# 5-Day Devotional:

# "Sometimes Love Has To Let Go"

## Day 1: Real Love Is Proven, Not Proclaimed

**Reading:** 1 Kings 3:16-28

## Devotional:

Talk is cheap. Anyone can say the words "I love you," but real love is revealed under pressure. In the account of Solomon and the two mothers, the true mother's love was not confirmed by her words alone. It was confirmed when the sword appeared. She was willing to lose what she loved most rather than see it destroyed. Ask yourself today: when pressure comes, what does your love actually look like? Does your love for God show up only in comfortable moments, or does it hold firm when something you treasure is on the line?

**Reflection Question:** What situation in your life right now is testing whether your love is genuine or merely spoken?

**Practical Application:** Identify one relationship or commitment where your actions have not matched your words. Take one concrete step today to close that gap.

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## Day 2: Real Love Knows When To Stop Fighting

**Reading:** Romans 12:14-21

## Devotional:

Romans 12:18 reminds us that as far as it depends on us, we are called to pursue peace with everyone. Notice the phrase "as far as it depends on you." God does not hold you responsible for the other person's willingness to make peace. He holds you responsible for your own response. Winning an argument can feel satisfying in the moment, but the cost of that victory is often far greater than we realize. A marriage, a friendship, or a family relationship can be permanently scarred by words spoken in the heat of the moment. Real love sometimes means choosing the relationship over being right.

**Reflection Question:** Is there a conflict in your life where you have been more committed to winning than to restoring the relationship?

**Practical Application:** Reach out to someone with whom you have an unresolved conflict. Not to relitigate the argument, but simply to express that the relationship matters more to you than the dispute.

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## Day 3: Letting Go of What We Cannot Control

**Reading:** Matthew 10:37-39 and Joshua 24:14-15

## Devotional:

Jesus makes a sobering declaration in Matthew 10:37-39, warning that placing any relationship above Him disqualifies us from following Him fully. This is not a call to abandon love for family and friends. It is a call to proper ordering. When we grip people and outcomes so tightly that we attempt to control what only God can govern, we are no longer trusting Him. Parents cannot manufacture faith in their children. Friends cannot force transformation in one another. At some point, love must release what it cannot control and trust the God who can. Letting go is not giving up. It is an act of faith.

**Reflection Question:** Who or what are you holding so tightly that you have left no room for God to work?

**Practical Application:** Write down one person or situation you have been trying to control. Pray specifically over that person or situation today, releasing it into God's hands rather than your own.

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## Day 4: Dying To Self So Others May Live

**Reading:** Philippians 2:3-11 and 1 John 3:14-18

## Devotional:

Philippians 2:5-8 calls us to adopt the same mindset that led Jesus to take on human form, humble Himself, and become obedient even to death on a cross. He was not forced. He chose it. First John 3:16 draws a direct line between what Jesus did and what we are called to do for one another. Real love is not merely an emotion. It is a decision to lay aside personal comfort, preference, and pride for the benefit of someone else. Every act of inconvenient service, every moment of listening when you are tired, every sacrifice made for a brother or sister in Christ is a reflection of the cross.

**Reflection Question:** What act of sacrifice is God calling you to perform for someone in your life this week that will cost you something real?

**Practical Application:** Identify one person in your church or community who has a need you are capable of meeting. Meet it this week without announcing it or expecting recognition.

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## Day 5: Surrendering Pride to Receive Grace

**Reading:** Luke 9:23-26 and Romans 5:6-11

## Devotional:

Romans 5:8 declares that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He did not wait for us to clean ourselves up. He did not wait for us to deserve it. He acted first, out of love that was not cheap or conditional. The cross is not an empty promise. It is the fulfillment of one. In light of that sacrifice, what is it that you are still refusing to surrender? Pride keeps more people from the grace of God than almost anything else. The invitation is open. The sword has already fallen on Jesus so that it does not have to fall on you. Let go of whatever is standing between you and Him.

**Reflection Question:** What specific habit, relationship, or attitude have you been unwilling to surrender to God, and what is that unwillingness truly costing you?

**Practical Application:** Spend fifteen minutes in quiet prayer today. Name before God the one thing you have been holding back. Ask Him for the courage to release it, and then take one visible step of obedience before the day ends.

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