

SHARING WHAT WE HAVE

DEVOTIONAL 4



Read 1 John 3:17-18 (NIV)

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

It's evident from these two short verses that the love of God is not just a sweet feeling or an abstract concept. The love of God shines through our actions and is reflected in our everyday deeds.

John's question couldn't be clearer: If a person has material goods, yet fails to take pity on a brother in need, how can the love of God be in him?

The unstated answer is clearer still: It can't.

This passage may prompt discomfort among those who have plenty, yet who choose to harden their hearts and avoid thinking about those who have little. And it could prompt others who truly care about people in need to ask this additional question: Am I doing enough?

Let's pay attention to this truth so we can catch ourselves when we only talk about helping others instead of taking concrete action.

Questions for Thought or Discussion

1. *Have you ever found yourself loving with words but not actions?*
2. *What do you do when confronted with evidence of poverty or deprivation?*
3. *Do you ever ask yourself, "Am I doing enough?" What is your answer?*