

## Session 4 - Staying Focussed

- **Matthew 6:33 (Amplified Bible)**

*<sup>33</sup>But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.*

1. Seek
2. Aim at
3. Strive after

All talk about staying focussed.

He says here if we do it His way and not our way all things come together. So the next scripture in verse 34 tells us:

- **Matthew 6:34 (Amplified Bible)**

*<sup>34</sup>So do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries and anxieties of its own. Sufficient for each day is its own trouble.*

1. Not to worry
2. Not to be anxious

**WORRY:** *To feel uneasy or concerned about something. To cause to feel anxious, distressed, or troubled. To attack roughly and repeatedly; Harass*

**ANXIOUS:** *Full of mental distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger or misfortune; greatly worried; solicitous*

Because we seek His Kingdom first.

**FOCUSSED:** *A concentrated effort or attention on a particular thing – not being tossed to and fro.*

We need to stay focussed and committed to what we start so we can finish it.

Hope deferred is a terrible thing, being promised something and then it never even gets off the ground. That is not our problem though. It's the person who promised us, it's their problem.

When it comes to moving in evangelism and signs and wonders we do not need a promise or to be told by any leader to do this. The Word of God is very clear, as we have looked at in previous sessions – that we are to go.

Things will not always go the way we want them to but in the end God will come through.

If we remain faithful in the little things we will reap the harvest.

You have to remain faithful to what God's called you to do. If you have never built a house, don't try and build a skyscraper.

If you have never prayed for someone to get healed, don't pull someone out of a wheelchair.

Jesus said before you build a tower sit down and count the cost.

- **Luke 14:28 (New International Version, ©2011)**

*<sup>28</sup> "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"*

Many of us start out with good intentions, but good intentions can die pretty quickly. So many of us get hyped up, but hype will not sustain you.

Programmes will not sustain you either, programmes do not keep you focussed. We need a word in our heart from the Holy Spirit, which will create a vision, which keeps us focussed. We need to be passionate about what God speaks into our heart.

To stay focussed you need to have a revelation of the Kingdom and be passionate about the Kingdom.

- **Luke 9:62 (Amplified Bible)**

*<sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back [to the things behind] is fit for the kingdom of God.*

Notice it says here no one who puts his hand to the plough should turn back.

How easy it is for people to just walk away from marriages, churches. They are not focussed, they do not have commitment, and there is no loyalty. It is all about self. And self is a destructive thing.

When we start ploughing the fields and start doing new things it is hard work. You do not see results straight away.

***PLOUGH: A plough is a heavy farming tool with a sharp blade or a series of blades breaking up soil and making furrows.***

A lot of ploughing is done in prayer. If we don't spend time with the Father, ploughing is very, very hard work and it is done in the flesh, which takes people off their focus.

But if we rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us and understand that we are a sharp instrument in the hands of God, ploughing, breaking open new ground can be exciting because without ploughing there is not harvest.

Sometimes we must go back to the fallow ground. The Bible tells us to return to the fallow ground.

But Jesus said He would build the church, our job is to be passionate in staying focussed, about the Kingdom

### **Why is passion so important?**

Passionate people are open to the moves of God, but it is important to make sure we are passionate for the right reason, and that this passion is heading in the right direction.

We must be passionate about building the Kingdom of God and seeing people added to the Kingdom and being released into their God given destiny.

- **Romans 12:11 (Amplified Bible)**

*<sup>11</sup>Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavour; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.*

Notice Paul says to be “aglow, burning with the Spirit and serving the Lord.”

**ZEAL: fervour for a person, cause, or object; eager desire or endeavour; enthusiastic diligence; ardour.**

David said zeal for your house has consumed me

- **Psalms 69:9 (New International Version, ©2011)**

*<sup>9</sup> for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.*

Notice David said zeal for the house of God “has consumed me.” David didn’t say zeal for His throne, or His ministry, he was only consumed for relationship.

He stayed focussed on his relationship.

Even though he was going through heaps of trouble he still had passion for the house of God.

We could learn so much from King David, who was called a man after Gods own heart.

We need to be passionate to the Fathers will.

Because passion can be negative as well as positive, we need the Holy Spirit to guide us in our passion and zeal.

- **Romans 10:2 (Amplified Bible)**

<sup>2</sup>*I bear them witness that they have a [certain] zeal and enthusiasm for God, but it is not enlightened and according to [correct and vital] knowledge.*

Paul is saying here, you can have zeal and enthusiasm, not based on truth.

Truth in the inner parts keeps us focussed.

Enthusiastic, emotional messages do not keep us focussed, they just hype us up. But revelation creates a stirring in our heart, stirring people's holy emotions.

Notice he says "that their zeal and enthusiasm is not enlightened according to correct knowledge."

They have a zeal for religion and the ways of man and not the Kingdom. Because in Romans 10:3 Paul says:

- **Romans 10:3 (Amplified Bible)**

<sup>3</sup>*For being ignorant of the righteousness that God ascribes [which makes one acceptable to Him in word, thought, and deed] and seeking to establish a righteousness (a means of salvation) of their own, they did not obey or submit themselves to God's righteousness.*

Notice he says here "they were ignorant of God's righteousness." They wanted to establish another gospel and they would not submit themselves to God's righteousness.

That is why our passion and our zeal must come out of a relationship and a revelation of the kingdom. Paul tells us here that the eyes of our heart should be enlightened.

- **Ephesians 1:18 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>18</sup> *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*

**ENLIGHTENED: A spiritual awakening which stirs passion inside us and zeal.**

**PASSION: Any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling, such as love or hate.**

## FOCUSSED

### F – Faith

- **Hebrews 11:3 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>3</sup> *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

### O – Overcome

- **Revelation 2:7 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>7</sup> *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*

### C - Clarity of Vision

- **Proverbs 29:18 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>18</sup> *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.*

### S - Spirit Led

- **Romans 8:14 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>14</sup> *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

### S – Senses

- **2 Corinthians 5:7 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>7</sup> *For we live by faith, not by sight.*

### E – Eternally Minded

- **Colossians 3:2 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>2</sup> *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

## D – Determined

- **Acts 19:21 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>21</sup> *After all this had happened, Paul decided<sup>[a]</sup> to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must visit Rome also."*

Paul had a very positive attitude. He said to King Agrippa in Acts 26 He stayed focussed to the vision from heaven, he was not disobedient.

- **Acts 26:19 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>19</sup> *"So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.*

We need to keep our attitude right when it comes to staying focussed.

Passion has to have purpose, a reason. Passion without a purpose can be misdirected, it doesn't achieve anything, and this only leads to frustration and anger (the negative side of passion).

- **Psalm 33:11 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>11</sup> *But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.*

- **2 Corinthians 5:5 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>5</sup> *Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

Your attitude is what you think about, if you don't think on these things, your passion can and will diminish.

Your attitude keeps you motivated, moving forward, and to keep you focussed on Christ.

- **Ephesians 4:23 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>23</sup> *to be made new in the attitude of your minds;*

- **Philippians 2:5 (New International Version, ©2011)**

<sup>5</sup> *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

Without the right attitude, pride can creep in, the right attitude keeps you humble and open to correction and focussed.

Passion is a precious thing, it's a gift from God, it's meant to inspire you to other things, to keep you motivated and moving forward. Makes you move into action.

God has passion, He has passion for you, for this world and for any and all of your circumstances and situations.

Passion is often viewed as being too emotional, easily angered, explosive. But this is only one side of passion. Passion with these attributes is mature, God centred passion, destined to achieve the will of God.

## Kingdom Passion

- To grow God's Kingdom
- To glorify God
- Benefits many – continually
- For the people
- Has God's heart
- Takes Ground

## Worldly Passion

- Grows your own kingdom
- Glorifies yourself
- Benefits only a few and only for a short time
- Loses ground to the enemy

Because passion is viewed as bad – we can shy away from it. We don't want passionate people in our teams, in our churches, or as our friends, because they frighten us, or even make us jealous. But without passion, people are hard to motivate, and hard to keep going.

Jesus was passionate about peoples suffering and was moved into action by His love for the people. Without love passion is only self-seeking.

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (New International Version, ©2011)**

*<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.*