



Let's Consider . . .

Let Your Head Knowledge Drop 18 Inches

Anne Lotz, whose father was a friend of Tom Landry said, “On more than one occasion, I have heard Coach Landry state that during his career he came across many good athletes – but very few great ones. He said the difference between a good athlete and a great one is eighteen inches – the distance from the head to the heart.... He explained that good athletes have exceptional ability and a thorough understanding of the game, but great athletes have heart – a passion to play that drives them to selfless sacrifice, brutally long hours of practice, undivided focus, and ultimately, to achieve extraordinary accomplishments”. ?” (Anne, Graham, Lotz, I Saw the Lord, A Wake Up Call For Your Heart, p35)

Passion (deeply stirring emotion),
Fervor (warm and steady emotion),
Ardor (excited feeling likely to be short lived),
Enthusiasm (lively or eager interest in or admiration for a cause or activity),
Zeal (energetic and unflagging pursuit of an aim or devotion to a cause)

are all words used to mean an intense emotion that results in a compelling action. While the word passion is not found in the Bible, the concept is pervasive in scripture. In Romans we read “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” Romans 12:11 This means we are to not be lazy with our eagerness to serve Him but we should be on fire in our responsibilities in His service.

“And here’s the deal: To keep up your spiritual fervor, to stay “on fire,” you have to stay close to the source of the fire. You and I are just the kindling, the fire is the Holy Spirit living in us. It is the Spirit that produces love, joy, peace.... did you notice joy and peace? States of mind aren’t they? Emotions. In fact, peruse the book of Acts again and you’ll find that most of the time when Peter, or Steven, or Paul stood up and boldly displayed a “fire” for God, the Bible says they were “full of the Holy Spirit.” They were close to the Source. Full of the Source. We keep up our spiritual fervor by being filled with the Spirit. We get filled with the Spirit when we put our hearts and minds on God. When we spend time with the Source. Don’t believe me? Check out Romans 8:6 ” to set our minds on the Spirit leads to life and peace.”

<http://thecrazypastor.wordpress.com/2007/04/11/keep-up-your-spiritual-fervor/>

Martin Luther King once said “A man who won’t die for something is not fit to live.” We read in Revelations 3:15 “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.”

Examples of passionate behavior:

Jesus at the temple John 2:13-16 & Luke 19:41-46

Jesus came into Jerusalem for the Passover saw the plight of the people and wept over the condition of the city. Yet when he arrived at the temple, the condition with the money changers caused Him, with controlled anger, to drive them out of the temple. What injustices make you indignant? What causes your blood to boil? What condition causes you to react passionately?

Peter's claim he would stand fast with Christ. Matthew 26:69-75

Following his attempt earlier to prevent the Lord's arrest, Peter, often bold and courageous, three times with increasing intensity, denied knowing Jesus.

Fervor of Apollo's Acts 18:25

"This man has been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord though he knew only the baptism of John.

David facing Goliath 1 Samuel 17

David in his zeal, was eager to fight Goliath and had to argue for the right to do so. "Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, what shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel. For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 1 Samuel 17:26 "Now Eliab, his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men, and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, Why did you come down here? And with who have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." 1 Samuel 17:28-30 "And Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are a youth and a man of war from his youth. But David said to Saul, Your servant used to keep his fathers sheep and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it and delivered the lamb from its mouth and when it arose against me, I caught it by its bard and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like on of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God. Moreover David said, The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." 1 Samuel 33-37

Daniel

"Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm". Daniel 6:3 So the other satraps sought to find something against Daniel. They couldn't find anything against Daniels character so they appealed to the king to make a decree that anyone who petitions any god for the next thirty days would be thrown in a lions den. In his zeal to do what was right in the sight of God, continued to pray as he always had; three times a day he knelt in prayer, thanking and praising God. Daniel's passion led to him praying with the windows of his room wide open despite the threat of death. In chapter nine he not only prayed but make his request by prayer with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

David & Michal when the Ark returned to Jerusalem 2 Samuel 6

David's leaping and furiously dancing before the Lord was expressive of his delight in having the Ark of the Covenant returned to Jerusalem. Like Michal, when our fervor wanes we have trouble being around those who publicly express their fervor.

What might stir your passion for God that you would dance like David rather than complain like Michal?

When our affection for Christ is low our prayer life declines and bible studies fall off. When our affection for Christ is strong we pray more and even attend bible study after work even though we've had a very bad day.

What might you do that what excite your passion for Jesus?

What makes you stand out.

Oh Lord, your hand is lifted high, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame; let the fire you reserved for your enemies consume them. (Isaiah 26:11).