

Core Value #1
The passion to know, love and become like Jesus Christ
Fred Wevodau
April 2003

Passion Defn. – A powerful emotion, such as love, joy, hatred or anger; boundless enthusiasm. Syn. – Fervor, fire, zeal, ardor. Ant.- apathy, contentment, laziness, satisfaction, sloth.

Biblical examples of a passionate spirit:

Jesus – Cleansing the temple: “Zeal for Thy house will consume me.” Jn. 2:17

The Father – “While he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him (lit. repeatedly).” Luke 15:20

Asaph – “Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee I desire nothing on earth.”
Psalm 73:25

Reflection: What were some of the common elements that produced this degree of passion?
What are some of the things that choke passion?
How can passion be restored once lost?
Two of the haunting antonyms for passion are “contentment and satisfaction”.
Are there areas of my life and ministry unduly characterized in that way?

To Know

Moses – “I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!” Ex. 33:18

David – “One thing I have asked of the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple.” Ps. 27:4

Paul - “For my determined purpose is that I may know Him, that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person more strongly and more clearly.” Phil. 3:10a (Amp.)

Reflection: What do I really believe about the “knowability” of God?
What in these or other passages gives expression to my desire to know Christ more intimately?
How could God use me to stir this kind of spiritual passion in others?

To Love

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mk. 12:30

“See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God ... In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us....” I Jn. 3:1;4:10

“I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” Rev. 2:4

Reflection: How have I experienced the freedom of responding to God's love rather than trying harder to be a lover of God?
What has served most to maintain the freshness of my "first love?"

To Become Like

"But we all with unveiled face beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." II Cor. 3:18

"And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe." I Thes. 2:13

"We know that, when he appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." I Jn. 3:2,3

Reflection: What are the primary means of spiritual transformation?
What have I learned about what is God's part and what is my part in the transformation process?
What part do the spiritual disciplines play in my sanctification? How do they become a barrier to growth in grace rather than a channel of life and growth?

Jesus Christ

"I am afraid lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, that your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." II Cor. 11:3

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ, for in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete." Col. 2:8-10

Summary: Review what you have written in your reflections. What thoughts seem to most mirror what God's Spirit is presently saying to you?
Consider a short written prayer of response to these things.
Would it be meaningful to block out some time on your calendar where the Lord could address these things in greater depth and draw you more deeply into the Father's heart of love? When would that be?