



FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL

DEVOTION

Five days in Acts 2:42, one daily yes
at a time.

A WEEK WITH PASTOR KEVIN TAYLOR'S MESSAGE

01

TALK

02

DAILY

03

COST

04

MIND

05

YES



Small enough to actually happen.

Five days, ten minutes a day, one idea at a time. Each day has a verse, a short reading, two questions, a practice small enough to survive a real schedule, and a prayer written to be prayed out loud. Nothing here needs a seminary. It needs a drawer, a table, and a morning.

The week follows the sermon's own arc. Day one watches devotion in a formation of soldiers. Day two hears the four cheapest words in the room. Day three attaches a schedule to the cross. Day four counts what it cost Jesus. Day five pulls up a chair at the table the first church never left.

Write in this. Fold it, spill coffee on it, argue with it in the margins. A devotional that stays clean did not get used.

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Acts 2:42

What the Army Saw

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

ACTS 2:42

Pastor Kevin opened Sunday with a proud grandfather story. His granddaughter Kendra joined the United States Army, and the moment she signed, something changed in how she lived. She prepared for basic training every day, physically, mentally, emotionally, before anyone was watching. A week before the sermon, he stood at her graduation and watched a formation of soldiers move like one person. The unity, the common commitment to the mission, the devotion. Nobody in that formation was a spectator.

Then he turned to us and asked the question the whole message answers: do we, as Christ followers and members of Fellowship Bible Church, demonstrate devotion? The question lands because the soldiers had a drill sergeant and we have a couch. Their devotion was visible in their bodies and their schedule. Ours is supposed to be visible in the same places, and some weeks it simply is not.

The first church in Acts 2 did not have a graduation ceremony. It had three thousand new believers in the same city, two months after the crucifixion, and they devoted themselves. The word Luke chose is the word a soldier would understand. They gave themselves to teaching, to each other, to the table, to prayer, continually. It was visible. You could have photographed it.

Talk Is Cheap

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

JAMES 2:17

There is a moment in the sermon when everything slows down. Pastor Kevin says it once, then repeats it like he is setting down something heavy. Talk is? Cheap. Talk is cheap. We have got to demonstrate it. The room laughed a little, the way rooms do when a sentence cuts close to the bone.

He was not scolding anyone. He had already admitted the message convicted him first. But the point stands on its own: saying we are devoted is the easiest sentence in the Christian vocabulary. The demonstration is where it gets expensive. James wrote that faith without action is useless, and he did not write it to strangers. He wrote it to people who went to church.

Here is the strange mercy in it. Nobody has to wonder anymore. The sermon removed the fog. Devotion is not a mood you wait for, it is a demonstration you schedule. The six marks of a healthy member, mission focus, involvement, growth, real relationships, they are not a bar to clear for applause. They are the door out of cheap talk.

The Daily Yes

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

LUKE 9:23

Someone asked Jesus what it takes to follow him, and his answer had a schedule attached. Deny yourself. Take up your cross. Daily. Pastor Kevin was careful with the image, the way a careful teacher should be. The disciples never carried literal crosses, and Jesus never corrected them for it. The dying he asks for happens on the inside, in the place where your interests and his call keep meeting.

That is where the rubber meets the road, he said. The question of devotion is not whether you can die dramatically for Jesus someday. It is whether you can die to your own comfort on an average Wednesday, more than once, without an audience. Then he asked the room the question that was already sitting on our chests. Any of you starting to squirm yet? I feel it.

There was a testimony after the message that made the whole idea small enough to try. A man in the church decided the Lord asked him to change what needed changing, so he cleaned and organized his garage for about seventy hours, and he kept a box of Nutter Butter cookies in his desk drawer. Every day he opens it, smells the cookies, and says no. Nobody claps for that. Heaven might. The daily yes is rarely cinematic. It is a drawer, a no, and a walk with Jesus tomorrow.

It Cost Him Everything

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

GALATIANS 2:20

Midway through the message, the tone changed. It is very costly, Pastor Kevin said. It cost Jesus Christ his life, and it cost him separation from the Father for a time. It cost him dearly, but he freely paid the price, and he gave his life for each one of us. Nobody moved. The cheap talk of the earlier hour had met its price.

The first church understood that cost before they devoted themselves. Most of them had seen the crosses on the hill. Paul, who wrote Galatians, had tried to destroy the church before Christ met him, and his whole theology shrank to one sentence. I have been crucified with Christ. I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. To Colossae he wrote the companion truth: your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Died with him, hidden in him, alive in him.

Pastor Kevin's summary is worth keeping: their devotion to themselves died at that moment and was replaced by their devotion to Christ. That is the exchange rate of the gospel. Jesus does not ask for your spare change. He gave his life, and then he asks for yours, one ordinary day at a time, and he calls it devotion.

One Mind, One Table

“They continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

ACTS 2:46

The first church kept doing the least spectacular things in the world. They met at the temple. They ate in each other's homes. They took meals together with gladness and sincerity, and Luke says they were together more than they were apart. Pastor Kevin asked what held them, and answered it himself: their one mind was purpose. Grow spiritually, learn Christ's teaching, apply it to every part of life. Different cultures, very different beliefs, one devotion, and God added to their number daily.

After the message, a man in the church told what happened when he started taking that seriously. He coaches a football team, and at their dinner before a game, one of the players bowed his head and prayed out loud at a public school table, consecrating the team to Christ. Then the man drew a line most of us needed. A boy who dates a girl because she has shiny hair is infatuated, he said. Love stays when the shine wears off. Then he asked the question: are you infatuated with church, or do you love it?

The sermon ended with three small assignments: give blood, sign up for the Discover class, have lunch with someone and take a risk. That is what devotion looks like on the far side of a Sunday. Not a spotlight. A table, a name, a next step, and a church that is healthy because its members decided to be.

What the Army Saw

REFLECT

1. Kendra prepared before anyone made her. What does unseen preparation for faithfulness look like in your ordinary week?
2. If someone photographed your faith for seven days, what would the pictures show?

PRACTICE TODAY

Pick one visible act of devotion for today: a verse read at the table, a phone call to someone from church, ten quiet minutes with Acts 2. Do it where someone could see it.

WRITE IT DOWN

PRAY

Father, I do not want a faith that lives only in my head. Kendra's devotion showed up in her schedule. Let mine show up in mine. Teach me to give myself to your word and to your people, continually, the way soldiers give themselves to the mission. Amen.

Talk Is Cheap

REFLECT

1. What is one thing you say about your faith that your calendar does not back up?
2. Which sounds more like your last month, declaring devotion or demonstrating it?

PRACTICE TODAY

Take one declaration you have made out loud, about praying more, serving more, loving your church more, and convert it into a single demonstration today. Small counts. Cheap talk does not.

WRITE IT DOWN

PRAY

Lord, forgive me for the sentences I have said about following you and never scheduled. You demonstrated your love on a cross, not in a speech. Let my faith be useless to nothing and my talk be cheap no longer. Amen.

The Daily Yes

REFLECT

1. What is the drawer in your life, the small daily denial you keep avoiding?
2. Why do you think Jesus attached the word daily to a cross?

PRACTICE TODAY

Name one daily no and one daily yes for this week. Write both on a note where you will see them at breakfast. They can be tiny. They just have to survive more than one day.

WRITE IT DOWN

PRAY

Jesus, you said daily and you meant it. I am good at dramatic promises and bad at Wednesdays. Give me the small courage of a closed cookie drawer, a held tongue, a kept appointment with you. Tomorrow too. Amen.

It Cost Him Everything

REFLECT

1. What has your version of following Jesus cost lately? If the answer is nothing, what does that tell you?
2. Paul says he no longer lives. What would have to be crucified in you for that sentence to be true this week?

PRACTICE TODAY

Sit quietly for five minutes with Galatians 2:20, your name in it. Then write down one thing the crucified life would put to death today, and thank Jesus for what it cost him to make the trade possible.

WRITE IT DOWN

PRAY

Lord Jesus, you paid everything, freely, for me. I have been counting pennies and calling it devotion. Crucify the part of me that keeps the ledger closed. I want to live, and I want it to be you living in me. Amen.

One Mind, One Table

REFLECT

1. Infatuated with church, or do you love it? What is the honest answer, and how would someone else know?
2. Whose table should you be at this month, and whose should you be setting?

PRACTICE TODAY

Do exactly what the sermon said: pick one person from church you do not know well and invite them to lunch this week. If the first no comes, invite the second name. Then pray for your church by name at that table.

WRITE IT DOWN

PRAY

Father, take the duplicity out of us and make us real before you, the way that prayer ended on Sunday. Make our church a table worth setting and a family worth loving past the shine. Add to our number daily, and start with my calendar. Amen.