



At the very core of spiritual maturity is spiritual passion—a passionate commitment to Christ. It is the driving force of our spiritual growth and impact. Spiritual passion is a driving force that...

motivates our actions and **focuses** our attention.

When spiritual passion dies, we begin to practice religion rather than pursue a relationship. Our “ought to’s” outnumber our “want to’s.” We follow routine rather than follow the Spirit.

PROFILES OF PASSION

God is passionate about his relationship with you.

Exodus 34:14, *You must worship no other gods but only the Lord, for he is a God who is passionate about this relationship with you.* (NLT)

The **strength** of God comes to people whose hearts are passionately committed to him.

2 Chronicles 16:9, *The eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.* (NASB)

God’s **judgment** comes to those who lack the fire of spiritual passion.

Zephaniah 1:12, *It will come about at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are stagnant in spirit.* (NASB)

Passion can be seen in what I am willing to **sacrifice**.

2 Samuel 24:24, *I cannot present an offering to the Lord that has cost me nothing.*

Idolatry is misplaced passion.

Isaiah 57:5, *You worship your idols with great passion.* (NLT)



A CHURCH IN CRISIS

Revelation 3:14-20, *To the...church in Laodicea write...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...Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.* (NIV)

The church at Laodicea had lost its passion.

It had drifted into **complacency** and did not recognize it. Their **passion** had been **displaced**.

1 John 2:15-16, *Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father...It just isolates you from him.* (Msg)

Jesus is still **passionately** in love with them and is wooing them back to him.



THE PATHWAY BACK

Revelation 2:1, 5, *To the...church in Ephesus write...You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.*

“First love” is a picture of passion.

The journey back:

1. **Remember**
2. **Repent**
3. **Return**