

# 2023 DANIEL FAST

## R.E.A.L.

Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for

### DAY 17

**Romans 12:9-12** [The Voice Translation] *“Love others well, and don’t hide behind a mask; love authentically. Despise evil; pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. <sup>10</sup> **Live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers.** Be first to honor others by putting them first. <sup>11</sup> Do not slack in your faithfulness and hard work. Let your spirit be on fire, bubbling up and boiling over, as you serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Do not forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner. Hold up through the hard times that are coming and devote yourselves to prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others.”*

Devotion and being devoted to someone are not a pattern of thinking that comes as naturally as it once did. It seems like only a few years ago that being devoted to God, to family, and to our country was three aspects of our lives that wasn’t given a second thought. In our walk with Christ and our relationship to others, the Bible implores us to *“live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers.”*

There is definitely a familial presence that is felt within the Body of Christ. Our relationships and friendships within church many times feel as if a man/woman is more like blood brother/sister than in our own natural family. That is because we have the same Father, and we have His DNA. And we also are joined together spiritually by the presence of the Holy Spirit, who resides in us due to the confession of Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

In your relationships, past, present, and future, strive to love each person as your brother and sister. There are connections within an immediate family that are undeniable. Hopefully, the bond between siblings is something you and your friends will be able to mirror in light of God’s Word leading and guiding you in all of your relationships. May the word *“devoted”* be the key word people use to describe the love they feel radiating from you as they come into a deeper relationship with you.

It’s time to build Relationships Everyone’s Always Looking for!

**Worship Song:**

*"Wholly Devoted"* – City Center Worship (feat. Karina Jimenez)

<https://youtu.be/5H3kC4laGXc>

**Scripture Readings:**

Ephesians 4:2 [New Living Translation] *"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."*

Hebrews 13:1 [New Living Translation] *"Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters."*

1 Peter 1:22 [New Living Translation] *"You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart."*

**Prayer:**

Father, my heart's desire is to be devoted to You. And may I also be the type of friend that is truly devoted to my friends and in the relationships that I will have in seasons to come. I want to love others as my brothers and sisters. I want them to feel Your love in me and may they feel Your love for them from me. As a friend, may I be passionately and zealously dedicated and loyal to those in whom I am in relationship with. I pray for a strong bond of brotherly and sisterly love between us. In the Name of Jesus I pray, amen!

**Today, I need to pray for:**

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**What is God telling me today?**

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