FOR THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN REACHING OUT TO AND ASK GOD TO SOFTEN THEIR HEART TO THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S GRACE, FORGIVENESS AND LOVE.**

DAY SEVEN

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, ***"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud, does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*** (NIV)

Love Does Not Delight in Evil, but Rejoices With the Truth

Just like a cartoon snowball that starts at the top of a mountain and rolls down collecting more snow, trees, rocks, and whatever other debris it may pick up along the way, gossip grows and grows. It's interesting how one negative word behind someone's back can gain so much energy. Soon it gets way out of hand.

Some say, "Well, I wasn't the one saying it, so I'm not to blame." According to this scripture, all are guilty. When we delight in the evil words of others instead of speaking truth, love is nonexistent in that moment. "Well, I didn't mean anything by it really." Sounds like that person is delighting in evil instead of rejoicing with truth. "Well, what I said was true;

so it's okay." Rejoicing with the truth means the truth that is written in the Word of God. We shouldn't be speaking poorly of our brothers and sisters. Instead speak strength, life, and love over them. That's how we rejoice in the truth. Proverbs 18:21 says,

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue." (ESV)

Let us choose life instead of death.

ASK YOURSELF:

- 1. DO MY CONVERSATIONS REJOICE WITH THE TRUTH ON A DAILY BASIS?**

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

- 1. MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO BEGIN TO FILTER YOUR WORDS THROUGH THE VOICE OF TRUTH ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD.**

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

- 1. THE PERSON THAT YOU ARE REACHING OUT TO NEEDS TO SEE THAT YOU REJOICE IN THE TRUTH CONSISTENTLY. MAKE SURE YOU ARE REJOICING WITH THE TRUTH AND DON'T ALLOW GOSSIP TO COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. ALLOW YOUR LIFE TO BE A TESTIMONY OF WHO JESUS IS EVERY SINGLE DAY OF YOUR LIFE.**

DAY EIGHT

Compassion moves our love into action.

Matthew 14:13-14 says, ***"Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick."*** (ESV)

Have you ever had a bad day? Maybe someone messed up your order at the drive-through or took your spot in the parking lot. Perhaps someone indirectly called you out on social media. No, I mean like a really bad day. Maybe one of those days where the air conditioner, water heater, and car all break down at once. What about when tragedy strikes? That's where we find Jesus in this passage. John the Baptist, a friend of Jesus', has died. The scripture tells us that when He heard, "He withdrew, but a crowd followed Him".

What do we know about this crowd? We know they didn't give Jesus His space. They were in great need, and they believed Jesus could help them.

Jesus responded with ***compassion***. What is compassion? The original translation of this passage of scripture defines compassion as an actual feeling

deep in yourself, literally in your intestines.² That's pretty crazy. Back when the Bible was written, people believed that the seat of love and pity were in the intestines or the bowels. What does that mean? You may be thinking right now, "You're talking crazy, Brandon." Well, compassion means that Jesus was moved deep inside Himself with love and care for this crowd of people so much that He was about to do something. And what did Jesus do? He healed their sick.

We see that Jesus didn't just feel love for people. He was also moved with compassion, and He ***acted upon it***.

ASK YOURSELF:

1. HOW HAS GOD'S COMPASSION FOR YOU CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

1. SAY THIS OUT LOUD: "I KNOW THAT GOD'S COMPASSION FOR ME IS NEVER ENDING AND ALWAYS PRESENT IN MY LIFE."

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

1. HOW CAN YOU SHOW COMPASSION TO SOMEONE IN NEED TODAY? MAYBE A STRANGER, CO-WORKER OR FAMILY MEMBER.

2. THAT SAME PERSON YOU'VE BEEN REACHING OUT TO NEEDS A REALIZATION OF COMPASSION IN THEIR LIFE TODAY. SHOW THEM COMPASSION BY MEETING A NEED IN THEIR LIFE TODAY.

2 G4697 - splanchnizomai - Strong's Greek Lexicon (KJV).

Retrieved from <https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=G4697&t=KJV>

DAY NINE

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

The Holy Spirit is one of the greatest pieces of our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit brings guidance, peace, wisdom, clarity, strength and so much more. God is made up of three parts, God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. All three are equally powerful and collectively work in unison to make up God. It is the same way that we as human beings are made up of three main parts; spirit, soul and body. All three pieces of a person don't roam around separately but work together and reside together within a person. By just simply asking God for the Holy Spirit you can receive this great gift in your life. You can read about the filling of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapters 1 and 2. The power that comes with the Holy Spirit is absolutely incredible! If you would like this gift just ask and the

Holy Spirit will be there. Psalm 46:1-3 paints a picture of the presence of God through the Holy Spirit working in our life, it says,

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. (ESV)

What an incredible gift! What an amazing way of experiencing the unrelenting love of God in a new and profound way.

ASK YOURSELF:

1. HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

ACTION STEPS FOR YOU:

1. BEGIN TO ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TRULY GUIDE YOU EACH AND EVERY DAY.

ACTION STEPS FOR A PERSON IN YOUR LIFE:

1. ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL SOMETHING NEW ABOUT THE PERSON YOU HAVE BEEN REACHING OUT TO. MAYBE IT WILL BE SOMETHING THEY'RE GOING THROUGH OR A NEED IN THEIR LIFE. BEGIN TO PRAY THAT GOD WOULD ANSWER THAT NEED.

DAY TEN

YOU DID IT!! IF YOU RESPONDED EACH DAY TO THE ACTION STEPS YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH IN THE LAST NINE DAYS. MORE IMPORTANTLY YOU'VE HELPED SOMEONE COME CLOSER TO THE UNRELENTING LOVE OF JESUS.

SO NOW WHAT?

THE LAST NINE DAYS HAVE BEEN ABOUT GETTING YOU STARTED. NOW YOU HAVE TO TAKE EACH DAY FROM NOW ON AND LIVE IT OUT WITH PURPOSE. TAKE TIME EACH DAY TO ASK GOD WHAT HE WANTS TO DO THROUGH YOU THAT DAY. REMEMBER:

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

OH YEAH... THAT PERSON THAT YOU'VE BEEN REACHING OUT TO... TODAY IS THE DAY!! GIVE OR LET THEM BORROW YOUR COPY OF "UNRELENTING LOVE" AND I WILL BE BELIEVING WITH YOU THAT THROUGH READING IT YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD THEM TO JE-

***SUS SO THAT THEY CAN FULLY EXPERIENCE HIS
UNRELENTING LOVE!***