

## **EXPERIENCING the POWER of “ONE ACCORD”**

*“...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:24, 31-33 (KJV)*



### ***This Week’s Thought – February 28, 2016***

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*“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”*  
Galatians 5:24 (NIV)

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“*Passion*” often gets mixed reviews. On the one hand, we have many verses in Scripture (as referenced above) that tell us to put to death the passions and desires of the flesh. In fact, we’re told to flee worldly passions! Yet, on the other hand, Scripture seems to encourage in us passionate living. For example, in the Psalms we see passion on great display, with the psalmist longing for the Lord *“more than watchmen wait for the morning.”* Ps. 130:6 (NIV)

The key to understanding passion in Scripture is to focus on the object of our desire. Desire in and of itself is not a bad thing, so when we’re told to *“put to death the desires of the flesh”*, this doesn’t mean we’re meant to live passionless and emotionless lives! The Christian life is never simply the turning away from sin and death, but is always at the same time the call to turn towards that which is good, holy, and true.

Jesus wants us to live a deeply passionate life, but He wants to help shape what we’re passionate about. He knows that our worldly desires will leave us empty, hurt, and broken. Though sex, power, and money may initially seem attractive and promise great happiness, these carnal desires only add fuel to the fire of self-indulgence and self-satisfaction. Listen to the words of Scripture and flee these desires. Don’t believe the lies they tell you. Don’t for a second think you’ll find satisfaction in anything less than faithfulness to Jesus and His plan for your life!

**Passion separated from God’s plan always leads to pain. Passion submitted to God’s plan always leads to a life of purpose.**

As you turn away from sin and evil, don’t let it shut down your passion and desire. As Christians we are meant to open ourselves up to passionate living, but it’s a particular kind of passion—passion for God. When we say “no” to worldly desires, we create room and space in our lives to say “yes” to God in greater and deeper ways. We can turn fully to God and once again make Him the greatest and deepest desire in our lives.

*“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.”* Psalm 63:1 (NKJV)

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week:** “My unfailing Love is your ‘fuel’. This supernatural source of energy flows through you freely as you look to Me in trust. Not only does this increase your energy level; it also provides a path for Me to love other people through you. Let My limitless Love energize and empower you as you live and love Me as well as others.” (1 Corinthians 13:12; Colossians 1:29; Ephesians 3:16-19)

*“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.”* Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King