

*This week we are focusing on Living In the Dash. We've talked about Criticism how to handle it and how to respond today we focus on Compassion*

### **Day 3: Choosing Compassion in the Dash**

#### **Scripture:**

*"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves."*

— Galatians 6:1–3 (NIV)

#### **Devotion:**

Compassion is a choice—a holy pause in a harsh world.

We all live in *the dash*—that space between birth and eternity. And how we treat others in this short, fragile space reveals the depth of our walk with Christ. Compassion isn't just a feeling; it's a deliberate decision to move toward someone with kindness, humility, and grace. Paul's words in Galatians remind us that spiritual maturity isn't shown through judgment, but through gentleness. When we see someone fail, struggle, or fall into sin, our first reaction should not be to criticize or distance ourselves, but to *restore them gently*.

Compassion isn't weakness—it's strength under control. It's the kind of love Jesus showed the woman caught in adultery. The kind of tenderness He showed Peter after denial. The kind of care He still shows us every day.

But here's the challenge: compassion requires humility. Paul warns that when we begin to see ourselves as "above" others, we've already deceived ourselves. True compassion flows from the realization that we all stumble. We all need grace. And when we carry one another's burdens, we are doing exactly what Christ has called us to do.

Whether it's a friend who disappointed you, a coworker who keeps messing up, or a stranger with a story you'll never know—compassion is the bridge that invites redemption and healing.

Your dash can be marked by many things—but let it be marked by mercy

**Prayer:**

Lord, make us people of compassion. Help us to see others through Your eyes and to respond with grace, even when it's hard. Keep us from a prideful spirit and teach us to restore gently, carry burdens willingly, and love deeply. Help us learn to be the shoulder someone needs, the ear to listen and words to speak gently as we learn to show compassion in a Christ-like way rather than a worldly way. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**Discussion Questions:**

- What does compassion look like in everyday life—especially when someone has failed or hurt you?
- Why do you think Paul connects compassion with humility in Galatians 6?
- Who in your life right now may need your compassion more than your correction?