

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Teaching Ministry

12.28.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Passion to Achieve

Joshua 1: 5 - 9

How important is it to understand and experience our spiritual passion. Nothing great in our life is achieved without passion and courage, and without salvation we cannot obtain true passion and courage. Passion is the spiritual energy to achieve those things the Holy Spirit would have us to acquire, while courage is the power given unto us by God so that we will not allow worldly fear to keep us from those things that we are passionate about. So, where does our passion and courage come from and once we find out where it comes from, then we must learn how to obtain it. Spiritual passion is our desire for Gods purpose in our life, while spiritual courage gives unto us the willing desire to act upon that passion through every situation and circumstance in our life. Therefore, it is all about replacing worldly fear with Godly purpose, enabling us as believers, to live out our faith in Christ, and fulfilling our divine calling from God. Spiritual passion provides the why, which is our desire for God, and spiritual courage provides the how, which is the strength that we get by the indwelling Holy Spirit to act upon it.

Joshua 1: 5 – 9,....there shall not any man be able to stand before thee....I will be with thee....I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee....be strong and of good courage....be thou strong and very courageous....observe to do according to all the law....turn not from it....that thou mayest prosper....the book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth....thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein....have I not commanded thee....be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed....for the Lord thy God is with thee....

Now, as we look at this passage of scripture we see that God wanted Joshua to pick up where Moses had ended, but he knew it would take more than just telling him to do it, he knew he had to make sure Joshua was passionate about what he wanted him to do, and then he had to give him the courage to do it. It is no different in our life as a believer, we do not see because we lack passion, or we have no passion, no desire, and no courage. God needs for us to see our potential in our life in Christ, because passion is born when God allows us a glimpse of our true potential. Courage on the other hand comes, when by faith we put our confidence in God, and not in man. Therefore, passion is the reason for our journey, and courage is the light that shows the way.

So, I want to give you six qualities that will help us to see the potential of our spiritual passion and courage.

When worldly fear begins to overwhelm us, we must make the choice to overcome.

2 Timothy 1: 6 – 10,....stir up the gift of God, which is in thee....for God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind....be....not ashamed of the testimony of our Lord....be thou partaker of the affliction of the gospel....who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling....according to his purpose and grace....

As believers, the choice that we are making is one that we are not going to allow our God given spiritual abilities to fade away, but we are going to actively work to keep them strong in our life. So, this is how that this works: our salvation was not earned by our own effort, neither was it earned by our good deeds or merits, but our calling is rooted and grounded in God's unmerited grace. Therefore, our salvation was established by God's grace through our faith in Christ Jesus, who hath abolished our death of eternal punishment, and has brought life and immortality to light, offering hope, and purpose, and everlasting life to all who will believe.

Follow the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit

Proverbs 3: 5 – 7,....trust in the Lord with all thine heart....lean not unto thine own understanding....in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths....

So, as believers, if we are instructed to trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding then we must be doing what, we must be relying solely on our own limited wisdom and knowledge. If we were not, then God, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit would not be calling unto us to surrender personal control, and acknowledge him in every aspect of our life, so that he might guide us and make our pathway straight.

We must persevere in adversity.

2 Corinthians 4: 7 – 10,....we have this treasure....that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us....we are troubled....we are perplexed....persecuted....cast down....bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that....Jesus might be made manifest in our body....

So, what does this mean, it means that we are going to willingly share in the sufferings of Christ, so that his life, his power, his glory might be revealed through our trials, our tribulations, and the sufferings and circumstances that occur in our everyday life in Christ. Remembering our weaknesses and hardships are not signs of failure, but they are opportunities to allow Gods glory to shine forth, which will ultimately point others to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Stand firm in Christ.

Galatians 5: 1, 16,....standfast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage....walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh....

Christ on the cross paid our sin debt, and through the resurrection he has set us free from the slavery of sin. Therefore, we must stand firm in our salvation, refusing to fall prey to the false teachings that Satan will use to pull us back into the bondage of our own sinful desires. We are free because of our life in Christ, so we must not allow anyone to convince us that we need to earn God's approval by following after man's rules and regulations concerning how that we should live our life in Christ. Christ broke that chain and that yoke, so that we might have the ability to stay free and live our life according to our faith in him.

We must grow in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in the understanding of God's word.

Proverbs 2: 1 – 6,....if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee....incline thine ear to wisdom....apply thine heart to understanding....if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice to understanding....then thou shalt understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God....for the Lord giveth wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding....

As believers, to gain true wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, just receiving the word of God is not enough, we must cherish it. Now, this is when our passion begins to reveal itself within us, for we must treat the word of God as if it is the most precious item in our life above all else. I am talking not only about material possessions, but it has to be more precious to us than mother, father, wife, husband, kids, or grandkids. This is the only way that God is going to be able to control our character and guide our life. If we make the effort God will provide a way for everything else.

We can only achieve passion through faith.

Matthew 6: 30 – 34,....O ye of little faith....take no thought....for your heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all things....seek ye first the kingdom of God....and all....things shall be added unto you....take therefore no thought for the morrow....

As believers, when we learn to prioritize God in our life, by living righteously, above all concerns, then God will provide for everything else, freeing us from worldly fear and worry, which will give unto us spiritual purpose. It is all about making God the center focus in our life, trusting that as he aligns our life with his will, then every decision, every action, and every thought will reflect Gods rule and reign in our life because we are now living according to his values, by his purpose.

If we will seek after it, God will give unto us spiritual passion and courage, so that we can face adversity, and so that he can strengthen us, and motivate us, and give unto us determination and self-confidence. Yes, God will give us the ability to go through and to overcome the separation that we have created between ourselves and him. Remember, worldly passion and courage rely on our human abilities. But spiritual passion and courage rely on the power of God. So, let us ask ourselves how much spiritual passion and courage do we put forth in our life in Christ.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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