

Like Him: Passion
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Passion: a strong, extravagant feeling toward something; an emotion that motivates us beyond normal existence

HEBREWS 12:2-3 MSG

Keep your eyes on JESUS, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Biblical Passion: a strong emotion or zeal that pushes you through suffering to a final goal

4 Temperatures People Live in with God:

1. **Cold:** totally consumed with the world; God is irrelevant, church is irrelevant; all that matters is what's happening in their world
2. **Lukewarm:** believe in God but have a half-hearted approach toward living for God

REVELATION 3:15-17 NIV

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."

3. **Warm:** involved in local church, tithe and serve; have a general concern for others and help from time to time; have a moderate

hunger for God, pray, read Bible and worship but generally lack any real passion that stirs people up around them

4. **Hot:** have a strong hunger for the presence of God; motivated beyond normal living; give and serve sacrificially; incredible love for people; live in a perpetual state of faith; not satisfied to just do things within the framework of their own strength

“God dwells in a state of perpetual enthusiasm. He is delighted with all that is good and lovingly concerned about all that is wrong. He pursues his labors always in a fullness of holy zeal. No wonder the Spirit came at Pentecost as a sound of a rushing mighty wind and sat as tongues of fire on every forehead. Whatever else happened at Pentecost, one thing that cannot be missed by the most casual observer was the sudden upsurging of moral enthusiasm. Those first disciples burned with a steady INWARD FIRE. They were enthusiastic to the point of complete abandon!” — **A.W. Tozer, *Of God and Men***

How Do I Get the Passion of Jesus?

1. Press into the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 3:11 MSG

“I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I’m a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a FIRE WITHIN YOU, the HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU, changing you from the inside out.”

2. Exchange the love of the world for the love of the things of God.

1 JOHN 2:15-17 NIV

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

3. Hang out with firestarters instead of firefighters.

4. Decide to live a life that really matters.