

Wednesday Word of the Week

Passion

Origin: Middle English: from Old French, from late Latin passio(n-) (chiefly a term in Christian theology), from Latin pati 'suffer'.

Definitions:

- *Strong and barely controllable emotion
- *A state or outburst of strong emotion
- *An intense desire or enthusiasm for something
- *A thing arousing enthusiasm
- *(the Passion) The suffering and death of Jesus
- *A narrative of the Passion from any of the Gospels
- *A musical setting of any of the narratives of the Passion

[Note: the prefix 'com-' means 'with' so the word 'compassion' means 'with passion']

So many of us associate the word 'passion' with deep love or even lust. I wanted to research this word because the title for the movie "Passion of the Christ" somewhat confused me when it came out. I had a hard time understanding the title because I associated the word 'passion' with physical love or an uncontrollable desire in some creative talent (i.e. music, art, or writing). The Lord brought this word to me to open my understanding.

Our passion is to be for our Lord and our Lord alone. All the other desires that bring us joy (again meaning those talents we have) should come out of our passion for our Lord and understanding His passion for us. Review the definitions above again. Let them sink deeply into your heart while thinking on all the great things the Lord has done for us. Review the origin again. The word 'passion' comes from a root word meaning 'suffer'. For myself, I rarely think of passion as suffering in my day to day thought. If I think of it as suffering it is only when I see a visual reenactment of how our Lord suffered for our freedom and reconciliation. This is being corrected within me as I think about our Lord Jesus Christ more and more in my day to day.

I used to say I was a slave to my creativity. I would say this because I would be awoken at late hours in the night (3am timeframe) because a song or some word to be included in a writing would come to me. Then I wouldn't be able to go back to sleep until the framework of the subject was completed. This to me was passion. Now, there is a redefining occurring. My passion is turning from my works to the Lord. This redefining is not diminishing my creativity. The opposite is actually taking place (though I am not waking up at 3am to accomplish something anymore). As my thought patterns are being changed by Holy Spirit to our Lord and not to my giftings, my giftings are exploding for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Father God is calling us to remember that He is the One who gave us all our giftings and talents. Our Lord suffered greatly to give us life and life more abundantly; including our joy in using our gifts. He gave us our giftings and talents for His purposes on this earth. He does not want us to squander them but He does not want us to focus on them as idols either. The passion of Jesus Christ is for us and He desires our passion to be for Him. Through Him our passion will be for each other. From this passion, the Body is made whole. Be passionate (compassionate) but in everything you do, do it for the Lord.

Bible Verses:

- **Hebrews 12:1-2** - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- **Matthew 9:35-38** - Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."
- **1 Peter 3:18-22** - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.
- **Ephesians 1:22-23** - And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
- **1 Corinthians 10:31-33** - Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.
- **Psalms 96:1-3** - Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. 3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.
- **Philippians 2:1-4** - Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- **Colossians 3:12-17** - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- **Romans 12:1-2** - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Other Source: http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/passion

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uVTelMursb8>

Alice Shipe
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