

# Verse of the Month Devotional

February

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7 NKJV

## Thoughts on the verse:

More and more lately, I ask myself if people can tell that I love Jesus. I wonder if my character, my actions, my words and my choices reflect the life I want to convey. A favorite t-shirt when I was a teen once read, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." I believe that was from St. Francis of Assisi. Even in high school, I remember checking my heart, looking for conviction and muck, trying to decide if I lived a life of obvious faith. I did not know exactly what that looked like, and to be honest, I still try to figure it out even now. Every time I am unsure of how to act or react in a situation, every time, I know I can Show Love. Every time, I know the right answer will always involve love. Sometimes that is staying quiet and praying, sometimes that is voicing a hot conviction, but every time, my motive must be love. We can never do the right thing with a wrong spirit; that will always shine through and ruin what could have been a gift and pivotal open door in someone's life. We can always guarantee that if we are showing love, God will show up.

## Prayer:

Father we know that Your love is a good and perfect gift. We also know it is the best way to show the world we love You. Teach us how to live in a way that shows love in everything we do. Convict our hearts when we have a wrong spirit. Help us lean in to Your Still, Small Voice when we need to shift our hearts, shift our minds and shift our actions. Convict our hearts when we try to operate in a wrong spirit. Help us to always look to You for the example, and teach us to love one another. We ask for unity in the church, and for Your love to shine in this world until the whole world hears Your beautiful, powerful Gospel... all by the life we live in You.

## Action:

Start a list in your journal of people that you struggle to show love to. Ask the Lord to help you pray through until you get the breakthrough. Ask Him to show you "how" to show love to those people, and be quick to listen to that Voice of Truth. Be sure to write down your victories as much as the areas where you are still working on a breakthrough.

## Notes: