

# ***Passion Fruit***



## **Have you got the Passion of abiding?**

Why does one person have more passion and desire for the things of God than another who is also in relationship with God? Is it just that God is taking His time with some and moving quickly with others, or that growth is really a process that is out of our personal hands? Can a believer decide for themselves if and when to grow in Christ? Aren't we supposed to work out what God is working in us?

The answer for the difference can be connected directly to the degree and extent that one gives himself or herself over to the process of sanctification by God, that is, the laying aside of the old nature and the willingness to take up the new life in Christ.

The delay in laying aside the old nature which God commits us to, can be seen in the way the world has a hold on us, and can also be seen in our negative reaction to the events and people in the world. Every negative reaction we have, every resistance to change, reveals a

blockage in the flow of His grace, because it indicates an area not given over to the rule and the love of God, and therefore remains, and keeps us connected to our fleshly life. A failure to love as God loves indicates we are living by what we see in the world, rather than looking to what is not seen in the presence and rule of God to will and to do.

This reluctance to lay aside the old nature, or the ignorance of the process itself, produces a blockage of Grace, because our negative reactions are in direct opposition to the work of the Spirit in us to change us into the new life of the mature people of God. Our negative reactions do not reflect a life of faith and trust in our God who promises to keep us and provide for us according to the abounding love and enduring care.

We are told in His word that the evidence of our belonging to God as His children is the indwelling Spirit (Rom 8:9) and that anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does

not belong to Him. This is because the Holy Spirit is the one who produces His life in us so we have His enabling to live the life the Father gives. This is the life we receive when we are baptised into His death so that we can rise into newness of life in Him. (Rom 6:6-8. Gal 3:27) But if we don't have the love of the Spirit we don't show the Spirit of love.

Even with the Spirit, we also know that we are in some part still fleshly (Rom 8:4. Gal 3:3) We are of the Spirit, and the flesh wars against the Spirit. (Rom 8:5-7 Gal 5:17) This requires us to put to death the flesh and its passions and desires by the power of the Holy Spirit, (Rom 8:12 Gal 5:16) we can do this because we are indeed children of God. (Rom 8:14) We are told to persistently put off the old nature and put on the new man in Christ. (Eph 4:22-24) We do this because we are children who have forsaken all to be able to cry out to God, Abba, Father. As we have received Christ Jesus then we need to walk in Him. Col 2:6

Because He is from God and doing the work of God, the Holy Spirit in the believer keenly hungers and thirsts for our righteousness. He always desires God's will and God's purpose in our life. He inspires our faith and inflames our passion and desire to be all that our Father God wants for us as His children. He abounds in the love and commitment to the Father that was typical of Christ in His life.

Therefore the fruit of His life should be evident in our life, because in a real sense, He is our life. (Gal 2:20, 5:22-23) Therefore a lack of His passion can reveal a real need in our understanding, or it may unveil a lukewarm attitude in our heart in our commitment to our Father to be His beloved holy children.

Our continuing attachments to the world causes blockages which suppresses His love in its flow to us, and it blocks our ears to His voice, and darkens our vision to His reality, because we see and hear far too much from the fallen world around us. Our blockages

ensure we are still prone to take our cues from the world rather than from God our Father.

Our passion and desire for God is directly connected to the intent and commitment we show in seeking God and His Kingdom above everything else in our life; because our passion and desire is directly connected to the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart. Having a Godly passion therefore means we will be actively dedicated to putting off all our attachments to the world, and laying aside every encumbrance, so that the Spirit of God can do His work in us to present us mature in Christ.

Col 1:28

This Passion and Desire that develops in the heart of the devoted disciple does not really belong to the individual as such, but is more a result of the fruit of the Spirit of God as He takes up residence in the hearts of willing believers. The passion which is evident in the hungry is just another expression of the

dynamic love of God in action in someone's life. How much should we give for Him?

The Lord Jesus wants us to have a passion for Him that exceeds that we have for mother or father, brother or sister, or even life itself. *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”*

Matt 10:37-39

What examples does our God give us of passionate people? Jesus was always passionate. Peter, after Pentecost was passionate. Paul was passionate until his death. John on Patmos was passionate, and there were many, many more. So we see different people, with different circumstances, and different personalities, but the same passionate Spirit of God. It is God who is at work in us, to will and to do for His good

pleasure in making us to be like Himself. This Passion for the love of God can only come as we willing and earnestly abide in Him and submit to His rule. Only then can we be mature fellow workers with Him.

Our absolute surrender and earnest desire for His fellowship produces the fruit of the Spirit's passion in a receptive heart. This is what it means to abide in Him.

### **The abiding example of the Son of God**

*"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

*If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”*

John 14:10-15

The claim of Jesus to be one with God in such an absolute way was indeed something new, and the completeness of this unity of Father and Son is what guarantees Jesus always reveals God the Father to us. Jesus loved the Father more than life itself; and because of His love for our Father He fulfilled the commandments.

It is this oneness of love the Father and Son share which the Lord cherishes so much that it resulted in His obedience to the Father, so much so that the Son never acts independently or on His own initiative. Because of their love, the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father, inseparable by choice, indistinguishable in purpose, uncompromising in faithfulness, steadfast in commitment, and determined to succeed in achieving their common goal of salvation for the world.

This eternally unified loving relationship means the Son will never speak a word which is not from the Father, because the Father abides in the Son and the Son in the Father. There is never a hint of another opinion or another plan; therefore God does His work through the Son who shows us the love of the Father at work.

The Son shows us that God only does His work because the Son abides in the Father's love while the Father abides in the Him. It is therefore impossible to suggest that the Son can do anything that is not from the Father, and it is just as impossible for the Son to do the work of the Father without abiding in the Father's love.

This absolute oneness of unity made possible by love is what produces divine fruitfulness of Father and Son, (v10-v11) and it is the same fruitfulness which results from this uncompromising unity that the obedient believer can expect as they lovingly abide in

the Son. (v12-14) However God's fruitfulness working through the believer is dependent on keeping Jesus' commandments because we love Him. (v15) This abiding unity is only possible because the believer is born again of God by God's Spirit. (John 3:3, 5-6) And because of that new birth, help is promised so the believer can be a vessel for God to work from.

### **The Lord Jesus promised divine assistance to those who love Him**

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.” “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*

John 14:16 26

From what the Lord has said, John 14 lays the foundation for our understanding of what it means to abide in the vine in John 15. From His teaching, we are to clearly understand that our abiding in the life of Jesus Christ is meant to produce the fruitful work of God.

Consequently, the disciples must abide in Christ. *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My*

*commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."*

John 15:4-11

### **Abiding in love means fruitfulness**

Abiding in the love of Jesus means His works will be produced in those who attach themselves securely to Him. Our abiding love in Christ follows the Lord's example on the same basis of the unified life He has with the Father.

If we abide in His love we can ask what we will and it will be done because it will be consistent with the life of the Father and the Son.

The overall purpose of abiding in Christ is the abundant fruitfulness which glorifies the Father; and it is this fruitfulness which proves the fruit bearing branch to be a disciple of Jesus.

John 15:8

## **Abiding means living in love**

The Lord Jesus speaks of the love He shares with God the Father; this love is also available to the abiding branches. As He abides in the Father's love and subsequently produces fruit, so we are commanded to abide in His love so we can produce fruit for Him.                      John 15:9

The Lord calls on all those who would follow Him to follow His example of loving obedience to the Father. Love works its passion in the lover to work the works of the beloved. His loving obedience to the Father's commandments resulted in God working through Him. Now that valued fruitfulness which comes from loving obedience to Him, ensures we will abide in His love; just as His obedience to the Father guaranteed He would abide in the Father's love.                      John 15:10

The explanation of a fruitful life through loving obedience which result in God's abiding love was for the benefit of the disciples so that the Joy of the Lord would be

in them, and their joy would be made complete; they would be completely filled with happiness. John 15:11

If we lack the passion of Christ and His Spirit we might ask ourselves, is God just taking His time in our life so that we can remain comfortable in our old state of existence? It would seem not. So, do we have a passion for making disciples and teaching them to obey all Jesus commanded for His disciples?

### **Lacking the fire of the Spirit of God**

Many want to excuse the lack of commitment in some by saying everyone is on their own journey. But there are only three things which put out the Spirit's fire in our hearts.

1. We are not in Christ and don't have the Spirit at all. Rom8:9

2. We have too much of an interest in the world, so the treasures of our heart involves earthly things. Matt6:22 Rom 8:5-6

3. We sleep in our faith and lack the hunger of passionate obedience to please our Lord and King in all we do. Eph 5:14

If we lack the fire of God bursting forth from our hearts, as Jesus indicated, (John 7:38) we cannot blame God or assume He doesn't want all those in Christ to be flaming fires and fruitful servants. It is God's will we are all changed into the image of His Son. Rom 8:29

God has no favourites, (Roma 2:11) if we have the anointing of His Spirit secured in our hearts, (1 John 2:20) we have all of Him, without limit. John 3:34

If we lack the passion of His fire, our minds are not fixed on Him to obey all He commands; instead we look to earthly things, we listen to the call of the world and mere men, so we don't hear or obey our God. We live as if our home is on earth and not in heaven. Our feeble defence of apathy only entrenches the condition; we don't help their growth in Christ.

*'Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.'*

1 Pet 5:8

So we are constantly challenged by the forces of darkness, (Eph 6:10-20) every moment of our day, to find meaning in the world and the things of the world and to forget God.

God said "*This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!*" Matt 17:5

Listed to Jesus Christ and obey Him, for He is the only way, the only truth and the only life.  
John 14:6

Jesus says, "*He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*"  
Rev 3:21

If we want more passion, and desire more of God's love, we need to re-examine our attachments to the world, and put to death that which is earthly in us. (Rom 8:13) We are to

work out our salvation because the Father, Son and Spirit are working in us for our highest good. Phil 2:12-14

We can have the passion of Christ, for the Spirit empowers us to lay aside the old fleshly nature which robs us of passion for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ so we can put on the Christ life. *'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'* Rom 8:11

*'But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.'* Rom 13:14

This love for Christ is what instills passion in His disciples.

The Lord Jesus is concerned with the kingdom of God being made alive in us and through us.

If we lack the qualities of the Spirit's life and the power of God to live the life of an overcomer, reborn in His image, and we strongly desire to succeed, we only need to ask. *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”*

Matt 7:7-8

This is His word of assurance; we can have the passion of God to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Phil 2:13

The passion of Christ should give us a passion for Christ and His work. Passion for Christ is another way of describing abiding in Christ.

Passion is an intense emotion, or strong eagerness or desire for something highly valued. Christ's obedience revealed His passion for God our Father. Now it's our turn for passionate obedience.

Abide in His love

# *Living Water Resoucs*

*Come to the River*

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