

Principles for a Productive Life

Pt. 1: The Passion Principle Col. 3:16-24

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb 5th

Reflection: The antithesis of Energy or Passion is Apathy (*defined as the lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern*). Last week we discussed some:

1. Symptoms of Apathy include:

- A. Self Reliance (Rev. 3:17; Pr. 22:3-5)
- B. Spiritual Blindness (Rev. 3:17; Mt 13:13-15)
- C. Scorning (dismissing) Godly Counsel. (Rev 3:18; Pr. 1:23-32)

2. Causes/complications of Apathy include:

- A. Entropy (Rev. 1:12,13; 2:4; 3:15-21)
- B. Gravity (Mt. 6:19-33; 2 Tim 4:10)
- C. Appetite (Col. 2:8-10; 1 Jn 2:15,16; Phil. 3:18-19)
- D. Poison (1 Jn 1:6-10; 1 Cor 11:30-31) *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you..."*

Direction: This morning we'll focus on Some Solutions to Spiritual (relational) Apathy

1. Recognition (Remembering)

- A. Of our **Role** (our actual condition) Rev 2:4 *"... thou hast left (forsaken) thy first love."*
Rev. 2:5 **Remember** (mnēmoneu'ō: exercise the mind) *from whence thou art fallen"*

God didn't drop us or drive us away, we drifted away!

- B. Of our **Royalty**". (1 Pt 2:9) *"ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..."* (peripoi'ēsis: purchased, preserved, and precious!)

- C. Of our Responsibility. 1 Pt 2:9-11 *"... that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: ... Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"*
(See also Eph. 5:1,2; Mt 5:13-16)

- D. Of the **Road back!** Rev. 3:18 *"I counsel thee to... anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."*

➤ Irritation often precedes Illumination! Gal 4:16 *"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"* John 3:19; 2 Cor. 4:4-6 and 2 Pt 1:5-9

2. Repentance. ***"and Repent"*** Re.2:5

- A. Rebuke often precedes Repentance Rev 3:19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous therefore and repent"* (Metanoe'ō)

- 1) Metanoe'ō literally means "to think differently, reconsider." (Morally to feel compunction)
2 Cor 7:10 *"Godly sorrow worketh repentance"*

- B. Sincere Repentance is necessary for genuine reconciliation (1 Jn 1:5-10)

3. Repeating vs 5 *“and do thy first works”*

A. First: protos: foremost {in time, place or importance}

- 1) Mt 6:33 *“seek ye first the Kingdom of God, & His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto thee”*
- 2) Contrast this with those in Phil 3:14 *“Who mind (phroneo: value, regard) earthly things”*

B. Repetition is the key to learning and the mark of learned/developed discipline.

- 1) Our daily decisions/actions develop our disciplines and determine our destiny. Pr 16:3
“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.” (kûn: prepared, appointed)
Ralph Emmerson: *“Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.”*
- 2) You can't be a “disciple” without discipline. Luke 14:33 *“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not (Apotas'sōmai: arrange in order) all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”*

Where does God fall in your “arranged order?” Do others notice this?

Where should God fall in your priorities? (Col. 1:16-18; Ex. 20:3; Mt. 22:37)

Conclusion:

- Which of these is God's Spirit trying to get you to focus / work on? Rev 2:5
“Remember from whence thou art fallen, and Repent And do (repeat) thy first works!”?
- What's the consequences for ignoring Him? *“...or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”*
- Another word for Repeating is Renewal! This is the heart of God!
Rev. 21:5-7 *“Behold I make all things new! 6 It is done! I am Alpha and Omega. I will give to him that is athirst the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”*

David (*“The man after God's heart”* {Acts 13:22}) knew/experienced this!

Ps 51:6-13 *“thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew (hādash': rebuild, repair) a right (kûn: prepared, ready) spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. (Remember Saul? 1 Sam. 16:14) Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”*

Application:

- 1) Renewal is a Partnership. (1 Cor 3:9) David couldn't renew himself. Ps. 51:16,17
- 2) Renewal is a Process (1 Jn 1:5-10) involving: *Honest recognition (Vs 5-6); Genuine Repentance (7-8); Honest Confession (9-10); and Restoration (7,9)*
James 4:6-10 *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”*

Will you partner with God in this Process? John 10:27; Ps. 23:3

“He restoreth my soul he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”