

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Pastor Jerry Lewis - Sunday May 24 2026

Summary: This powerful message confronts us with a challenging question: what does genuine passion for Christ actually look like in our daily lives? Drawing from Paul's letter to the Colossians, we're reminded that the early church faced the same temptation we do today—to dilute the supremacy of Christ by mixing our faith with cultural compromise and comfortable religion. The sermon zeroes in on the three disciples who formed Jesus' inner circle: Peter, James, and John. What set them apart wasn't perfection, but passion. These men witnessed the Transfiguration, accompanied Jesus to raise Jairus' daughter, and stayed closest during His agony in Gethsemane—not because they were flawless, but because their hunger for God positioned them for pivotal moments. The imagery of the Ibex goats scaling impossible walls to obtain life-sustaining minerals becomes a striking metaphor for our spiritual journey. These animals defy gravity itself, driven by an instinct that knows what they need isn't just for survival but for growth. Similarly, our passion for God shouldn't be about merely making it to heaven—it's about spiritual maturity and fulfillment of our divine calling. The sobering reality presented is that only 120 of 500 who saw the resurrected Christ actually made it to the Upper Room on Pentecost. The question echoes through time to us: will we be among those whose passion propels them forward, or will we be content with mediocrity?

Scripture References:

- *Colossians 3:1-2 - "If you've been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things of this earth"*
- *Matthew 16:18 - Jesus' promise to build His church on Peter's confession*
- *Mark 3:16-17 - Jesus renaming Simon as Peter and James and John as Boanerges (Sons of Thunder)*
- *Mark 9:2 - The Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John*
- *Mark 5:35-37 - Jesus taking only Peter, James, and John to raise Jairus' daughter*
- *Matthew 26:36-38 - Jesus taking the three to Gethsemane*
- *Psalms 135:4 - "He makes my feet like hinds feet, He sets me upon the high places"*
- *Luke 6 - Jesus praying all night before choosing the twelve disciples*
- *Acts 2 - Day of Pentecost and Peter's sermon resulting in 3,000 conversions*
- *Galatians - "You were running well, but who did hinder you?"*

Quotes:

When the enemy tries to come in like a flood, the passionate people are going to operate in power. The passionate people are going to operate in supernatural signs and wonders.

Passion cannot be taught. Passion can only be displayed. Passion positions us for God's release and God's greatness.

If you want more, hell can't stop you. If you want more, the devil cannot hinder you. But if you don't have the passion, you're not going to go after it.

Passionate people will experience pivotal moments. Pivotal moments, major highs, major lows. Passion positions us.

Your passion is not just for you just to make it to heaven. It's not just for your survival. Your passion is going to cause you to grow and mature and develop.

90% of the population will die and achieve only 10% of their ability. So my challenge to you today is check your passion level.

5-Day Devotional: Igniting Your Passion for Christ

Day 1: The Call to Passionate Pursuit

Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Devotional: Paul's urgent plea to the Colossians echoes through the centuries: set your affections on things above. This isn't passive wishfulness but active, strategic positioning. Like the Ibex goat defying gravity to reach life-sustaining minerals, we must pursue Christ with relentless passion. The early church faced distractions—legalism, rituals, competing philosophies—just as we face cultural compromise today. Passion cannot be taught; it can only be displayed. When we truly grasp what Christ has done for us, mediocrity becomes impossible. Today, examine what captures your attention, time, and energy. Is your pursuit of Christ as intense as your pursuit of earthly goals? Passion positions us for God's release and greatness. Clear your calendar and create space for intimate encounter with Him.

Day 2: The Inner Circle of Intimacy

Reading: Mark 9:2-8 (The Transfiguration)

Devotional: Jesus chose twelve disciples, but three experienced pivotal moments the others missed. Peter, James, and John weren't perfect—they were passionate. On the Mount of Transfiguration, they witnessed Christ's divine glory because they positioned themselves for intimate knowledge. God reveals Himself to those He can trust with revelation. The question isn't whether God loves everyone equally, but whether we're passionate enough to pursue deeper intimacy. These three made themselves available when Jesus said, "Come away privately." How often does God draw you aside, only to find you too busy to respond? Passionate people experience supernatural encounters because they prioritize God's presence over life's demands. Today, ask yourself: Is my passion level sufficient for God to trust me with greater revelation? Create intentional space to hear what He wants to speak specifically to you.

Day 3: Passion That Propels Through Crisis

Reading: Matthew 26:36-46 (Gethsemane)

Devotional: In His darkest hour, Jesus brought His passionate three to Gethsemane. Though they failed Him by falling asleep, He still chose them because He saw beyond their weakness to their hunger. Passion doesn't mean perfection; it means persistent pursuit despite failure. These men later became pillars of the early church—Peter preached at Pentecost, James was martyred first, and John became a foundational author. Their passion eventually overrode their flesh. We live in critical times when spiritual alertness is essential. Jesus asks us today: "Could you not stay awake?" Your passion isn't just for survival—it's for growth, maturity, and kingdom impact. When you fall, passion gets you back up. When discouragement comes, passion pushes you forward. Today, acknowledge your weaknesses but refuse to let them define you. Let passion propel you past your failures.

Day 4: Pentecost Power and Passionate Obedience

Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Devotional: Jesus appeared to five hundred after His resurrection, but only one hundred twenty passionate, obedient believers gathered in the upper room. Three hundred eighty lacked the passion to pursue what Jesus commanded. Those who showed up received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birthed the New Testament church. Passion always propels, positions, and pushes. The difference between the 120 and the 380 wasn't knowledge—it was hunger. God knows who will actually respond when He calls. As we face intensifying end-times challenges, passionate believers will operate in supernatural power while the comfortable remain unchanged. Pentecost wasn't a one-time event but a pattern: obedience plus passion equals divine encounter. Today, evaluate whether you're among the 120 or the 380. Are you talking about commitment or demonstrating it? Your response to God's call reveals your true passion level.

Day 5: Defying Gravity Through Desperate Pursuit

Reading: Psalm 18:31-36; Psalm 42:1-2

Devotional: The psalmist prophesied that God makes our feet like hinds' feet, setting us on high places. The Ibex goat climbs seemingly impossible vertical walls, driven by desperate need for minerals essential to survival and growth. Their passion defies gravity itself. This is the picture of true spiritual hunger—pursuing what we need regardless of how impossible it appears. Without those nutrients, their bones won't grow and muscles can't function. Similarly, without passionate pursuit of God's presence, our spiritual development stunts. What looks impossible to observers becomes possible through passionate determination. Ninety percent of people die achieving only ten percent of their potential because they lack this defiant passion. God is looking for believers who will climb the wall when others say it cannot be done. Today, identify what spiritual "wall" you need to climb. What seems impossible but is essential for your growth? Passion says it's possible. Dig in your heels and pursue what God has for you with relentless determination.

Closing Challenge: As you complete this devotional journey, ask yourself: How passionate am I truly for Jesus? Not compared to others, but measured against what He deserves and what He's called you to become. The door is closing. The time is short. Make yourself ready through passionate, obedient pursuit of Christ. Your heavenly Father is waiting for you to come home to the place of intimate, fiery devotion.