

## A PASSION FOR HIS PRESENCE

(Psalm 42: 1-2)

I would like to bring three men from the scriptures to your attention today. They are David, Isaiah and the Apostle Paul. These three men had one common denominator.....PASSION! !!

David: *“As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”* (Psalm 42: 1-2)

Isaiah: *“With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea with, my spirit within me will I seek thee early:”* (Isaiah 26:9).

Paul: *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”* (Phillipians 3:10)

What is passion?

Passion is zeal, enthusiasm, delight and excitement.

Passion is what makes you keep going even when you feel like giving up.

Passion is what makes you hang in there even when others suggest that you quit.

Passion is the element that seems to be missing in the Body of Christ.

The Bible declares that we should serve the Lord with gladness, that we should enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.

When we first accepted the Lord as our personal Savior and began our new life with Christ, there was great love and passion for Christ and his work. It seemed as though we wanted to share his love and message with everyone we met. It seemed as though there was a desperation to make it to the house of God to worship. The zeal and enthusiasm was evident in all that we did for him. However, it seems as though the passion in these last days has been replaced with boredom, redundancy and a “form of Godliness.”

Why does this happen?

There are a number of things that cause us to lose our zeal and passion. Sometimes it is because of the spirit of neglect. (Neglecting to pray, read, worship). Sometimes it is because of unexpected burdens or traumatic experiences that we have to face. Perhaps difficult challenges cause us to lose spiritual ground. However, no matter HOW it happens, the goal is to get the passion back. How do we get our passion back?

The answer is found in Revelations Chapter 2 vs. 5.

When dealing with the church at Ephesus, the Lord commended this church for its service and its sound doctrine, He said that they were discerning, very diligent about working for him and uplifting his name and also that they were very patient. However, God had someone against them because although they were full of works, they were deficient in love and passion. We see based on this scripture that it is possible to go to church and work diligently, going through the motions and still not have passion.

In vs. 5, he basically gives the remedy. The scripture says, REMEMBER therefore from whence thou art fallen, and REPENT, and do the first works (RE-DO); or else, I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Notice he says first of all “REMEMBER.” The bible states emphatically that we should always remember the things that God has done for us. Therefore in times of discouragement or at times when we have feelings of aloofness, we should remember our former blessings and victories. When we begin to rehearse them and begin to thank God for how he brought us through our past, it gives us renewed joy and strength which ultimately helps us to become passionate again about our love and work for God.

Then he says, “Repent,” When we have unrepented sins in our lives, it is difficult to walk in peace with a pure conscience. We maintain feelings of guilt and condemnation which also can cause us to lose our passion. However when we go to God and begin to confess our sins before him and take the stance that we want everything covered under the blood, the sense of freedom from guilt will cause us to regain our joy and thus, enabling us to love again, to live again and to draw nigh to God again and ask him to fill us with joy once again.

Finally he says to (RE-DO). That means that we must begin again by doing the things that we “used to do.” In other words we must begin to pray again, read the word again, worship again. When we do this we can recapture the joyfulness and the fulfillment that comes by serving such an awesome God.

When we think about David, Isaiah and Paul, we see that they attempted and accomplished great things for God. Only those who have a real passion for the presence for God will be successful in accomplishing great things because the joy of the Lord will be the strength that will take them though to the end.

Let's develop a Passion for his presence again.