



message one: **PASSION**

Pastor Mike Chapman

Nothing great is ever accomplished without passion! Nothing! Passion makes the impossible possible. Without passion life becomes boring...monotonous...routine...dull.

God created us to be creatures of passion. He wants us to live a passionate life. The Bible is clear about this...

Romans 12:11, Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor. (niv)

SIGNS OF DECLINING SPIRITUAL PASSION

Jesus called **a lack of passion** the most shocking sin for Christians.

Revelation 3:16, Since you are lukewarm and not hot or cold, I'm going to spit you out of my mouth. (gw)

C. S. Lewis said it like this, "The only thing Christianity cannot be is moderately important!"

When spiritual passion is lost...

...We grow **apathetic** in our souls.

...A **critical attitude** creeps into our lives.

...**Compromise** with worldly values becomes easy.

...Maintaining our **comfort zone** becomes a top priority.

...Our "**ought to's**" out number our "**want to's**."

CAUSES OF DECLINING SPIRITUAL PASSION

A Life **unbalanced**

Substituting **religious activities** for **spiritual intimacy**

Disappointment with yourself

A wounded **spirit**

A CHURCH OF DECLINING PASSION

The Church at Ephesus had many **good qualities**.

Revelation 2:2-3, I know what you have done—how hard you have worked and how you have endured. I also know that you cannot tolerate wicked people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not apostles. You have discovered that they are liars. You have endured, suffered trouble because of my name, and have not grown weary. (gw)

The Church at Ephesus had one glaring **shortcoming**.

Revelation 2:4, However, I have this against you: The love you had at first is gone. (gw)

The Church at Ephesus was offered a **pathway** to a renewed passion.

Revelation 2:5, *Remember how far you have fallen. Return to me and change the way you think and act, and do what you did at first.* (gw)

1. **Remember**
2. **Return**
3. **Renew**

This is the language of romance. Religious activities will not restore lost passion. Only revelation of God's love for us restores the passion.

Love fuels the passion!

Exodus 34:14, *You must worship only the Lord, for he is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.* (nlt)