

“How NOT to Practice Faith & Love”

Learning the Kingdom Language of Faith

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Passion is a very powerful, very intoxicating force! Passion often challenges assumptions, boundaries, status quo and can help to focus and success. Unchecked and undisciplined, it can be like a wrecking ball that can quickly destroy all it touches!

Luke shares an account in the book of Acts of two passionate people and how passion spoiled their relationship.

“Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.’³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.³⁹ **They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.** Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.” Acts 15:36-41

- **Passion can often give us _____**
“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- **Passion needs to be reminded of the beauty of _____**

Luke’s details reveal several things about Paul:

1. God is able to radically change us & make us more valuable to the Kingdom

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:1-4

2. Paul learns the lessons of collaboration as he serves & especially is in prison. Romans 16

3. Paul becomes the Champion for promoting the concept of the “Body of Christ”

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

● Our Passion must be brought under the _____

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.” Matthew 16:23-24

Conclusion: Do you have strong convictions to serve King Jesus? Are you willing to opt for collaboration?

All Scriptures are from the New International Version.
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