

HIGHER PURPOSE CHURCH

GROW UP BY ACTING UP

A Five-Day Devotional

1 Corinthians 13:8–13 | Series: God on Film

Pastor Lawrence Williams

Real People. Real Life. Real Love.

DAY 1

The Maturity Chapter

SCRIPTURE

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” — 1 Corinthians 13:13

DEVOTIONAL

We’ve read 1 Corinthians 13 at so many weddings that we forgot who Paul was actually writing to — a gifted church that was still acting like children. Paul didn’t write the marriage chapter; he wrote the maturity chapter. God doesn’t measure your growth by how impressive your gifts are on Sunday — He measures it by how much love flows out of you on Tuesday. The gifts are seasonal, but love is permanent, and that’s why love sits at the top of the scale.

REFLECTION QUESTION

If God measured your maturity by your love levels instead of your gifts, your knowledge, or your years in church — where would you honestly stand today?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for loving me enough to tell me the truth. Reorder my scale the way Paul reordered his — put love at the top of my life, above my gifts, my titles, and my comfort. Grow me where Your Word convicts me. In Jesus’ name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 2

Love Is What You Give

SCRIPTURE

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” — John 3:16

DEVOTIONAL

Most of us have love misfiled under feelings — warm, cozy, and only reliable when our mood cooperates. But heaven defines love with a verb: God so loved that He gave. Love is not how you feel; love is what you give, and God gave His very best to people who couldn’t earn it and couldn’t repay it. Today, stop waiting to feel loving and find one concrete way to give — your time, your patience, your presence — to somebody who can’t pay you back.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who in your life have you been loving with feelings instead of actions — and what is one thing you can give them this week?

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for loving only when it was convenient. Teach me to love the way You love — sacrificially, on purpose, without an invoice attached. Make my love look like Yours today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 3

Retire the Childish Things

SCRIPTURE

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.” — 1 Corinthians 13:11

DEVOTIONAL

Paul wasn't ashamed of his childhood — he just refused to live in it, because a season is not a home. The word he uses for “put away” means to retire something on purpose: nobody drifts into maturity, because growing older is automatic but growing up is a decision. Some of the things we can't put down aren't evil — they're just anesthesia, numbing us instead of healing us and quietly keeping us from our assignment. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the one thing whose grip on you has outlasted its season.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What is the one distraction, habit, or comfort God is asking you to deliberately retire this week — and what will you do with the time it gives back?

PRAYER

Father, I don't want to be grown in years and stuck in the nursery. Show me what to put away, and give me the courage to retire it on purpose — not manage it, not schedule it, but lay it down. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 4

Act Before You Feel

SCRIPTURE

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” — Galatians 5:6

DEVOTIONAL

If love is greater than faith, then what is faith for? Faith is the mechanism — the pathway that carries you to love, because you will never feel your way into loving difficult people. You believe your way there: you take God at His Word and act like it’s true before your emotions catch up, and the love shows up on the other side of the obedience. Even the researchers agree that action comes first and feelings follow — so today, don’t wait until you feel ready. Take the step, and let the confidence arrive while your hands are busy.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What act of love have you been postponing until you “feel ready” — and what would obedience look like if you did it today instead?

PRAYER

Lord, I’ve been waiting on a feeling You never promised me. Today I choose to act on Your Word first and trust the feelings to follow. Let my faith express itself through love. In Jesus’ name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 5

Grow Up and Watch God Show Up

SCRIPTURE

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.” — Luke 6:38

DEVOTIONAL

Here’s the secret God tucked inside love: while you’re pouring into somebody else, He is pouring back into you. Peace calms your storm while you’re carrying their burden; joy overtakes your struggle while you’re praying over their situation — the blowback of blessing always comes back on the giver. So here’s your assignment: share a meal this week with somebody outside your circle, ask them “How can I pray for you?” — and be quiet long enough to get the real answer. Be somebody’s unexpected meal, and watch what God breaks loose in their life and in yours.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who is the person outside your circle God is highlighting for your unexpected meal — and when, specifically, will you reach out to them this week?

PRAYER

Father, make me somebody’s unexpected meal. Send me to the person You’ve highlighted, give me the courage to ask how I can pray for them, and let Your love be released through my life on purpose. I’m growing up — now show up, Lord. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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