

## Passionate Christian Living

John 14:15; 1 John 5:3

Too many Christians live a passionless, almost lifeless existence, motivated by duty and obligation, and feel burdened by the perfect mark that they feel they must reach. They strive and strive under the heavy weight of their own expectations.

In his *Pursuit of God*, A.W. Tozer put it like this:

***"For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself, and unless and until the hearers find God in personal experience they are not the better for having heard the truth. The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in his presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts."***

We have to begin serving God not out of obligation, but because we have tasted and seen that He is good. There is nothing that compares to knowing Him!

***Phil 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.***

Why does living for God sometimes seem like a burden to some people. They are serving God with the wrong motives. They are serving for what they can get out of it? Not just because they love Him.

***Matthew 13:44-46 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."***

We do not live for God because it is an obligation. We live for God because nothing else can compare to the joy of knowing Him. In this passage, Jesus gives us an illustration of what the Kingdom of God is like. First, there was the discovery of the treasure and an awareness of its worth. Secondly note his heart motivation: "...in his JOY, he went out and sold all he had..." The treasure and the knowledge that he could possess brought him joy. It was not a sacrifice. It

was not a burden. It was a joy. Even though it cost him everything he had—the sacrifice of the merchant was nothing compared to possessing the treasure. Giving up everything allows us to be dead to sin and alive to Christ. He himself is our treasure and His kingdom's rule in our lives is the fulfillment for which we were created—the hope, the peace, the life, and the love that only He can give.

**How do I develop my love for God?**

**1. Don't forget that He bought you!**

***I Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you whom you have from God and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.***

**2. Don't forget why He bought you back!**

- To fulfill the purpose you were created for – Preaching, Ministry, Positions are secondary.
- To destroy the work of the enemy in your life.

Our new nature longs to please God. It longs to know Him and His presence in even greater degrees. Our new nature is no longer sinful. It is dead to sin, and therefore, it is unacceptable to continue sinning. However, the good news does not stop there. Not only has the power of sin been broken in our lives, but we have also been made alive to God.

***Romans 6:11: "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."***

Our new nature is not the end, but it is the means by which we know God. We are made alive to God in Christ so that we can know Him, fellowship with Him, and experience His presence. We can enter the presence of God because of our righteous standing in Christ. Eternal life does not begin when we die, but it starts now as we daily press in to knowing God.

***John 17:3: "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."***

It is God that we were created for, and only in Him that we will find fulfillment of soul. None of us deserve it, but He freely offers it to us. No one is disqualified. Therefore, let us press on to know Him, run with all our might, lay down our

lives, and give up everything to find Him. Let us put away compromise and walk victoriously over sin through our new nature and the power of His Spirit.