

Passion For The Church - Part 1

I. Passion is defined as “Violent agitation or excitement of the mind that has been caused by an injury, insult, suffering or offense.”

A. Passion is ignited by exposure to some form of suffering.

1. We see this dynamic in movies, Brave Heart, The Patriot, Gladiator, etc.
2. **Scripturally it is true as well.**

Matthew 11:12-13 - *“From the time John preached his message until this very day the Kingdom of heaven has suffered violent attacks, and violent men try to seize it.”* TEV

Luke 22:31-32 - *“Simon, stay on your toes. Satan has tried his best to separate all of you from me, like chaff from wheat. Simon, I've prayed for you in particular that you not give in or give out. When you have come through the time of testing, turn to your companions and give them a fresh start.”*

“I have prayed that you will not lose your faith! Help your brothers be stronger when you come back to me.” NCV

3. The story of Roy Riegels - January 1, 1929 - Georgia Tech vs Cal - Rose Bowl

B. Song of Solomon 8:6-7 - *“Love is as powerful as death; passion is as strong as death itself. It bursts into flame and burns like a raging fire. Water cannot put it out; no flood can drown it.”* TEV

1. The phrase *“passion is as strong as death”* indicates that it is only passion that enables one to face loss of life with willingness and excitement.
2. Following are some references scriptures to this verse.

Psalm 84:2 - *“My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD.”*

Psalm 69:9 - *“For zeal for your house has consumed me”*

II. With the rest of my time I want to make three points.

- God has Chosen you to bear His image
- **The evil one is hunting you in order to destroy that image**
- It is only in the context of the church (a fellowship) can that image be protected.

A. God has chosen you to bear His Image.

Ephesians 1:4 - *“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his.”*

Genesis 1:26 - *“Then God said, And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us.”* TEV

Romans 8:29 - *“Those whom God had already chosen he also set apart to become like his Son, so that the Son would be the first among many brothers.”* TEV

B. The evil one is hunting you in order to destroy that image.

1. Sooner or later all Christians go through seasons where our Spiritual life is at a low point. For one reason or another we have become sick or injured spiritually. The symptoms of this are:
 - **Our daily devotions have either disappeared or are sporadic.**
 - Our faith falters and our enthusiasm evaporates.
 - **Gloom replaces gladness.**
 - Criticism overwhelms compassion.
 - **Selfishness replaces service to others.**
2. This happens because there is an enemy of our soul.
 - a. **Romans 5:1** - **One of the things that I discovered early in my walk with the Lord is that the Christian life is a Spiritual war from start to finish.**
 - b. When we made peace with God we made war with Satan - This enemy of ours isn't out to hurt us he is out to destroy us. John 10:10 - *"The thief cometh not, but that he may steal, and kill, and destroy.*
 - c. **2Cor 2:11** (NASB) *in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*
3. The enemy has craftily laid a network of subtle traps, each neatly designed to keep us from the precious spiritual resources needed to maintain a healthy spiritual life.

Schemes will:

- a. **patronize you** (*tells you what is right*),
- b. **demoralize you** (*tells you what is wrong*),
- c. **scandalize you** (*make more of the things that are wrong*)
- d. He does this to tyrannize you in order to neutralize and immobilize you so that you won't evangelize.
- e. **Satan will attack our convictions** (*Did God really say*) **and our confidence** (*if He did who are you*) **so that we will lose our courage.**

4. We need to confess that when we find ourselves in deep spiritual doldrums that it is our fault.

a. Through carelessness or negligence we've strayed away from God's grace and protection

b. If you don't feel close to God, remember, He's not the one who moved.

c.. It's our responsibility to recover our spiritual health.

C. It is only in the context of the church (a fellowship) can that image be both imparted and protected.

Psalm 84:2 - *“My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD.”*

Psalm 69:9 - *“For zeal for your house has consumed me”*

1. Jesus both builds in us an measure of His image and with us the fulness of His image.

a. Ephesians 2:21-22 *“In whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”*

b. Ephesians 4:16 - *“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*

c. Ephesians 1:22-23 - *“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*

2. He does this through one another and with one another.

3. 1Peter 2:5 - *“you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house”*

a. A pile of stones does not make a building. The stones have to be chipped fitted and built in with others.

b. Do you know who is beside you, beneath you and above you. Who do labor with, who do you influence and who influences you.

c. Everybody needs a Paul, a Barnabas and a Timothy.