

**CULTURE
OF
ACTIVE
LOVE**

ADDRESSING EMPTY WORDS AND EXCHANGING IT FOR A LIFE OF ACTIVE LOVE AND COMPASSION

EMPTY (DEFINITION)

CONTAINING NOTHING; HAVING NO REAL PURPOSE OR VALUE; LACKING REALITY, SUBSTANCE, MEANING OR VALUE

DO NOT MERELY LISTEN TO THE WORD, AND SO DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS. 23 ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO THE WORD BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT IT SAYS IS LIKE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS AT HIS FACE IN A MIRROR 24 AND, AFTER LOOKING AT HIMSELF, GOES AWAY AND IMMEDIATELY FORGETS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. *_JAMES 1:22-24 (NIV)*

ACTIVE (DEFINITION)

ENGAGED IN ACTION; CHARACTERIZED BY ENERGETIC WORK OR PARTICIPATION; CAUSING ACTIVITY OR CHANGE; CAPABLE OF EXERTING INFLUENCE

BUT WHOEVER HAS THIS WORLD'S GOODS, AND SEES HIS BROTHER IN NEED, AND SHUTS UP HIS HEART FROM HIM, HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM? 18 MY LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE IN WORD OR IN TONGUE, BUT IN DEED AND IN TRUTH.

_1 JOHN 3:17-18 (NASB)

WHEN JESUS HEARD WHAT HAD HAPPENED, HE WITHDREW BY BOAT PRIVATELY TO A SOLITARY PLACE. HEARING OF THIS, THE CROWDS FOLLOWED HIM ON FOOT FROM THE TOWNS. 14 WHEN JESUS LANDED AND SAW A LARGE CROWD, HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM AND HEALED THEIR SICK. 15 AS EVENING APPROACHED, THE DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM AND SAID, "THIS IS A REMOTE PLACE, AND IT'S ALREADY GETTING LATE. SEND THE CROWDS AWAY, SO THEY CAN GO TO THE VILLAGES AND BUY THEMSELVES SOME FOOD." 16 JESUS REPLIED, "THEY DO NOT NEED TO GO AWAY. YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT.

_MATTHEW 14:13-16 (NIV)

MY COMMAND IS THIS: LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. 13 GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS: TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR ONE'S FRIENDS.

_JOHN 15:12-13 (NIV)

EXAMPLE OF A LIFE STATEMENT ON ACTIVE LOVE AND COMPASSION:

I BELIEVE LOVE IS AN ACTION! I BELIEVE EVERYTHING I TAKE IN AROUND JESUS AND HIS WORD, I'M MEANT TO ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING WITH. I BELIEVE I'M MEANT TO GO AND LOVE. TO ACTUALLY MEET PEOPLE AND TOUCH THEIR LIVES THROUGH MERCIFUL, KIND AND GENEROUS ACTS. FOR LAYING HANDS ON THE SICK AND THE HURTING. FOR SPEAKING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND RELIEF TO THOSE SUFFERING IN FEAR AND REJECTION. FOR STOPPING MY BUSY LIFE TO BE PRESENT WITH SOMEONE IN A MOMENT. I BELIEVE LOVE LOOKS LIKE GOING WITHOUT SO OTHERS CAN HAVE. I BELIEVE ACTIVE COMPASSION CAN INTERRUPT YOUR LIFE ON ANY LEVEL BECAUSE YOU SUDDENLY BECOME AWARE OF A NEED GREATER THAN YOUR OWN. I BELIEVE ACTIVE LOVE WILL AT TIMES REQUIRE EVERYTHING I HAVE TO GIVE IN THE MOMENT - ALL MY ENERGY, TIME, RESOURCES, EMOTIONS, AND PRAYERS. JESUS LIVED HIS WORDS AND LIVED HIS MESSAGE, AND I BELIEVE I MUST DO THE SAME. MY LOVE AND COMPASSION FLOWS FROM GOD'S PRESENCE IN MY LIFE. THE MORE OF HIM I HAVE, THE MORE I HAVE TO GIVE TO OTHERS. I BELIEVE THE #1 PRIORITY IN MY LIFE IS TO BE LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE. MY LIFE IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS AND AS I LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS I FIND MY TRUE MEANING AND PURPOSE. I BELIEVE REAL TRANSFORMATION IN MY HEART WILL BECOME SECURE AND LONG-LASTING ONLY WHEN IT'S SEALED BY DOING ACTS OF MERCY, JUSTICE, AND POURING OUT LOVE TO OTHERS. I BELIEVE RELIGION PREACHES WHAT IT DOESN'T KNOW. IT SPEAKS OF THINGS IT HASN'T REALLY SEEN. I DON'T WANT TO BE RELIGIOUS. I DON'T WANT TO BE LONG-WINDED, WITH TONS OF EMPTY SPEECH! I WANT TO TALK LESS AND DO MORE! I BELIEVE I'M MEANT TO LIVE THE GOSPEL SO THAT I HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY OF HEAVEN BEHIND ME TO REACH THE WORLD FOR JESUS.