

Compassion

You connect with God through compassion. You are the heart and the hands of the body of Christ. You feel the closest to God when you are serving the least of these because when you serve others you are doing it unto Jesus. When you lavish the Father's affection on other people, you feel the Father's love lavished on you. You are the first to aid a person who is in need and delight in being able to minister to those who are often forgotten. Where a funeral or a hospital room may be intimidating to some, you are drawn to those places because you see them as an opportunity to minister heaven on earth. You encounter God powerfully in these moments. You feel God's presence strongly when you are giving encouragement to someone. Jesus cared for the sick, the demon-possessed, the outcasts and the lost. Jesus only did what He saw His Father doing, and you have the desire to do what your Father is doing as well. You have a unique awareness of how God sees His people and how He cares for them. You love connecting people to the Body of Christ. You feel the closest to Jesus when you are showing compassion to others, because this is what Jesus did for you.

Suggested Activities

- Position yourself where there are opportunities for you to see people and their needs.
- Consider helping your church minister to those who are sick, volunteer in a food bank, or to go on outreaches in your city. Serve your church on Sundays!
- Ask God to show you how He was "moved with compassion" and be filled with the same power.
- Study how the Bible calls us to care for others.
- Set aside moments during your time with the Lord to reflect on the times you have cared for someone in need. Ask God to show you the worship in your service.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight to you people who need encouragement. Ask Him to speak to you!
- Consider going on outreaches in your city and mission trips abroad.

Encouragement

Your value is not in what you do, but in who you are. The Holy Spirit gives you the grace and strength to be the hands and feet of Jesus, but remember that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. It is not your responsibility to take on the weight of the world, but to love people well so they see Jesus through you. When your identity becomes what you do, ask God to tell you who you are and listen to His response. When you connect with God through compassion, take to heart that you are first a son or a daughter. Take time to receive from from the Holy Spirit before you pour out onto people. You can't pour from an empty cup. The Father was well pleased with Jesus before He ever started His public ministry. The same is true for you! He is pleased with you not by your works, but because of whose you are.

SCRIPTURE

Esther 2:11, Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 16:49, Matthew 6:1-34, Matthew 18:12-14, Matthew 25:31-40, Mark 1:-35-39, Luke 10:24-37, John 3:14, 1 Corinthians 12, Colossians 3, 1 Peter 3:8, James 1:27, Hebrews 6:10, 1 John 3:17

BOOKS

Love Does by Bob Goff
 Servolution: Starting a Church Revolution Through Serving by Dino Rizzo
 In the Heart of the World by Mother Theresa
 Compelled by Love by Heidi Baker