

## Chapter 1 : Oswald J. Smith Quotes (Author of The Passion For Souls)

*Indeed, our passion for winning souls will increase as our passion for Christ Himself and our walk with Him become stronger. Two of the best ways to strengthen our Christian walk are to read His Word daily and to pray continually.*

By Pastor Rick Warren Passion is what energizes life. It turns the impossible into possible. God made you to live a passionate life and to serve him and his people with vitality. He wants you to have this in your life. Life is meant to be enjoyed, not merely endured. Sadly, however, countless thousands of pastors and ministry leaders are simply enduring, holding on for the ride and hoping to survive until death without blowing it too badly. The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1: He will never give up on you. The life that God plans for you is not a mundane boring life. It is an adventurous life. I want to share with you a few ways to reignite your passion for life and ministry. Rediscover and redefine your purpose. Passion and purpose go together. The more purpose driven you are, the more you know your purpose for both living and leading, the more passionate you become because purpose creates passion. Brent Hobbs defines passion this way: And Charles Spurgeon said it this way: I no more believe it possible to stop ministers, than to stop the stars of heaven. The man who has been moved of heaven, who shall stop him? He has been touched of God, who shall impede him? Is not his word like a fire within me? Must I not speak if God has placed it there? And when a man does speak as the Spirit gives him utterance, he will feel a holy joy akin to heaven; and when it is over he wishes to be at his work again, and longs to be once more preaching. I do not think young men are called of God to any great work who preach once a week, and think they have done their duty. I think if God has called a man, he will impel him to be more or less constantly at it, and he will feel that he must preach among the nations the unsearchable riches of Christ. Why are you living? Why are you leading? Answering those questions will drive you forward with renewed passion. We all need a balance between rest and work, between input and between output. The Bible tells us that there is a rhythm to life, there is time and purpose for everything, a time to work and a time to rest; a time to strive, a time to have fun. Pastors and ministry leaders are always giving out. You need fun time in your life, you need rest in your life in order to keep your passion maintained. He loves you and wants time with you, his child. Then you can preach and serve out of the overflow of what God is doing in your own life. Share your faith Yes, you preach or teach weekly, or you write devotionals , or you share the word in some other capacity on Sunday. But your inner passion will be renewed as you personally share your faith in Jesus with others, and almost nothing reignites passion more quickly than a conversation that leads to talking about Jesus. If you want to stay fresh, if you want to stay vital, if you want to stay alive in your life and ministry, let me give you a little habit to develop. Tell somebody about God. The happiest most joyful people I know are always sharing the love of God with others. Let me ask you a very important question. How long has it been since you talked with anybody about Jesus Christ outside the church walls? How long has it been since you told anybody about what God has done for you? I need to remind you that the starting point to reigniting your passion is to remember what God thinks about you. Did you know that God is passionate about you? How do I know that? Look at Jesus on the cross. So redefine your purpose, realign your schedule , nourish your soul, and share your faith. Your passion will reignite and God will use you as never before!

Chapter 2 : A Passion For Souls Sermon by Dan Thompkins, Matthew - calendrierdelascience.com

*The Soul's Passion for God: Selected Writings of Teresa of Avila (Upper Room Spiritual Classics. Series 1) (Upper Room Spiritual Classics Series 1) [Keith Beasley-Topliffe] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

How to get a burden for the lost? How to get a heart for the lost? What does the Bible say about the lost? Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. Abide in Jesus i. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. No one comes to the Father except through me. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. The two greatest commandments are loving God, and loving one another. How can we impact people we do not love? How can we have a passion for people we do not even think about? Let us pray that God will stir up in us a deep love for him and for others he has placed around us. Let us pray that God will help us to give each one what we owe them: He made himself reachable, available, and approachable. He continues to be the same today. Reach out â€” with no strings attached, and with no condemnation, like Jesus. See an example of how Jesus showed passion and compassion to an adulterous woman in John 8: Let us continually practice loving others as Jesus has loved us. Let us continually sow seeds of love, not those of hate and condemnation. Share with others what God has done for you, and what a difference Christ has made in your life. Let your life, words and actions be a witness to others. Reach out with words and acts of kindness as God grants you the opportunity. Keep Reading â€” Devotional Continues on the next page! Thank you Thank you Thank you for sharing!

*The Soul's Passion for God has 5 ratings and 0 reviews. These selected writings of Teresa of Avila are divided into 14 accessible segments that encourage.*

A Burning Passion for God Luke From this love will flow the desire, the anointing, and the ability to be His disciples. Our days are filled with so many good things, blinding us to the simplicity of realizing there is only one BEST thing—to love, serve, worship, praise, and be thankful to God. Jesus said that loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength is the first and greatest commandment Mark This commandment, combined with the command to love our neighbor Leviticus And the second is like it: It is identified in these ways: Jesus petitioned the Father to bring the unity of all believers for all generations to come. The oneness Jesus desired was for the church to share the same love for and obedience to the Father that he had. This oneness can only be recognized as such because it will bear witness to the very mission and heart of Christ. When he came back to his disciples, it was as the last Adam 1 Corinthians He came to them on the Day of Pentecost as the life-giving spirit Acts 1: This judgment was based on the morally blameless character of Jesus and it brought conviction for sin, bringing sincere worshippers to a state of repentance. Jesus was able to advocate on their behalf, and as they confessed their sins to the Father, he was able to cleanse their conscience from their unrighteousness and bring newness of purity and life to spirit and soul. They no longer obeyed the ordinance of the Law given to Moses, which was written on tablets of stone. Rather, they obeyed God from within, because He had now written His laws upon the fleshly tablets of their hearts. The outward evidence demonstrated the inner righteousness they experienced. Good works do not necessarily produce good character. Good character always produces good works. Jesus says that if we truly love God and our neighbor, it will naturally follow that we keep the commandments. Rather than worrying about all we should not do, we should concentrate on all we CAN do to demonstrate our love for God and others. If our hearts have grown lukewarm, how do we get back to a burning passion for God? The pathway to restoring our passion for God is to love one another as Christ loved us by laying down His life for us. Jesus Christ gave up the normal comforts and joys of this life. The ONLY way a believer can progressively grow in his or her recognition and understanding of God is by loving each other sacrificially. God IS love, and so it automatically follows that if one does not love his brethren, he does not know God, nor can he become better acquainted with God. Verses nine and ten presents a case for God; His display of love was to sacrifice His only begotten, His unique, one and only son for a bunch of ungrateful and messed up sinners. Maybe this illustration is a feeble one, but perhaps it can help us understand that God the Father felt great pain as He watched evil men brutalize His beloved Jesus, just so we could have eternal life. The graphic image of God the Father watching His dearly beloved child Jesus suffer in agony, subjecting him to this kind of treatment, and willingly feeling the pain and grief because He loves us so very much should paint a clear picture of the way He expects us to love one another. But if we love one another, God abides lives and remains in us and His love that love which is essentially His is brought to completion to its full maturity, runs its full course, is perfected in us! This simple principle has eluded most of the Christian churches throughout North America and the so-called free world. Christians are taught that a burning passion and love for God is found in their prayer closet, or in a worship service at church. Prayer is essential, but to have the love of God maturing in our hearts and lives, we simply must love one another. God is love, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God, and God dwells and continues in him. How did Jesus live in this world? How was he treated, and how did he treat others? How did he respond to hatred, and the cruelty of those that despised him? What was his attitude toward the sinner? God commands us to forgive those that hate us, and to pray for our enemies. He wants us to sacrifice our time, feelings, and material possession as an increasing expression of love to each other and to the world. Considering our human-ness, our frailty, our tendency to fail, the task seems daunting, and even impossible. Then, having asked, we must ACT upon our faith, and put it into motion by doing what the hand finds to do, and meeting the need at hand. Christians get afraid when they stop loving, or deviate from a life of love toward others. This is something we do from the heart. It is faith working through love; it is faith with

works. It is the living and continual walk of obedience, listening to, and obediently responding to the voice of the Good Shepherd. This is true love for God—a burning passion. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me. And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?

**Chapter 4 : What Does the Bible Say About Passion?**

*Series 25 Study 3 GETTING A PASSION FOR SOULS. WINNING THE LOST TO THE SAVIOUR. by Francis Dixon. There are some themes we shall always feel unqualified to speak on, yet they are so vital that we dare not overlook them.*

Click the play button to listen. Right-click or hold down on the Cloud icon to download MP3 audio. Read or print the word-for-word transcript below for further study. Romans 9, beginning to read at verse 1, and I had this message in mind before even last weekend, and our brother Alistair Quigley, in the morning in particular, had a very similar message concerning the need to reach out to the lost. I really feel that in the shadow of next weekend, and indeed every opportunity on a regular basis that we have to reach the lost, we need to be reminded about the passion we ought to have for them, and ask ourselves whether or not we have lost it. Chapter 9 of Romans verse 1, Paul says: For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Let us pray for a moment: Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone. Lord, speak to all our hearts this morning, reveal Christ to us. Yet, our Father, we pray that just for this moment or two we would set aside those things if we can, and by Your help we will focus on this great need. We find that Paul had an all-consuming passion for lost souls that was always there within his breast - especially for his kinsfolk, his Jewish brothers and sisters. Someone has said that the epitaph of our society should be this: In New York City, a mailman was shot by a sniper. He staggered into the lobby of a hotel, and because he was dripping blood on the carpet he was thrown out, and he died. In Oklahoma City a woman gave birth unexpectedly on the sidewalk, and bystanders turned their heads away from her. A taxi pulled up and saw what was happening, and then drove away. There is apathy in the world, has that apathy of the world infected the church? So before he was saved he was a zealous blasphemer, and after he was converted he became a zealous proclaimer of the good news. He was wholehearted in the service of Satan, and then when God got hold of him he became wholehearted in his service to Christ. But I think it has to be said, and I find this is a problem myself, that so often when it comes to reaching out to others with the gospel, our hearts are just not in it! The best we can do, it would seem, is to drum up an artificial concern for special occasions like next weekend. I wonder can we say that? Do we have a passion for lost souls, or have we lost the passion? Paul was different, for in these first three verses of chapter 9 we find that he had an all-consuming passion for lost souls that was always there within his breast - especially for his kinsfolk, his Jewish brothers and sisters, whether it be in his immediate family, or in the vicinity of the neighbourhood where he grew up, or where he was at the present moment. Wherever it was, he particularly had a heart for his own countrymen. Can we say with Mary Booth: Infused with a passion to pray; Oh! One thing is sure about the apostle Paul: Is that your desire? What a preacher of the gospel the apostle Paul must have been! First we see his love, then we see his compassion, and then we see his earnestness for the lost. Now I know it was said of the apostle that his speech was contemptible, and his bodily presence weak - but one thing is sure about the apostle Paul: Indeed, he preached with a melting love, a Calvary love - and his words, as they went forth, were like sparks that would set the coldest heart aflame for Jesus Christ. If I could put it like this: Listen to a couple of verses. He likened his love to the saints that he had birthed by the preaching of the gospel, to childbirth and the agony of it. Philippians 1 verse 8 is another example: Meyer, that great Bible teacher, said these words: Remember the Lord Jesus, who looked over Jerusalem and said: He wept over a rebellious, gainsaying people. Here we have Paul doing the same in Romans 9: We get so close to the Master that we are infected by His passion for dying, lost souls; we will find ourselves like Paul. Well, let me answer that question by asking another question: Take a husband and a wife: You can second-guess them, why? Paul is feeling the compassion of Christ for lost souls, why? Because he has such an intimacy with the Lord Jesus! That is found in communion. What he is wanting to do is lay stress on the fact that this love for lost people, this passion, is not pretentious. Then he gives it to us in the negative: He speaks of his good conscience: So his conscience is right, as far as this is concerned. It might well be that the apostle was suffering physical pain! Paul here in verse 1, this is what I want you to grasp, is at pains to stress the genuineness of his love for the lost Jewish men and women of his

country. Now, why is he stressing this so definitely? Well, first of all, you see, the Jews hated him. They hated him, he was a traitor. Once he was their greatest propagandist, and now he was a traitor to the cause and had turned to the other side, as far as they were concerned - but he wanted them to know that no matter how much they hated him, he loved them. The second reason he is at pains to stress the genuineness of his passion is: Now move on to verse 2, please: Now literally that could be translated like this: In other words, this Paul the apostle was not an uncommitted bystander - and I challenge you, my friend, are you? Are you involved in winning the lost? The prophets suffered the same. Sure, what do we know of that? Where are your tears? A cold, unfeeling, dry-eyed religion has no influence over the souls of men! All great men and women of God, who ever did a great work for God were broken spirits with wet eyes. Jeremiah we have read about, he compared his weeping to a fountain of waters, a river of tears. Paul, four times, described himself serving the Lord with all humility and with many tears. Our greatest example surely is the Man of Sorrows Now, imagine me asking evangelical, fundamentalist Christians in the Iron Hall a question like this: Do you believe it? Or do you just give mental and emotional assent to it? Well, for Paul, his belief in it meant that his charity began at home, his kinsfolk. Charity begins at home, our family. The rich man in hell was too late: The rich man was too late. What is it costing you to win the lost? Is it costing you any time, any money, inconvenience? Is it costing food on the table, sweat from your brow, blood and tears? How it affected Paul. He says in verse 3: He describes delivering up his soul to the judicial wrath of God for sin. We read in Exodus So in the light of that verse, what is it costing me, what is it costing you to win the lost? Isaiah, the evangelistic prophet, said: True love is always costly. Love is the outgoing of the entire nature in self-sacrificing service to Christ and to the lost. Paul here in this chapter is like a spark from the heart of Christ, His heart of substitutionary love, His heart that went all the way to Calvary and was broken for us. Is it what it used to be? How much do you love the lost? It was compassion that passed the test of Christ, and passed the test of the Holy Ghost - would yours? I think if we loved like this, the prayer meeting would be full! Our outreach teams would be overloaded. Maybe we have to think of forgetting getting them in, and get out. We would rise early, we would stay up late pleading for souls. We would fast for souls.

**Chapter 5 : Ablaze With A Passion For Souls By Wesley L. Duetel - Sermon Index**

*For other sermons and tools to grow your ministry, visit [calendrierdelascience.com](http://calendrierdelascience.com) REIGNITING YOUR PASSION FOR GOD. BY RICK WARREN. The creative force behind all great art, all great drama, all great music, all great architecture, all great writing is passion.*

We ended up at a local coffee shop where Heather asked a slew of questions. I mentioned a Sunday morning class I would soon be teaching and a discipleship group being offered that summer. She dropped her eyes, and I sensed a bit of hesitation. I just want to, you know, get excited about itâ€¦really live it. She was searching for something to engage her heart. But how do we pass on our love for God? I went home that day and began to take inventory: What had helped me move from knowing about God to a loving relationship with Him? As I began to share the following ideas with Heather, I watched her transform from a woman who simply professed Christ into a passionate follower. Express your commitment daily. Three basic principles have helped deepen my relationship with Jesus. When Heather began to practice them, she found they made a world of difference in her love for God. Sure, He already knows. But by going to God first with the things that are closest to my heart, I reaffirm to Him and to myself that He is the most important person in my life. I take God seriously when I find out what He loves and cling to it, and when I become aware of what He hates and avoid it at all costs. I explained to Heather that taking God seriously means I prioritize my life so that nothing steals time from nurturing my relationship with Him. Trusting Him fully means I take my greatest fears to Him and place them at His feet. Heather and I talked about how to acknowledge that God is in control of our lives and how to trust Him to shape us for His purposes Romans 8: Look for God all around you. After Heather joined my Jazzercise class, we explored how each workout could be an expression of praise to God for the bodies and health He has given us. She began to see that worship could be incorporated into every facet of her life. Bringing God to our Jazzercise class brought up the question of how to look for Him and how to praise Him everywhere we go and in everything we do. I told Heather about the day I took my daughter, Dana, to see Hercules. Although the movie is based on Greek mythology, one scene paralleled what Jesus did for us. After Hercules died to rescue the woman he loved, he became immortal. Now He lives eternally, and so will we! We can find God and examples of His story anywhere: As I showed Heather how to be alert to God in everyday life, her relationship with Him began to encompass everything she did, not just church and Bible study. The next time Heather and I got together, I told her what makes me want to meet with God every day. She was interested to hear that I originally set a daily appointment with God out of obligation. But after discovering some meaningful ways to get into His Word and to worship Him, I began coming to Him because I wanted to. The more I lingered with Him, the more my love grew. I suggested that Heather incorporate the following elements into a regular time with God. Spend time in the Psalms. Together, we paraphrased a Psalm, personalized it, and prayed it back to God. We even sang one. Heather was excited to realize that some of the songs we sing in church come straight from Scripture. Put yourself in the picture. I showed Heather how to read one of the stories in the gospels and put herself in the place of one of the characters. How would it feel to be talking to Jesus face-to-face? What would He tell her? What might He be saying to her now about a personal situation? As Heather began to experience Jesus as a person, not just a belief, reading the Bible became something she looked forward to. The ideas I shared with Heather were meaningful to her because they came out of my personal pursuit of God. The ways you maintain a love relationship with God will likely be different from mine. She has nearly 30 years experience ministering to women and inspiring them to let God meet their emotional needs, grow stronger through their alone times, and pursue their dreams with boldness.

**Chapter 6 : Jim Caviezel Chooses Films to 'Bring Most Souls to Christ' After Heartbreaking Message From**

*A Burning Passion for God Luke And they said one to another, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" To love the Lord our God is the heart of a disciple's mission, ministry, and purpose.*

I pray often for lost people to come to salvation. I try to preach the gospel faithfully. You hear about people giving up a kidney for someone who needs a donor, which is a noble sacrifice. But giving up your eternal salvation! Maybe you do, too. The mood of Romans shifts dramatically in chapter 9. Paul ends chapter 8 rejoicing in the glorious fact that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. But then he abruptly shifts gears, telling of his great sorrow and unceasing grief, even to the point of wishing that he could be separated from Christ, on account of the sad spiritual condition of the Jews. In spite of their great spiritual privileges, for the most part they were alienated from their Messiah. Some of it is difficult to understand and even if you understand it, some of it is difficult to accept. Romans 9 is one of the strongest statements on the sovereignty of God in the Bible, and many struggle with that doctrine. But the Bible is clear that sinners are responsible to repent and believe in Christ. Rather, Paul brings up that topic to support the main theme. He ends the chapter with the strong assurance that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God. But if you know anything about the Old Testament, that raises a huge problem. God promised to bless them and to bless all nations through them. And many of them were also persecuting those like Paul who claimed that Jesus was their Messiah. So the problem is: How do we know that nothing can separate us as His chosen people from His love in Christ, when in fact the Jews are separated from Christ? That question governs Romans. He does so in part because many Jews accused Paul of abandoning his own people for the sake of the despised Gentiles. Paul affirms also the privileged spiritual position of the Jews. But this raises the question 9: Then He chose Jacob, not Esau 9: But this raises the further question 9: He ends the chapter 9: Salvation is available to all who will believe. Does this mean that God has permanently rejected the Jews. No, just as God in the past worked through a remnant, so He is doing now. But, this is not the final picture, since God has promised a glorious future for Israel. Their present rejection of the gospel has opened the door to the Gentiles, to make Israel jealous. But the Gentiles need to be careful not to become proud. If God broke off Israel for their unbelief, He could do the same with the Gentiles. We should be burdened for the salvation of lost souls because the love of Christ impels us 9: First, he has just finished 8: Second, in 1 Corinthians. Third, in 2 Corinthians 5: It is possible to have great sorrow over the lost at the same time that we have great joy in Christ. On the other hand, if I were so filled with the joy of my salvation that I never felt any sorrow or grief for the lost, I would be very self-centered and calloused. I need both the joy of salvation that moves me to want others to know the same joy, along with sorrow over the sad condition of the lost, so that I reach out to them with kindness and compassion. We should be especially burdened for the salvation of those with whom we share a natural affinity. This is not to say that we should not cross social, cultural, linguistic, or national barriers to share the good news. How will such people hear unless someone goes to tell them. After all, Paul the Pharisaical Jew was called to be the apostle to the Gentiles. But it is to say that God has given us a natural affinity with some around us. Paul the Jew had a great burden for his fellow Jews. Your World Delivered [Professional Press], revised as 8 to Through us He wants to get the gospel to these people. Identify those people in your life, begin to pray for them, and ask God for opportunities to show His love and grace to them either in deed or word. But, maybe some of those 8 to 15 people have hurt you or treated you badly. We should be burdened especially for the salvation of those who have hurt us the most. Who persecuted Paul just about everywhere he went? Who was Paul most burdened for? That would be unwise. But I am saying that you should pray often for the salvation of those who hurt you. And, if you do have contact, you can respond to any verbal abuse or meanness with the kindness and love of Christ. That is such a radical statement that Paul felt the need to say 9: But before God, Paul testifies that he had such deep concern for the Jews that he would be willing to give up his salvation if it meant that they could be saved! How should we understand it? Without going into various interpretations, I think that Paul is speaking hypothetically. He is free to show mercy to

some and to harden others 9: But we need to show compassion to all, knowing that God will use the display of His love through us to save those who believe and to judge those who refuse to believe. So pray that the love of Christ will control you to such an extent that you show His love even to those who mistreat you, who deserve His judgment. Ask Him to give you a burden for the lost. But, we need to focus briefly on 9: That should be our motive as we bear witness of Christ. We should be especially burdened for the salvation of those who enjoy the greatest spiritual privileges. The Jews had unique spiritual privileges, but they were lost. Great spiritual privileges will not save anyone unless they respond to these privileges. The fallen human heart is spiritually dead Rom. The difficulty with many lost people is that they trust in their religious privileges, not in the Savior. What a tragedy to be religiously zealous, but lost! Paul lists nine spiritual privileges that God gave to the Jews. First, they were Israelites. The name focuses on the descendants of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. Third, they had the glory. What an amazing privilege! Fifth, they received the law Exod. God revealed the various feasts and sacrifices that Israel was to observe. Eighth, they were descended from the fathers of the Jewish faith, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Finally, they were the race that brought the Christ according to the flesh into the world. This applies to you if you were raised in a Christian home and grew up in the church. Do you realize how privileged you are? But your great spiritual privileges will become great spiritual liabilities that will testify against you at the judgment if you do not repent of your sins and trust in Christ. As great a privilege as it is to be exposed to these truths, each person must repent and believe for these privileges to become blessings. Make sure that your family or friends who grew up in the church truly know Christ as Savior and Lord. The salvation of lost people requires that they come to know Jesus Christ as God in human flesh. It balances the affirmation of His humanity in the preceding phrase. The Greek word order favors it. A joyful doxology seems out of place here and would be an abrupt change of subject. The early Fathers, whose native language was Greek, understood it this way. And, there are other texts where Paul clearly refers to Jesus as God Phil. But ask God to give you a burden for the lost. Pray for the lost, especially those you have frequent contact with. When God gives the opportunity, share the gospel with the lost. Pray for missionaries and give so that they can take the gospel to those who have never heard about Christ. And, perhaps some of you will sense that God is calling you to cross cultural and linguistic barriers to take the gospel to the lost. Application Questions Do you give much thought or prayer to the horrible situation of lost people? How can you change this?

## Chapter 7 : How to Reignite Your Passion for Ministry

*A Passion for the Lost - Bible Verses about Passion for the Lost Souls, Burden for Souls, Burden for the Lost (Sermon & Scripture), Jesus' Passion & Compassion for the Lost.*

Brian Alarid Do you have a burden for the lost souls around you? My ambition is the souls of men! For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race. The men and women who have made the greatest impact throughout church history—such as John Wesley, George Whitefield, Hudson Taylor and D. Moody—had this same zeal to see people far from God get saved. How can we develop this same kind of burden for unbelievers? I believe there are two primary keys to developing a passion for souls—prayer and proximity. Get Spirit-filled content delivered right to your inbox! [Click here to subscribe to our newsletter.](#) Evangelism—the process of helping people far from God get close to God—should always begin with prayer. Talk to Jesus about your friends before you talk to your friends about Jesus. When you spend quality time with Jesus, His burdens will become your burdens and His values will become your values. John Hyde, a well-known missionary to India, experienced this firsthand. When he arrived on the mission field in , he discovered there were only one other missionary and three Christian women in the state of Punjab, which had a population of about 1 million people at the time. Winning India for Christ seemed like a daunting task. In , after 16 years of missionary work with very little fruit to show for his labors, Hyde drastically changed his strategy. He felt challenged by the Holy Spirit to pray for a whole year for one soul to be saved every day in India. Many of his fellow missionaries thought that was utterly absurd. It seemed impossible, but over people got saved over the course of the next 12 months. The following year, the Holy Spirit challenged Hyde to stretch his faith and pray for two souls every day. He would often pray all night until he felt confident that two people had surrendered their lives to Christ that day. He doubled his prayer target once more the following year—eight souls a day! What was the secret to his power in prayer? People who knew John personally witnessed him pray passionately for the salvation of the lost. He would repeat this simple and yet powerful phrase over and over again with tears streaming down his face: Your proximity to unbelievers, how close you are to them relationally, often determines how much impact you will have on them. You will have more influence with friends than with strangers. In order to develop a meaningful relationship that serves as the springboard for sharing your faith with people, you have to get close to them and earn their trust. Studd said it best, "Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell. Maewyn Succat was captured in Great Britain and taken to Ireland as a slave when he was 16 years old. He escaped after six years of slavery and returned home to his family. Sensing a call from God to return to Ireland as a missionary, he became a priest and took the name Patrick. Over the course of his ministry, he founded over churches and baptized more than , people. It was said of Patrick that he "found Ireland all heathen and left it all Christian. You cannot bring enemies to Jesus. They must become your friends first. Before people trust Jesus they want to know if YOU can be trusted. The closer you get to Jesus, the more you will love people; and the closer you get to people, the greater your impact on them will be. Take a few minutes today to pray and ask God to give you a greater burden and passion to reach the people in your circle of influence who are far from God. The most important thing you can do with your life is to lead people to Jesus. Therefore spend, and be spent in this work. Help Charisma stay strong for years to come as we report on life in the Spirit. [Click here to keep us strong!](#)

**Chapter 8 : A Burning Passion for God**

*PASSION FOR SOULS by Oswald J. Smith Let us turn to the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter nine, verses thirty-five to thirty-eight: It has never been God's.*

How do I get a passion for Jesus? Here is some guidance in how to bring that about from Scripture: Get to know God and what He has done for you. Before the command to love God is given in Deuteronomy 6: This also involves getting to know what He has done for us. Again, before the first command is given in Exodus Likewise, in Romans To grow in love with God, one needs to get to know Him. He has revealed Himself in nature Romans 1 , but so much more through His Word. We need to make daily Bible study a perpetual habit—“as much a part of our lives as eating every day. We must read the Bible as a letter from Him, asking His Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts about what He wants us to glean from it that day. Memorizing important verses and passages is also essential, as is thinking of ways to apply what we learn Joshua 1: When we examine the life of Jesus as well as that of Daniel and others who had a passion for God, we find that prayer was a vital ingredient in their relationships with God even a quick reading of the gospels and the Book of Daniel reveals this. As with Bible study, prayer—“sincere and open communication with God—“is essential. Prayer is part of the armor against our greatest enemies Ephesians 6: We may have a desire to love God, but we will fail in our walk without prayer Matthew Daniel and his three friends chose to obey God and refused to compromise in even the food they ate Daniel 1. The others who were brought from Judah to Babylon as prisoners with them caved in and are never mentioned again. When the Jewish prisoners of war had their convictions challenged in a far greater way, it was only these few who stood alone for God Daniel 3 and 6. In order to ensure that we will be passionate for God later, we need to walk with Him now and begin to obey Him in the smallest tests! As we invest our lives in God through serving Him and being on the receiving end of persecution for Him, our treasure will increasingly lie with Him, and so will our hearts 1 Timothy 3: Jesus said it is impossible to have two masters Matthew 6: We are tempted to love the world those things which please our eyes, make us feel good about ourselves, and gratify our fleshly desires 1 John 2: James says that to seek to embrace the world and its friendship is enmity hatred toward God and spiritual adultery James 4: We need to get rid of those things in our lives friends who would lead us the wrong way, things that take up our time and energy and keep us from serving God more fully, pursuit of popularity, pursuit of possessions, and the pursuit of physical and emotional gratifications. God promises that if we pursue Him, He will not only provide for our needs Matthew 6: It is not uncommon to have dips in a relationship. Peter dipped in his Luke John, in Revelation 2: This would include those items mentioned above. The first step in this is confession and receiving the forgiveness and restored fellowship that are the result of that confession 1 John 1: There is no doubt that God will bless the pursuit of a passion for Him and will glorify His name through it.

## Chapter 9 : Snatching Souls from the Fire

*A passion for souls grows out of a passion for Christ. A passion for missions builds upon a passion for Christ. The most crucial danger to a Christian, whatever his role, is to lack a passion of Christ.*

How can I gain a passion for winning souls? Winning souls is, essentially, the process of evangelizing or witnessing, which is simply communicating the message of salvation to unbelievers. As our Father in heaven does not want anyone to perish 2 Peter 3: Witnessing, however, is less about what we do for the Lord as it is about what He does through us, and this requires a surrendered heart filled with the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the same Holy Spirit who empowered Christ while He was ministering on earth can empower us as well. First, however, we need to understand our role in building the body of Christ. One will plow the soil, another may plant the seed, and another laborer will water it, but only God can make that seed grow 1 Corinthians 3: Thus, even though we each may have individual roles, we nonetheless have a unified purpose of winning others to Christ, for which everyone will receive his own reward according to his own labor 1 Corinthians 3: But how can we gain a passion for spreading this good news and winning souls to Christ in these difficult days when there are so many who oppose our work every step of the way? It starts by having Jesus Christ front and center in our own lives. Indeed, our passion for winning souls will increase as our passion for Christ Himself and our walk with Him become stronger. Two of the best ways to strengthen our Christian walk are to read His Word daily and to pray continually. The most enthusiastic laborers are those who have a heart that is on fire for Christ, and this should actually be easy when we consider the magnitude of what our sinless Savior did for us at Calvary. His willing acceptance of death on our behalf cured us from our terminal disease sin and saved us from an unfathomable eternity in the lake of fire. Yet we know what happens to those who die apart from Christ. Once we cross the eternal horizon, there is no going back, and the time for winning souls will be over. Thus, not only is the harvest great and the workers few, but, on top of this, our time is very limited. The lost souls around us can find this same comfort when they put their faith in Christ. And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? The peace of God, which transcends all understanding and guards our hearts during these difficult times Philippians 4: There can be no better calling than working on behalf of the One who died so that we may live. Clearly, then, our love for Him is best exemplified when we passionately and tirelessly work to share His gospel with others.