

Passionate for the Ministry of Reconciliation
Matthew 28:18-20 & 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Why do believers sharing so much in common have such different levels of _____ when it comes to fulfilling our calling to _____ Christ _____?

The Great Commission is Jesus' authoritative marching orders for the church—to make disciples _____, thoroughly, and _____. In 2 Cor. 5, Paul explains his personal passion for the Great Commission. His passion for the ministry of reconciliation arose from his own recognition of how much Jesus loves him and just how _____ he was and how _____ his future was before Jesus made a way for him to experience _____ and eternal life.

Paul's explanation of his passion for the ministry of reconciliation hints of an event detailed in Luke 7. Invited to a dinner party in the home of a Pharisee, an uninvited, _____ woman, slipped in and anointed Jesus' feet with oil, perfume, and her own tears. Simon assumed if Jesus were a prophet, He would have known about her. Jesus shares a brief parable which pointed out that the more one is _____, the more that person _____ the one who forgave.

With Paul's and this woman's help, we can answer the question originally posed: "Why do believers have such different levels of passion when it comes to fulfilling the Great Commission and sharing Christ with others?" Answer: Our passion for the ministry of reconciliation is directly _____ to our awareness of how _____, broken, and _____ we would be if not for _____ for us. Our passion, or lack thereof, for Christ's ministry of reconciliation is in direct proportion to how much we remember we have been _____...how well we recall the _____ future from which we have been saved.

If we could see a picture of ourselves with Jesus, would we see a _____—one in which we think we look _____ together. Or would we see our _____. If only we could see our lives given back to us again, we would _____ with passion.