

WAYS

DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.

SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH LOVE

Sunday

Speak honestly and directly in a way that clearly reflects love and support for one another. Be courageous enough to say what needs to be said, even when it's difficult. Address issues directly with those who are involved or affected; speak to, not about, others.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Speak the Truth with Love* this week.



**BUT SPEAKING THE
TRUTH IN LOVE,
WE MUST GROW UP
IN EVERY WAY
INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD,
INTO CHRIST.
EPHESIANS 4:15**

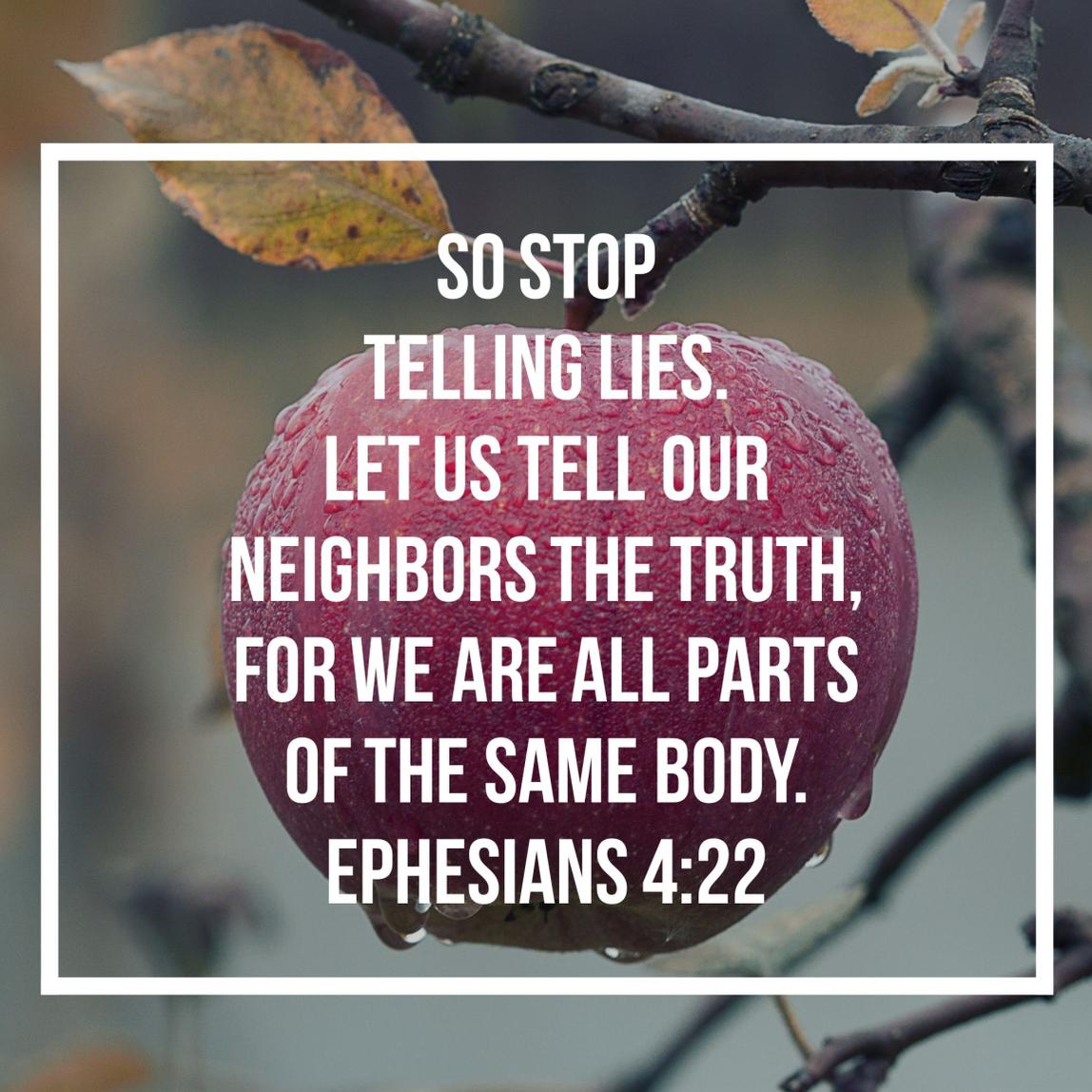
Monday

READ: Ephesians 4:11-16

THINK: Faith is founded on truth, and here it is: “Jesus is Lord.” There are so many messages that aim to distract or detract from that truth. The love that binds together is the love of Christ. It is a love which welcomes you with open arms despite knowing everything you have done but that also bids you “go and sin no more.” From Him, we learn to *Speak the Truth With Love*.

PRAY: that God would continuously grow faith in you.

Speak the Truth with Love today.



**SO STOP
TELLING LIES.
LET US TELL OUR
NEIGHBORS THE TRUTH,
FOR WE ARE ALL PARTS
OF THE SAME BODY.
EPHESIANS 4:22**

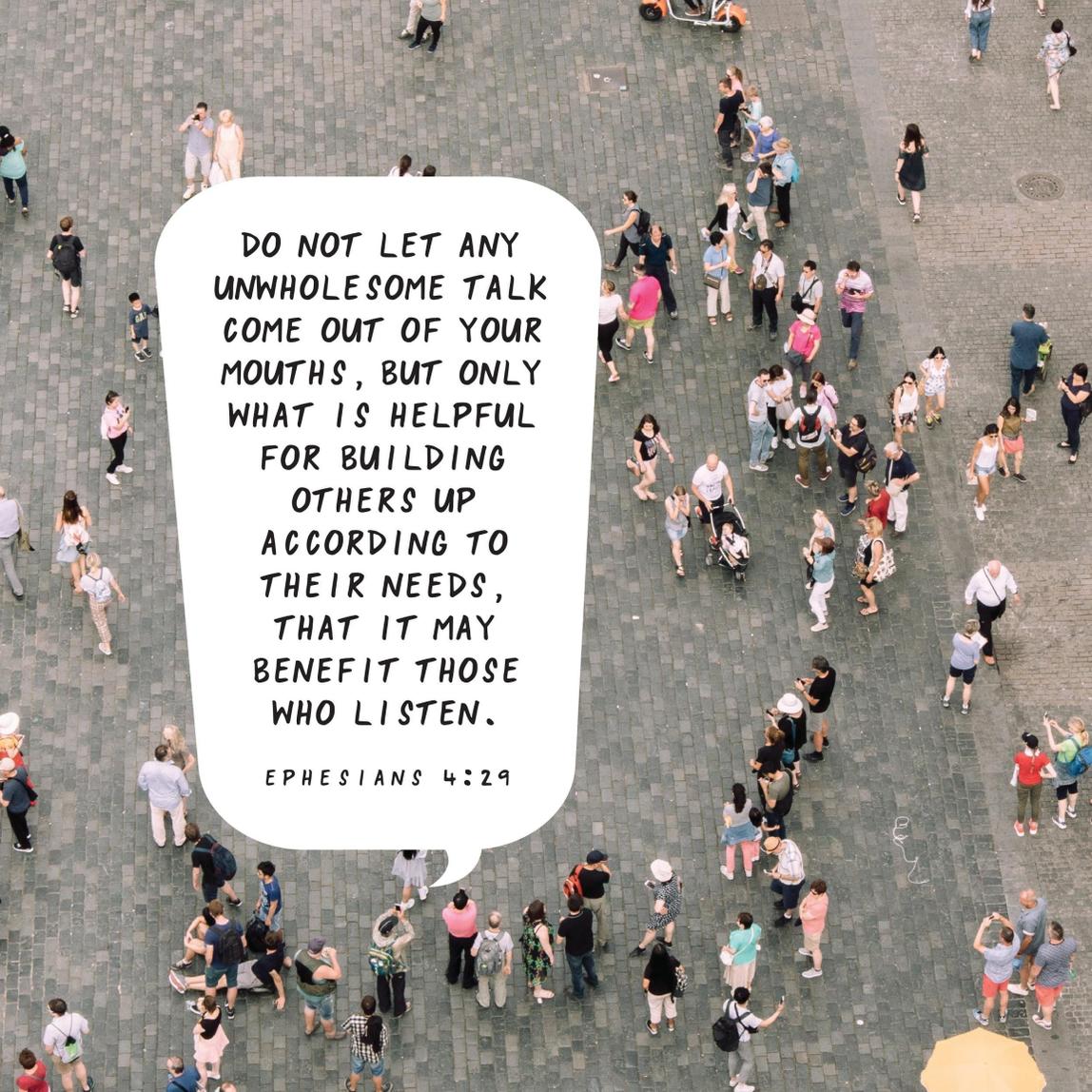
Tuesday

READ: Ephesians 4:17-28

THINK: You are not who you were. You are a new creation in Jesus and that means something! New creation doesn't mean subtly different; it means utterly new. It's natural to avoid speaking hard truths in an effort to be "nice," but that nice omission is the old you, the old us. *Speaking the Truth with Love* hones and forms us into a group that reflects Jesus' love and goodness.

PRAY: the Spirit would reveal to you places where you cling to the old self.

Speak the Truth with Love today.

An aerial photograph of a busy city square with many people walking. A large white speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing text. The text is in all caps and reads: "DO NOT LET ANY UNWHOLESOME TALK COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS, BUT ONLY WHAT IS HELPFUL FOR BUILDING OTHERS UP ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS, THAT IT MAY BENEFIT THOSE WHO LISTEN." Below the main text, it says "EPHESIANS 4:29".

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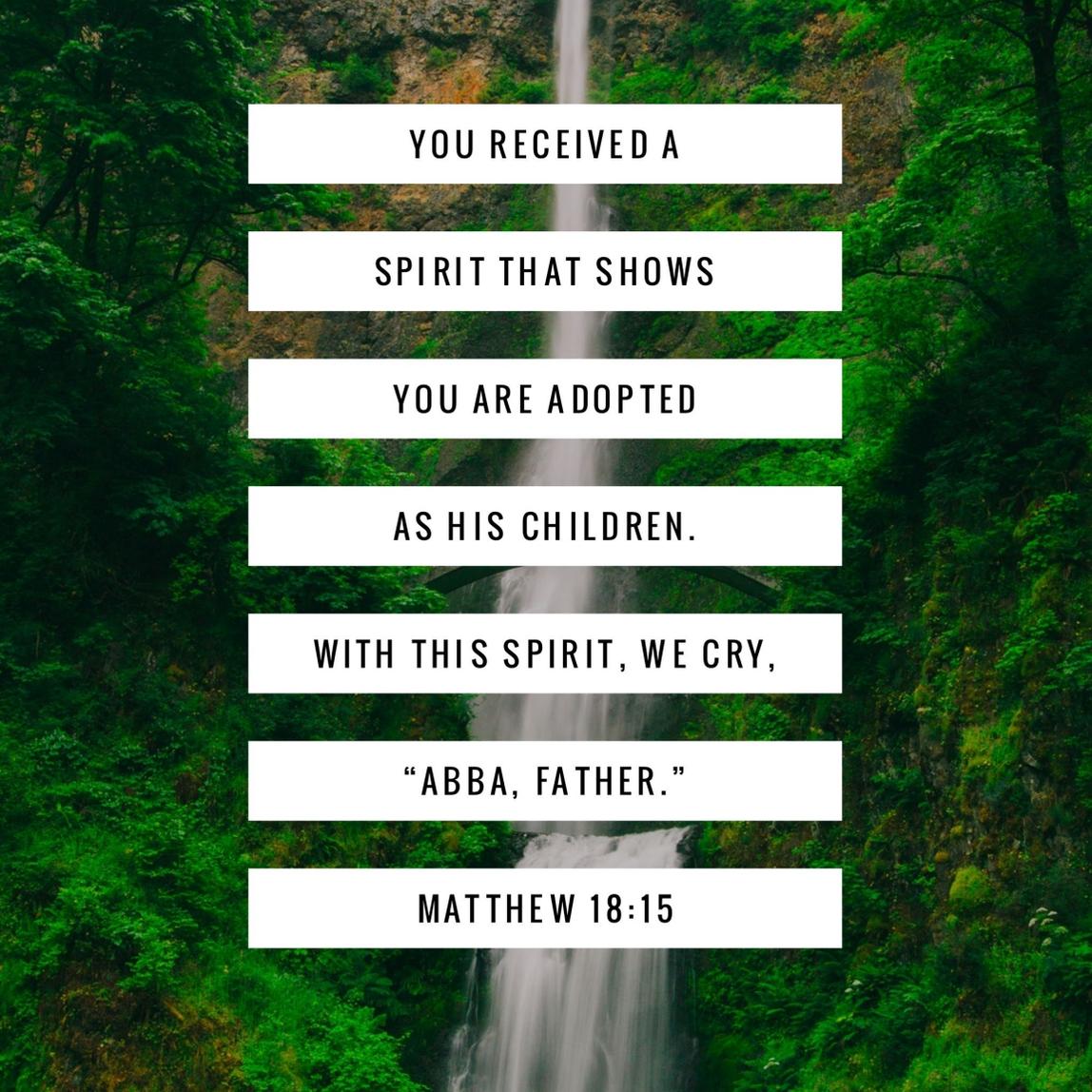
Wednesday

READ: Ephesians 4:29-32

THINK: Truth is never a clever guise for divisiveness. How many hurtful statements have been followed by “I’m just telling the truth.” Search your heart. Is your honesty simply bitterness, frustration, or slander in disguise? We are one church united in Jesus and indwelt by one Spirit. Don’t let “telling it like it is” overcome the call to *Speak the Truth with Love*.

PRAY: and ask forgiveness for times when you have spoken the truth with anger.

Speak the Truth with Love today.



YOU RECEIVED A

SPIRIT THAT SHOWS

YOU ARE ADOPTED

AS HIS CHILDREN.

WITH THIS SPIRIT, WE CRY,

“ABBA, FATHER.”

MATTHEW 18:15

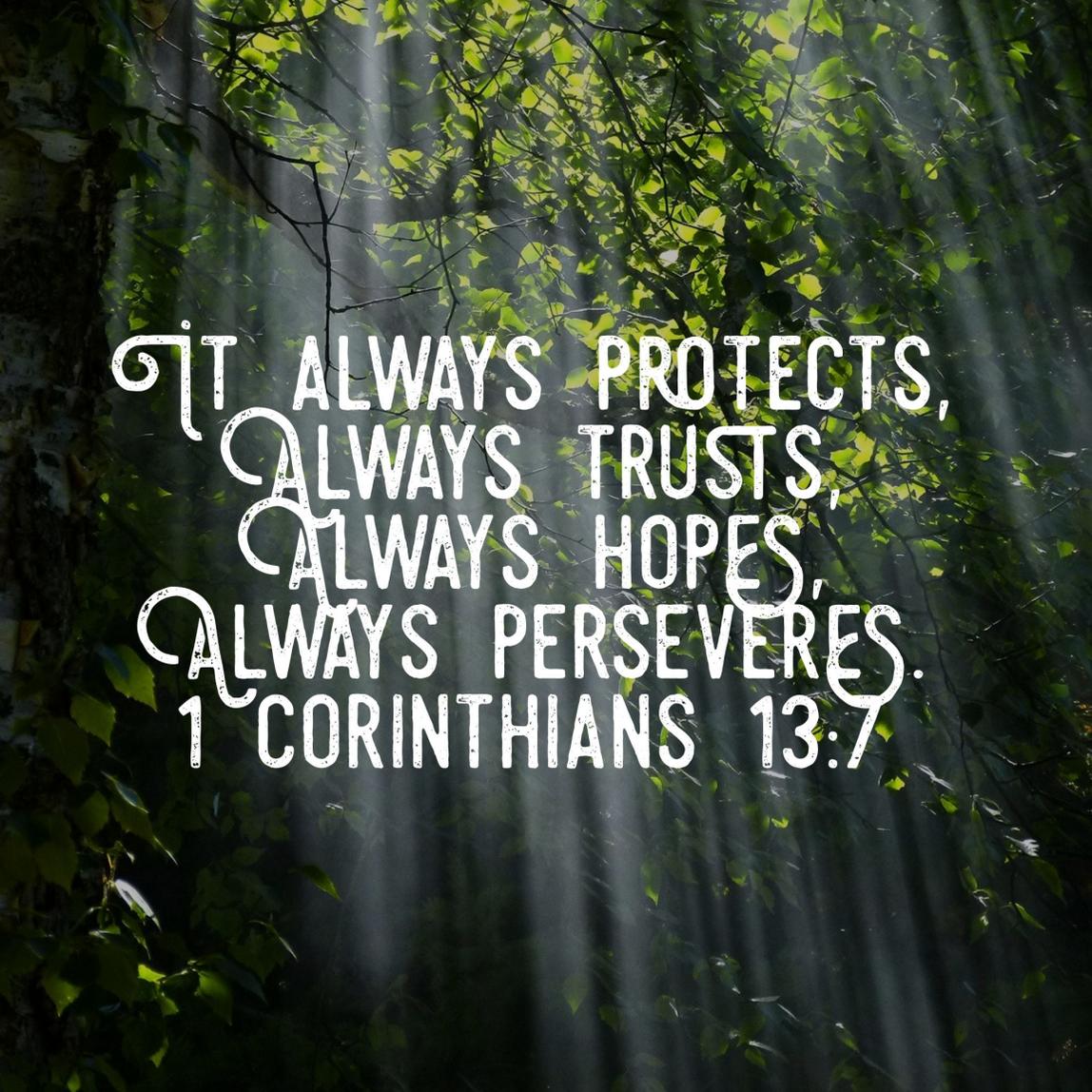
Thursday

READ: Matthew 18:15-20

THINK: Scripture is quite clear: talk *to* the person you believe is sinning, talk *to* the person who hurt you, talk *to* the person who you think is leading the church in the wrong direction... When are you allowed to talk *about* them? After you have talked *to* them, and only to one other person with the goal that you both talk **to** them. Part of *Speaking the Truth with Love* is speaking directly.

PRAY: for a person who you have talked about but not to.

Speak the Truth with Love today.



IT ALWAYS PROTECTS,
ALWAYS TRUSTS,
ALWAYS HOPES,
ALWAYS PERSEVERES.
1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

Friday

READ: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

THINK: In the middle of the most famous passage on love, we read that it rejoices with the truth. How well does it show love when we let a problem fester or when we let a person persist in sin? No one is pretending loving like this is easy. It's hard to *Speak the Truth* directly to one another and even harder to do it *with Love*.

PRAY: that God would help you rejoice with the truth.

Speak the Truth with Love today.



SO THE SERVANTS
BROUGHT IN
EVERYONE THEY
COULD FIND,
GOOD AND BAD ALIKE,
AND THE BANQUET
HALL WAS
FILLED WITH GUESTS.
MATTHEW 22:10

Saturday

READ: Matthew 22:1-10

THINK: At the end of all things, we will be gathered together at the feast of the Lord. We will be brought into His presence and sit at His table. Isn't it strange then, when Christians leave conflict unresolved or purposefully hurt each other? What is the plan for the feast? Sit at the other end of the table? When we live in anticipation of this feast, we *Speak the Truth with Love*.

PRAY: that Jesus show you the way to live out your hope for the feast.

Speak the Truth with Love today.