



## ***Radical Spirituality***

### ***How to Cultivate Spiritual Passion***

*Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold...*

**Matthew 24:12**

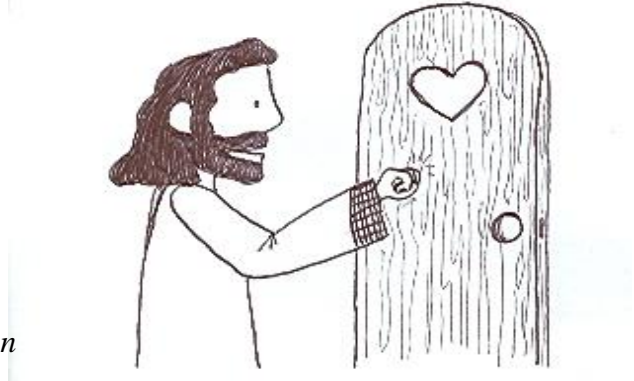
<sup>15</sup> *I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!* <sup>16</sup> *So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.* **Revelation 3:15-16**

<sup>5</sup> *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.* **John 15:5**

***Our goal in this lesson .... Is to consider ways to cultivate and maintain our spiritual passion.***

***We consider....***

- *The insidious danger of lukewarmness*
- *The call to be an extravagant worshiper*
- *The causes of lukewarmness*
- *How to fan the flame of our spiritual passion*



### ***Lukewarmness – Our Spiritual Enemy!***

***Read Revelation 3:14-22 – The lukewarm believers of Laodicea***

It is all too possible to be a Christian and yet close the door in Jesus' face! The degree of fellowship and intimacy with Christ we enjoy depends, to a large extent, on our own desire, or lack thereof. In the account of the Laodicean believers we observe a tragic scene – Christians who close the door to Jesus, who invites them to spend time in intimate fellowship over a meal. So many such moments exist, day by day, in which Jesus would enter more deeply into our lives to share intimately with us, *but it is we who keep the door shut!*

In the case of the Laodicean church, what were the causes of their lukewarm spirituality?

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Think of your own life. What are the principal causes of lukewarmness for you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

***The call to be an “extravagant” worshiper***  
***“To waste ourselves on Jesus!”<sup>4</sup>***

*<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. John 4:23*



***“proper” v. “extravagant” love – Read Luke 7:36-50***

In what ways do we observe the formal and restrained love of the Pharisee?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways do we observe the extravagant love of the “sinful” woman?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What explains the different types of love and expression between the woman and the Pharisee?

\_\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>4</sup> A phrase taken from Christ Otto, “The Glory of a Wasted Life.”

For you, personally, note some ways in which you could demonstrate extravagant love for the Lord.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Causes of Lukewarmness – Spiritual “Wet Blankets” – Passion Squelchers**

1. *Complacency*
2. *Negative Attitudes in Daily Life*
3. *Excesses and Pleasures*
4. *Distractions and busyness*



#### **1. Passion Squelcher #1: *Complacency* - Don't settle!**

*It is all too possible to be “a friend” of Jesus without receiving all he would want to give us!*

**Read Luke 11:1-13** – *Parable of the Pushy Neighbor*

In the story, does the main character give his neighbor bread because he is his friend? Yes or no?

\_\_\_\_\_.

In our lives, do we receive the Holy Spirit only because God loves us? Yes or no?

\_\_\_\_\_.

According to the parable, what quality must we possess to receive the full measure of the Holy Spirit that God would give us?

\_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Passion Squelcher #2: *Negative Attitudes and Words in Daily Life*

*Ways to sadden the Holy Spirit Read Ephesians 4:25-32*

*“...And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...” – Ephesians 4:30*

Our actions in daily life can impede the flow of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

Based on the text, mention four ways to “grieve the Holy Spirit” and lose communion with the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



## 3. Passion Squelcher #3: *Excess and Pleasure*

*<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit...*  
**Ephesians 5:18**

The Holy Spirit, like wine, can intoxicate by filling our body and emotions with his influence. An excess of literal wine, or other pleasures or distractions, can likewise “intoxicate” the human psyche and thus harden us to the filling influence of the Holy Spirit in our conscious experience.

Mention some “pleasures” or “amusements” that could become distractions to our spiritual sensibilities should we consume them in excess.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



#### **4.Passion Squelcher #4: *Distractions (And even ministry service)***

**Read Luke 10:38-42** – *It is possible to serve Christ and yet lose intimate fellowship with him!*

What distinguishes Mary from Martha? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

With which figure do you identify most? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Review Question**

If you are feeling spiritually “cooled off,” what could be some potential causes?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **How to Fan the Flame of our Spiritual Passion**

*“For this reason I urge you to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you..” 2 Tim 1:6*

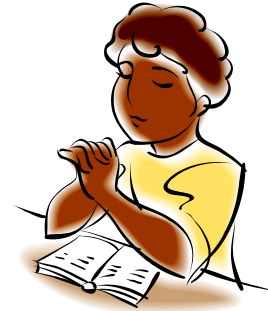
- 1. Live in holiness and cultivate a positive attitude*
- 2. Renew your daily appointments with God*
- 3. Set aside especial times to pray*
- 4. Fast*
- 5. Meditate on the Word of God*
- 6. Intercede*

## ***1. Live in holiness and cultivate a positive attitude in daily life***

### **Read Ephesians 5:15-21 – Cultivating the Presence of God in our daily life**

Based on the text, note four practical ways to cultivate communion with the Holy Spirit in our daily life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



## ***2. Renew your appointments with God!***

### ***¡Plan appointments with God!***



1. *Designate a specific time* – Put it on the calendar!

2. *Designate a specific place, without distractions.* Turn off the cell phone!

Seek a private place, free of interruptions, telephones, crying babies and the incessant din of television and radio.

### ***Biblical Examples of Appointments with God***

- **Jesus** taught the importance of shutting the door of your room and praying to God in private. (Matthew 6:5-15) Scripture records that he was in the habit of going to the Mount of Olives to pray in private. (Luke 22:39)
- **Moses** - went regularly to the Tent of Meeting, outside the camp, to meet with the Shekina Presence of God. The Divine cloud of fire descended on this place and Moses spoke with God “*face to face as a man speaks with his friend.*”
- **Daniel** prayed three times at set times every day in his room, beside a particular window. (Dan 6:10).
- **Peter** prayed on a quiet roof at twilight, after dinner. (Acts 10)

The place and time could be different for each of us, but what is important is that it be a comfortable and solitary place, so that you can pray in a concentrated way without interruptions.



***Seek a place conducive to concentration (that can be visited every day)***

- Not a moving car in traffic
- Not the shower
- Not the bed
- Not an office with the telephones ringing
- Not a mountainside lake that can only be visited twice a year



**Mention five possible places and times for a regular, daily appointment with God**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



### ***My Appointment with God***

***Note below a regular time every day in which you can set aside time for prayer.  
(Not necessary to fill every square!)***

<b><i>Mon.</i></b>	<b><i>Tues.</i></b>	<b><i>Wed.</i></b>	<b><i>Thurs.</i></b>	<b><i>Fri.</i></b>	<b><i>Sat.</i></b>	<b><i>Sunday</i></b>
a.m.						
afternoon						
evening						

### ***Elements of Prayer – What do I say?***

Review: What are some elements of prayer (topics) which can be observed in the “Our Father?” (Praise, intercession...etc.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***3. Set aside special, extraordinary times for prayer – Many ways!***

#### ***Vigil – Pray through the night – read Luke 6:12-19***

What results from Jesus’ night of prayer?



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Question: How does one pray for hours and hours?**

- ***Follow the outline of the Lord’s Prayer.*** Remember that this prayer can be said in 30 seconds, or can form the outline for 30 hours of prayer as well! Use it to rotate topics for prayer.
- ***Use Psalms.*** The Prayer Manual of the Bible can be extremely helpful for extended seasons of prayer.
- ***Move!*** Do not feel obliged to remain kneeling or sitting for hours on end. One can pray pacing or walking as well!
- ***Allow “spaces”*** – One need not fill every moment with words. Extended silences are “ok.”
- ***Variety.*** One need not monologue the entire time. Sing. Read scripture. Observe silence. Journal. Speak in tongues. All of these activities can become part of the prayer.





### ***Early Morning Prayer - Read Mark 1:35-39***

What results from Jesus' early morning of prayer?

\_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Coffee Break Prayer (Luke 11:1) - 3 Minutes of Prayer (right there!)***



We can find moments for prayer hidden among the crevices of our daily activities. These “snatches” of prayer – three minutes here, five minutes there, can make all the difference in complementing more regular disciplines of daily, secluded prayer. One need not even find a private place, but grab the moment “right there” and experience communion with God in the places of every day life.

#### ***Examples of “Coffee Break” Prayer***

- In the car in the parking lot before coming into the house
- In the waiting room of the dentist's office
- At “Starbucks”
- In the cafeteria of your workplace
- In front of the computer at work

Jot down a couple examples of places and times in your daily Schedule when you could “snatch” a couple minutes of prayer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



### ***Prayer Retreats***

At times Jesus escaped to the mountains or to the desert to pray in solitude for days at a time.(Mark 6:46)

Note down three private places, away from home, to which you could withdraw alone, without distraction, to pray for an extended length of time.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Group Prayer – Read Acts 4:23-31***

What was the result of this united prayer?

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Note down three specific opportunities in the week in which you could pray with others.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***5. Fasting – Praying with your entire body!***

What are some different ways in which one could fast?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***We should have a discipline of regular fasting***

Do you already have a plan for regular fasting? If so, when and how do you do it?

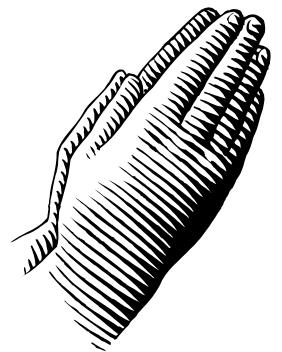
Examples:     *Every Wednesday I fast from lunch and take a prayer walk*  
                  *Every Friday I fast by eating only bread and water*  
                  *Once a month I fast for three days, drinking only juice*  
                  *Every Thursday I fast from coffee*

If you do not already have such a plan for regular fasting, we will set a goal for this month.

My fasting “plan” - \_\_\_\_\_.

***Assignment: Plan an “extended fast” (more than one day)***

*Use the addendum: “My Fast”*



## 6. Meditate on the Word of God – Eat and Digest the Word

**Definition of Meditation** – Take time to consider profoundly the words of a particular verse, personalize them and allowing the Spirit to apply them to our lives.

- “Make the verse my very own!” – (A student of Level I)
- “I let the Psalm carry me away...” – (A student of Level I)



### How to meditate on the word?

- Choose a particular verse out of a general Reading.

Example – “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” **Psalm 23:1**

- Concentrate on this verse for two or three minutes (at least), repeating it and thinking about the meaning of each word.
- Personalize and Pray it

Example – “The Lord is not merely a shepherd to everyone, but he is also **my shepherd**. He knows me by name. He knows every hair on my head. Thank you, Lord, my shepherd, that I’m never alone in life. I ask you to guide me and provide for my every need....etc.”



- Sing it!

Try something a little bit different. Instead of only praying the verse and thinking about it, try singing it! Improvise, and let your heart carry you away. When we worship God with his inspired word, it takes life within us!

## 7. Intercession – The Spiritual Struggle of a true Disciple

A radical disciple is called to spend hours in regular intercession for the kingdom of God to come! Revival in general, and spiritual growth of the individual, depend on this discipline.

### Examples of Intense Intercession in the Word of God

**Jeremiah** – Jeremiah was a prophet who struggled in prayer for his people...

<sup>[a]</sup><sup>1</sup> Oh, that my head were a spring of water  
and my eyes a fountain of tears!  
I would weep day and night  
for the slain of my people. **Jeremiah 9:1**

**Paul** - Paul's ministry consisted of much more than preaching. He interceded for hours and hours in private as well....

*"...<sup>29</sup> To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.. <sup>1</sup> I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. **Colossians 1:29 – 2:1***

**Hannah** - Burdened by the agony of her infertility Hannah prayed with intensity and desperation. God answered and gave her a son – the prophet Samuel, which means, "God hears."

*Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. <sup>10</sup> In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. <sup>11</sup> ... <sup>12</sup> As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk <sup>14</sup> ....Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. <sup>16</sup> Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." **1 Samuel 1:9-16***

**Jacob fought with the Angel**

*<sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." **Genesis 32:22-32***

According to these verses above, how do we observe the emotional intensity that characterized the prayer lives of these men and women of God? Briefly describe the prayer of each one.

Jeremiah: \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul: \_\_\_\_\_.

Hannah: \_\_\_\_\_.

Jacob: \_\_\_\_\_.

Why was it necessary to seek God with such intensity and boldness, if God already knows what we need before we ask him? (Luke 11)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

***Other examples of intercession in the Bible.***

- Abraham - Genesis 18:16-33
- Moses - Exodus 17:8-13; 32:30-35; 33:7-23
- Daniel – Daniel 9:1-19 y 10:12-14
- Nehemiah – Nehemiah 1:4-11
- Ana y Simeon -Luke 2:25-40

***And you...? What's your spiritual temperature?***

Based on what we have studied in this lesson, what are some specific ways in which you would like to cultivate greater spiritual passion this week?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignments – Use the Following Addenda to plan...**

- ***An Extended Fast***
- ***An event for early morning or late night prayer***

# My Fast

*“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”*  
--- Jesus

## ***Terms of the Fast***

*I hope to abstain from* \_\_\_\_\_

*Beginning Point* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Month/Time)

*Ending Point* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Month/Time)

## ***Special Petitions***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Evaluation***

Describe the experience.

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Were you able to fulfill your goal? \_\_\_\_\_.

Did you experience any benefit from the fast, during or after?

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## My early morning or late night of prayer

**Choose** which you will do – An early morning or late night of prayer? \_\_\_\_\_.

***When and where will you do it?***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Time Frame: From \_\_\_\_\_.

Until \_\_\_\_\_.

Place: \_\_\_\_\_.

Alone or with others? \_\_\_\_\_.

If with others, whom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.



***Evaluation:***

Were you able to fulfill your goal? \_\_\_\_\_.

How did you fill the time? What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Did you experience any benefit, during or after? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Any testimonies related to this particular activity?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.