

Quotes from:

Idleman, Kyle, *Not a Fan: Teen Edition: What Does It Mean to Really Follow Jesus*, Zondervan, 2012

THE FOLLOW UP

You have SIX days to get these FOUR devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done as well as read pages 69-111 in: *Not a Fan*



Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life." ~ Luke 9:23,24

DEVO #1—Focused on the Inside or the Outside?

READ: 1 Samuel 16:1-7; Matthew 23:23-33

In *Not a Fan*, Kyle Idleman writes, "Fans won't go to see certain movies at the theater, but will watch the same movie at home when no one else is around...Fans will go to that party on Saturday night and then show up at church Sunday morning a little hung over. Fans will open up the Bible app on their phone and read along during the message and then use the same phone to watch porn. Fans will spend several hours staring at a mirror getting ready for the day to make sure they look perfect on the outside, but can't find the time to spend ten minutes examining what's on the inside."

The reason fans do this is because they have convinced themselves that if the outside looks good to themselves (and others) then everything is fine. The only problem is that God does not look at the outside. He looks at the heart. And, to God, if the heart is a mess, then so is everything else.

1. In 1 Samuel, Samuel sees David's brother Eliab—who is strong and tall—and assumes that, by his outward appearance, he must be God's choice. But what does God tell Samuel?
2. The Pharisees made it their life's goal to perfect their outward appearance. What does Jesus have to say to them?
3. Are you more focused on your inside or outside? If Jesus came to talk to you about this, what would He tell you?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank Jesus for caring about the condition of your heart
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, being too focused on the outside
- ~ Ask God to focus you on the condition of your heart

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ♦ Read pages 69-111 in *Not a Fan*
- ♦ Examine your actions, attitudes, words, thoughts, and choices. Where are you out of step with the Lord?
- ♦ Be sure to have a prayer time at least ten minutes each day
- ♦ Think more about WWJDT (Why would Jesus do that?) than you think about WWJD (What would Jesus do?)

QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

NOTE:

The Quiet Time Challenge is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend 5 to 10 minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

PART 1 — READ: Amos 3:3

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

Where have you been walking out of step with God?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart and to show you areas where you are out of step with Him. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Self-Empowered or Spirit-Filled?

READ: Romans 8:1-14; Galatians 5:16-26

"I'm not going to do that again." "It'll be different this time, you'll see." "I've learned my lesson the hard way, now I am ready to move on." "I *will* do better." Etc. Etc.

We have all used phrases like this before—perhaps many times before. We make promises to ourselves not to lose our temper, or lie to our parents, or go to that website, or not go too far with a boyfriend or girlfriend. We also make promises to read the Bible more, pray more, and even do these devotionals! Yet, despite all the promises we make, we end up in the same place as before—Failureville.

In the end, there are only two ways to go through life—in our own strength or in God's strength. Unfortunately, when we choose "our strength," that usually equals "our sinful nature" which always does *the opposite* of what God wants.

1. According to Romans 8 and Galatians 5, what is life like when the sinful nature is in charge? (Be specific)
2. According to Romans 8 and Galatians 5, what is life like when the Holy Spirit is in charge? (Be specific)
3. Which one is in charge of your life?
4. What can ensure that you are always Spirit-led?

PRAYER

~Thank God for giving you His Spirit to guide and lead you
~Confess to God, if necessary, living by your own strength and missing out on all the Holy Spirit can do in and through you
~Ask God to lead you by His Spirit every minute of every day

DEVO #3 — Am I Living Out What I Believe?

READ: Luke 6:27-49

If you ask most people about whether or not they believe that diet and exercise are important to a healthy life, you would find that most would say, "YES!" However, many of those same people will later go to Burger King and order a bacon-Sundae. Yes, that's right. A sundae topped with bacon, caramel, and chocolate. Or they may head to Dairy Queen to order a chicken strip basket with a large Blizzard—which, by the way, would give them *two days' worth of calories* in a single meal!!

What do we learn from this? We learn that people don't always act on what they say they believe. When it comes to our Christian beliefs, however, we must be very careful not to make that same mistake.

1. How does Jesus say we should treat enemies and those who are unkind to us? How are you doing at living this out?
2. Before you point out everyone else's problems, what does Jesus say you must do? How are you doing at living this out?
3. If you believe Jesus is Lord, what should you be doing? How are you doing at living out obedience to Him?
4. Are there any areas of your life where your belief in Jesus does not equal your actions?

PRAYER

~Thank Jesus for having a great plan for your life
~Confess to God, if necessary, talking a good game but not living out your beliefs
~Ask God to show you any area of your life where your pledge to Him is not being lived out

DEVO #4 — Living It Out

READ: James 2:14-26

In our small group time, we looked at this quote from *Not A Fan*: "A fan says 'Lord, Lord' but a fan doesn't live, 'Lord, Lord.' You say, 'I am a follower.' Well, that's great, but what did you do the last time you got into an argument with your parents? I want to know if you were the one who reached out and said, 'I am sorry. I was wrong.' What do you do when a friend starts to gossip about a classmate? What do you do when a movie you are watching continues to take the Lord's name in vain? A belief is more than what we say."

Anyone can believe anything. The question is, do you live out that belief?

1. In verses 19-20, how does James reply to people who say they believe in God?
2. Demons, of course, believe in God but don't follow Him. How about you?
3. In what areas of life are you not living out your faith in Christ?
4. What will you do about these things?

PRAYER

~Thank God for the truth of His Word
~Confess to God, if necessary, not living out your faith in Christ
~Ask God for the strength and wisdom to make the right changes the right way