

## **Your Direct Line**

### “Bring Your Bible to Church Sunday”

Your Bible is the active, powerful connection to God that fuels real love in action.

February Theme: Love in Action

#### Introduction: The Lifeline in Your Hand

Imagine you are given the most advanced device in the world. It has a direct, unbreakable, always open line to the wisest, most powerful, and most loving source in the universe. But you only use it to check the time. Or you leave it on a shelf. It feels far too familiar, so you ignore its true purpose. That is exactly how many of us treat the Bible we brought today.

We treat it like a sacred artifact, a book of quotes, or a duty. We forget it is a direct line. And this is why our call to "love in action" so often runs dry. We try to manufacture love from our own empty wells. We end up burned out, frustrated, because love in action that comes from human effort alone is just busyness. It is duty without power.

Let's remember that our Bibles are our direct line to the Father. It is not about reading about love. It is about connecting to the source of love, so that love can flow through you. When you open this Book with expectancy, you plug into the power source for a life of real, sacrificial, world changing love.

Example: Let's bring this into the world we live in right now. We all know what it means to be "left on read." You send a text, you see those two little checks that say it's been delivered and opened... and then nothing. Silence. It's frustrating. It hurts. It makes you feel ignored and maybe even unimportant. We have come to expect a response, and we get anxious when we don't get one.

Can we be brutally honest with ourselves today? How many of us are doing that very thing to God? We treat His Word like a notification we keep swiping away. We leave Him "on read." Day after day, the message sits there, delivered and opened, but we never reply. We never engage. We never let the conversation start.

And yet, what do we do when we face a crisis? When the diagnosis comes, when the marriage is struggling, when the finances are tight? We immediately open a new chat with God and demand an answer. "God, text me back! Where are you? Why aren't you saying anything?" But all the while, we have been ignoring the thousands of messages He has already sent us. His message history is filled with everything we need.

Today is about ending the silence. It's about opening the messages we've left unread or "on read" and finally hitting "reply."

#### **1. Our Direct Line Reveals the Heart of the Father**

Before you can give love, you must receive it. You cannot pour from an empty cup. So many of us listen to other voices. The voice of failure that says you are not enough. The voice of shame that says you are unworthy. The voice of the world that says you must do XYZ to earn love.

But your Bible is the direct line that tunes your ear to the one true voice. It is the line that carries the heart of the Father straight to your spirit.

Listen to what He says over you in **Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)** *The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.*

And the core of the message, in **Romans 5:8 (NIV)** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

When you open your Bible, you are not just reading ancient words. You are hearing the present tense song of God over you. You are receiving the foundational truth: You are fiercely, completely, and eternally loved.

Love in action does not begin with your effort. It begins here, on your knees, on this direct line, letting God love you through His Word. Get on the line and let Him sing over you before you try to sing for anyone else.

## 2. The Direct Line Provides the Power for the Impossible

Knowing you are loved is the foundation. But loving other people is the impossible part. Loving the difficult person, forgiving the deep hurt, giving when you are drained, showing up when you are tired - this is not human work. This requires resurrection power.

Your willpower will fail. Your best intentions will run out. But your Bible is the delivery system for the very power of God. It is how His strength empowers you.

The Apostle Paul declared in **Philippians 4:13 (NIV)** *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

And Paul told Timothy why Scripture does this, in **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)** *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

This direct line does not just give you nice thoughts. It equips you. It prepares you. It fills you with the strength of Christ for the good work of love in front of you. When you are facing that impossible situation, do not just try harder. Get on the line.

Open to Psalm 23 and let the Shepherd renew your soul. Remind yourself, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He restores my soul." Let Him restore you.

Or cry out with **Psalms 46:1 (NIV)** *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.* Then obey the next verse: **10 Be still, and know that I am God.**

The direct line delivers the specific strength, the specific peace, the specific courage you need for that moment and that person. Love in action is supernatural, and your Bible is your supernatural power supply.

## 3. The Direct Line Gives the Instructions for the Mission

God does not just fill us with power and say, "Go be nice." He is a strategic God. His love has a mission. And your direct line delivers the clear, specific instructions for that mission. Our human love can be vague, temperamental or based on the movement of the moment. God's love is tactical and transformational.

He tells us what love in action actually looks like. It looks like **Micah 6:8 (NIV)** *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

It looks like **James 1:22 (NIV)** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

And the instructions get very specific. It is not just about feelings. It is about deeds. Like in **Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)** *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

Love in action is showing hospitality. It is doing what is right. It is loving mercy. It is walking humbly. This direct line turns our good intentions into God's assignments. Do not ask yourself, "How should I love?" and then guess. Get on the line. Open your Bible. Find your command for the day, and then do it. That is love in action.

### Conclusion: Pick Up the Line

So today, you did not just bring a book. You brought your direct line to headquarters. Let us recap what this line does:

1. It reveals the Father's heart so you are filled.
2. It delivers resurrection power so you are able.
3. It gives kingdom instructions so you are effective.

Hold your Bible up in your hand. Look at it. This is your line. This is your connection. Promise God you will not leave it on the shelf this week. Promise Him you will use it, not as a duty, but as a lifeline.

Now, let us get on the line together, right here. Open it. Turn to one of the scriptures we read. In this moment of silence, connect. Listen for His song. Receive His strength. Hear your command.

Tell one person one step God spoke to you about. One act of love He is calling you to. And then this week, go and do it. Do not just be a person who carries a book. Be a person who is led by a voice, powered by a Spirit, and mobilized on a mission.

You are God's plan for love in action. And this is your direct line to pull it off.