

Passion

Introduction. Gordon MacDonald, writing about passion, says, “It certainly is mysterious, this word passion. It is hard to measure and difficult to pin down. But you know when you have it, and you are quite aware when you don’t.” He continues, “One feels passion; it seizes you! Passion stimulates human performance: superior or excellent performance, strange or bizarre performance, compassionate or sacrificial performance.”

“Passion” is a strong and barely controllable emotion; an intense desire or enthusiasm for something. Sadly, however, there are too many Christians who have lost their spiritual passion. Or, at least their passion has greatly diminished from their early days of conversion. Their Bible knowledge and learning, though it may be extensive, has only affected them intellectually, but not touched them emotionally. Or if it once did, that passion has subsided over the years. The trouble with many educated people is that learning goes to their heads and not to their hearts.

What causes a loss of passion for God? And what can we do about it? You have to find again the concept of God that consumes you. A belief is not just an idea a person possesses; it is an idea that possesses a person.

If you are not feeling your former zeal for spiritual matters and a passion for God, we will investigate five reasons along with five ways to regain your spiritual passion.

I. Passion Killers

A. An unscriptural attitude.

1. Do you just view God as a Deity to be discussed? An impersonal force? Or like some mythological superhero only to be admired at a distance?
2. God desires a relationship with you. He wants to be your Father, and He wants you and I to be His sons and daughters (2 Corinthians 6:18).
3. Like sons of Eli, we may have knowledge about God, but “not know the Lord” (1 Samuel 2:12). Knowing God is so much more than being able to recite some facts about Him.

B. An unconfessed sin.

1. Nothing will sap your energy, undermine your confidence, or rob your passion more quickly than guilt. David, the man after God’s own heart, who enjoyed a rich relationship with God learned how sin sapped his spiritual passion.
2. In Psalm 38:1-5 he described his emotional state in sin. Sin had separated him from God and left him mentally, emotionally, and spiritually drained (v. 6). To feel spiritually passionate about God, we have to confess our sins and maintain a pure relationship with the Lord (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

C. An undisciplined lifestyle.

1. When we waste our time on frivolous activities, hide our talents, or hoard our treasure, we will not feel close to God. Therefore, invest your time wisely (Ephesians 5:17), use your individual talents for the glory of God (1 Peter 4:11), and generously share your resources with others (1 Timothy 6:17-19).