

DO IT FOR HIM!

Furthering the Cause of
JESUS CHRIST
with Passion and Determination!

ANTHONY MARTIN

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There will be adverse moments that will test and challenge your faith. Be determined that no matter what, you will persevere as He did for you. Do it for Him! Because there is no greater fulfillment than to be called His disciple and to further His cause in the world.

– Anthony Martin

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Introduction

“DO IT FOR Him!” Now the question is, “What is your IT”? What has Christ gifted, graced, and given you to do for Him? What has He put on your heart or allowed you to envision concerning His work? Are you currently serving and furthering His cause using the ability He has empowered you with or are you still deciding whether or not it is something you want to undertake? Do you have all the details squared away or are you still putting them together? Have you discovered the area of service He is leading you into or are you still in prayer about it? Do you have moments of anxiety about how all of this is going to get accomplished? Do you look at the magnitude of what you believe He wants you to do and start to question your ability or adequacy? Do you have moments of doubt when you look back over your past failures? Are you experiencing frustration because it is demanding much of your time, energy, and effort? Does it seem as though it will never come to pass? Do you feel like your efforts are futile—that you’re not making a difference? Are you tired and worn out due to the challenges you’re facing as result of trying to further His cause?

How many of these questions speak to your current state of mind as it pertains to serving and working for Christ? Only you can supply the answers. No matter what season of life you are in, there is always an opportunity to advance the cause of Christ. The question is, “Will

you do it for Him?” Will you allow Him to use your life as a conduit to help someone else get closer to Him? Will you move beyond any current emotions, thoughts, or notions to allow the One who saved you from your sins to work His purposes through you? He not only wants to have a great relationship with you, He also wants you to see your value to His mission. You have a testimony and firsthand account of what Christ has done in your life. Now it’s time to allow Him to work through you so that others may know of His saving love and grace.

Oh, how He longs to use His followers for His glory! He wants us to see the value in doing something so meaningful that it goes with us all the way into eternity! Can you hear Him saying, “Beyond all of your past and current challenges, Do it for me”? The fact is, we all know that He is worth the investment and commitment it takes to continue His work. However, not every Christian takes delight in serving Christ. Some consider it a drain on their time. The level of dedication and energy it requires is something they struggle with. They wrestle with the thought of going beyond their comfort levels. Many of them know or at least have an idea of what their “IT” is for Christ (their gift, ability, service, vision, etc.) but stagger at carrying it out. Their love for Christ is not in question; it is the investment of time that has many questioning if they can give it their all.

Yet, each day we lend ourselves to people, tasks, and situations. There’s no way around it. This is how we invest our time. We give of ourselves. In the simplest and smallest ways, we offer ourselves. Think about your days and what they entail. From the time you rise in the morning until your return back to your bed at night, what are you investing your time in? How much of your time are you giving away? This will determine your quality of life and give you an idea of the areas that have your attention. Most people do not consider or evaluate where their time is spent. They move from one thing or from one place to the next; and in their busy pace, they are unable to recognize what is truly important.

In order to see the value of our time, we must slow down and prioritize. It is possible that we can be doing so much yet getting very

little accomplished. This appears to be the norm for many Christians today. We are heavily invested in our families, careers, churches, personal interests, and social lives. These are all good things, which require our time and attention. Yet, with all of these areas attended to, why are so many followers of Christ still left with an empty feeling? Why are many still seeking more fulfillment and desiring a higher purpose? It can all be summed up by one word—“Devotion.” It answers two very important questions: how are we committing ourselves and what are we committing ourselves to each day? Generally, whatever we place value on usually consumes our time and attention. It becomes our context for life. For example, some people invest a great deal in their families, marriages, etc. They give their all to nurturing these important emotional relationships. Other people pour themselves into advancing their careers and building enterprises. This gives them a sense of accomplishment and purpose. While others focus on personal and social interests as a major part of their overall well-being. Even the people who do very little with their time and choose to be slothful and wasteful are devoting themselves to idleness.

We were created to be devoted! To who or what largely depends on the investment of our time. But the truth is, we are devotional creatures made in the image of God (Gen. 1:28). That’s the part of Him that all humans innately come into the world with at birth. Uncovering the meaning of anyone or anything, whether it be people, personal endeavors, or even God, requires devotion. We can never gain any reward without devoting ourselves. Sadly, many want the prize without dedication and commitment. They want the benefit of love without fully giving of themselves. They want success and accolades without having to be dedicated. This kind of thinking has permeated our world and become infectious, causing many to undervalue the importance of truly devoting themselves to any noble or important cause. It has even made its way into the modern-day church. It has made many followers of Christ apathetic, leading to selfishness and a lack of concern for what is dear to the heart of our Lord and Savior.

Initially, at conversion, there is such a desire for Christ that it is

hardly containable. We take on a new approach to earthly living that influences our perspective on everything. We seek to change the way we think, the way we behave, the types of words we speak, and even the kind of clothing we wear. Salvation is indeed a remarkable miracle in our lives. It impacts our physical existence and gives birth to a new existence in the spiritual realm. We become *born again*, from above (John 3:3). This is a most unusual and phenomenal birth because it brings us forth into a godly existence. Just as the earthly environment is new to a baby who has just been born, spiritual living is new to us. As a baby must learn to talk, stand, and walk, we must learn to do likewise, from a spiritual perspective. It's much like the process of human development at work, which is another wonderful process of life attributed to God. However, with spiritual regeneration it translates into a *newness of life* (Rom. 6:4), which the apostle Paul introduced in his writing to the believers in Rome. He shared that the followers of Christ have their lives in Him and are no longer under the control of old sinful desires. This does not mean we will be exempt from temptation in the flesh; however, it means that we have the power (or ability) to turn away from such enticements through Christ. It is more than a strong act of the will or a resolution to change. That is mere human effort and energy, which is based on one's own righteousness, which compares to "filthy rags" (Is. 64:6).

The *newness of life* is an inward regeneration that brings us forth into the glorious realm of Christ. Our hearts become new through the indwelling and abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. He (the Holy Spirit) is a greater power and dynamic at work in us beyond our human capability. However, attempting to change or correct sinful actions is not the primary issue at hand, it's the condition and changing of the heart through salvation that must be addressed. In chapter ten of Romans, apostle Paul's writes and shares that his heart's desire for Israel is that they be saved. He further explained, "But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you

will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:1-10). The heart apart from regeneration is the underlying cause to sinful behaviors. Therefore, attempting to change the act of sin without receiving the new nature is futile. This is what has most morally good people confused about their state before God. They see their goodness as sufficient; however, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). This means that no human being is suitable enough to declare him or herself good or righteous apart from the atoning work of Christ. Therefore, placing our lives in Him, puts us in right standing with God, and gives us the ability to resist the proclivities of the flesh. This means we are no longer indebted to live under the influence of sensual or worldly pleasures (Rom. 8:12). We have been changed by the redemptive work of Christ, based on the confession and lifestyle of our faith.

Abiding in Jesus Christ and living out our faith creates in us a desire for Him, which in turn, changes the way that we view sin. This is the power of Christ at work in us as we progressively mature in Him, which causes a change in our moral appetites. That is, we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8) This means that in Christ we have all of the prerequisites to live out this new life. His working in us by the Holy Spirit draws us closer to Him and we are able to experience what it means to live spiritually. However, spiritual living still requires devotion and intent on our part. Christ will not just consume us or overtake us. He won't override our decisions or invade our space. We must be willing to devote ourselves to Him. One might ask why anyone who has experienced Christ would not want to fully devote him or herself to Him? Could it be the process of speaking, standing, and walking in the new life is too much for some?

Many of our toughest battles are fought in the trenches of daily living. My outlook on faith was marred by the trials and tribulations that came my way. I had this illusionary thinking when it came to following Christ. I thought that He would intercept my struggles. And after speaking with several Christians, I realized that they, too, had

the same idea. Although we are born from above, we must still live on the earth; and being born again doesn't remove us from hardships. As we live out our faith, we will have our share of life's difficulties. However, with Christ as our guide, we can respond to life's challenges without becoming frantic, bitter, or resorting to desperate measures. Furthermore, we are no longer to be under the control of carnal appetites or instincts. Instead, we should be evolving in the new nature. Still, many have allowed several factors to interfere with their devotion to Christ, such as poor choices, pressures of life, mismanagement of time, procrastination, selfish desires, and ungodly behavior. These are all distractions to our faith. No wonder many people are not busy for Christ and have invested in meaningless activity that only keeps them reaching for greater purpose.

When Christ was upon the earth, He refused to allow anything to uproot Him from His position of devotion to the will of His Father (God). He was faced with many opportunities to fold under the weight of adversity, but He persevered through it all. Could it be that in fulfilling God's objective for His earthly life and ministry, He had you in mind? What Christ did for you, no one else could or would have ever dared to do! Can you picture your Lord and Savior envisioning you as a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17-21) as He was receiving the brutal affliction on Calvary's cross? Every stripe He took, thrashing He experienced, and piercing of nails He endured was worth seeing you saved from your sins. This could not have been accomplished without a devoted and dedicated life. Therefore, He fixed His eyes on heaven and continued to move forward with the plan of redemption. There was no turning back or giving up. He stayed the course, maintained focus, and in the end declared, "It is finished" (John 19:28-30).

Now, what should be our response to Him, considering that there is nothing in and of ourselves that we can do to repay Him? It was an act of love giftwrapped by and from God with the promise of eternal life. This is providing that we accept His terms (John 3:16-17). The most significant response we can offer Christ is to give ourselves. It is in this offering that we discover the true meaning of devotion. Any

other tangible, material, or temporal thing is insufficient. We cannot work out a deal to repay Christ for what He did on our behalf. The exchange must be in the form of offering oneself, which is one's reasonable service (Rom. 12:1). Through this approach, Christ does His work *In* and *Through* our lives. Unfortunately, many Christians are not experiencing living a devoted life to Christ because they have yet to fully give Him their lives. It seems strange to invite Jesus into our hearts and then restrict His influence over our choices, personal lives, and social lives. But that reflects the thinking of many Christians. They want to reap the benefits without the devotion. It has become all too common with people today because they know in order to fully devote themselves, they must be willing to invest time. People will attend a church gathering and be preoccupied with how long the service will run. They will give a generous donation to try to suffice for their lack of time. They will participate in some of the church's activities as long as it doesn't infringe on their time. The fear for most Christians when it comes to fully giving themselves to Christ is "time".

The Christ-Centered life requires devotion, which involves investing time. It's similar to any relationship. In order to experience the results of intimacy there must be a willingness to give of oneself. Again, most are willing to partially give of themselves to the cause of Christ, but are hesitant to offer anymore than what they consider reasonable. But the fact that we are only willing to ration out our time will neither stop Christ from committing Himself nor cause Him to call everything off. He will continue to be devoted to us as Lord. However, it will be difficult for us to fully experience what He has to offer with only minimal engagement. The four objectives of *Do It For Him* are: 1. To encourage believers to fully offer themselves to Christ; 2. To exhort believers to devote their gifts and abilities to furthering His cause; 3. To encourage believers to go forth in their service for Christ by reinforcing His teachings; and, 4. To edify believers in confidently living out their faith with meaning and purpose.

There will be moments of testing and trial, but remember to keep going for Christ. Refuse to retreat or give up in the face of unfavorable

circumstances. Say within yourself, “I will overcome this one too!” You and Jesus are inextricably tied together. He is right there with you. Don’t allow fear to sideline you. And don’t allow procrastination and slothfulness to cause you to waste any more time. The time is NOW! The waiting is OVER. No matter where you are in your life you can do something to further the cause of Christ. You don’t have to be the most talented or gifted. However, if you develop an attitude of devoting yourself, He can use you right where you are. Did He impress a vision or idea upon your heart? Even if you don’t currently have an idea of any sort, do you at least have a desire to do more for Christ? If so, then now is the time to embrace the number one factor that will help you start, maintain, and complete your efforts for His cause, which is an attitude of *devoting* yourself to Him. Many people have dreams and goals to do something for Christ. But what distinguishes those who manifest them from those who don’t? It is their willingness to be devoted, dedicated, and committed to offering themselves entirely to Him.

Let’s begin this journey together and get going for Christ. *Do it for Him!* As you unpack each chapter, you will discover how the Lord will provide everything you need to work for Him. It will, however, take a willing and devoted attitude on your part to accomplish the work, dream, or desire that He has put on your heart. Let’s get started...