
A DEVOTIONAL COMPANION



THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Growing in the Love of Christ, One Day at a Time

EAST MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Based on the message by Pastor Brian Cash · Sun, Sept 27, 2026, 10:45 AM Service

A Word Before You Begin

On Sunday, September 27, 2026, we continued our walk through Colossians 3 with a message titled “The Transforming Power of the Love of Christ” — a word about the greatest of the fruit of the Spirit, and where it begins.

This devotional walks through four pictures of that love, drawn straight from the message — the love that starts with Him, the love that never gives up on us, the love we’re invited to grow deeper into, and the love that opens the rooms we’ve kept locked.

Each day includes a short reading, a key truth from the message, Scripture to carry with you, a question to sit with, and a prayer to pray out loud. Take one day at a time. Let His love do the work.

It starts with Him. It continues with Him. It ends with Him.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Brian Cash

East Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1

DAY 1

IT STARTS WITH HIM

READ

Before there was an ocean or a mountain or a star, a plan to redeem you was already in place — the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. God is all-knowing, which means He saw every wrong turn and every disappointment before He ever made you, and He made you anyway. Then He prepared a plan so that when we mess up, we would not be disconnected from Him. Love doesn't start with our effort. It starts with His.

KEY TRUTH

That is the love of Jesus. That's where it starts.

SCRIPTURE

- **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- **Revelation 13:8**

...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

REFLECT

- The word “so” in John 3:16 points to how deeply God loved. Where do you most need to hear that He loved you before you ever earned it?
- What would change if you believed His plan for you was in place long before you ever failed?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for a love that was planned before I ever was. Help me stop trying to earn what You gave freely, and let me live from the love that started with You.

2

DAY 2

IT NEVER GIVES UP

READ

Paul says God showed His love for us while we were still sinners — helpless, even enemies. That is a love with a mission. When we shut out the world and say, “don’t call me,” a little glimmer of the light of Jesus creeps in through the crevices of our darkness — a phone call, a word at just the right time, a reminder that He hasn’t left. Like Elijah, we may say we’re done, and still an angel shows up with bread. God is relentless because He loves us.

KEY TRUTH

You and I are here today because He would not give up on us.

SCRIPTURE

- **Romans 5:8**

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- **1 Kings 19:5**

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

REFLECT

- When has a reminder of God’s love shown up at exactly the right moment — a call, a word, a song? What did it tell you?
- Where have you been shutting the door and saying, “don’t call me”? What would it look like to let a little light in?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the love of Jesus that came after me when I wasn’t looking for You. Keep reminding me, even in the dark, that You have not left me.

3

DAY 3

IT GROWS DEEPER

READ

Many of us begin loving God out of gratitude — Lord, I love You because of what You’ve done. That’s a beautiful start. But if we stay there, God starts to look like Santa Claus, and the season when the yes becomes a no can shake us. He is inviting us from gratitude love to essence love: loving Him simply for who He is, sitting in His presence even when His hand of provision seems still. The greatest commandment is to love Him with everything — and it is the only way we’ll be able to love anyone else well.

KEY TRUTH

We need to grow from gratitude love to essence love.

SCRIPTURE

- **Matthew 22:37–38**

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

REFLECT

- Do you love God more for what He gives, or for who He is? How can you tell?
- What would it look like to simply sit in His presence this week — no requests, just Him?

PRAYER

Lord, increase my love relationship with You. Take me deeper than gratitude, into simply being with You.

4

DAY 4

IT OPENS EVERY DOOR

READ

Love God first, then learn to love yourself the way He sees you — and only then can you love your neighbor well. Some of us have a padlock on the door of an inner room: a hurt from long ago, an insecurity we've never handed over. The Lord can't be Lord over rooms we won't open. When we let Him in, there is freedom like never before. And the people who get on our last nerve? They don't belong to us; they belong to Him. When our own love runs dry, we ask Him to fill us again.

KEY TRUTH

The same love that transformed me is the same love that transforms them.

SCRIPTURE

- **Matthew 22:39**

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

- **1 John 4:18**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.

REFLECT

- Which room have you kept locked — and what are you afraid He might find there?
- Who is hard to love right now? What would it look like to say, “Lord, fill me with Your love,” before you see them?

PRAYER

Lord, enter in — into the places I have not let You in. Fill me with Your love, so I can love others with Yours.

A CLOSING WORD

It Ends With Him.

“...and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” —
Revelation 7:17

Whatever you are walking through this week, there is nothing greater than the powerful love of Jesus Christ. He loved us. He loves us. And He will love us forever — all the way to the end.

JOIN US

Sundays at 10:45 AM · East Mt. Zion Baptist Church

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