

WE ALL KNOW THAT IT TAKES God to love God. The human heart does not have the capacity to generate holy love in its own power. However, there is good news for those already born again—what the Holy Spirit enjoys most and does best is to escort the heart of the spiritually hungry into a realm of experiential knowledge of the splendor of Jesus. This new knowledge leaves us fascinated and exhilarated.

How does this work? It begins with the way God originally designed the human spirit. A fascinating God created us with a deep longing to be fascinated. The entertainment industry has built its entire business on this craving.

But God intended for us to be fascinated only by Him. We must learn how to satisfy our craving in Him instead of in ungodly ways.

If we don't, we will live bored. Spiritual boredom is one of the greatest problems in the church today. Such boredom makes us more vulnerable to Satan's attacks.

We were never designed to live bored. If we have nothing to die for, then we have nothing to live for. We are meant to live in full vigor and abandonment. In this way, the designs of our hearts can be fully answered.

The supernatural ability to love God with fiery and energetic affections is the privilege of every believer. It is the very essence of New Testament renewal as

PASSION FOR JESUS

BY MIKE BICKLE

preached by the apostle Paul. He exhorted the Colossian church to "put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him" (Col. 3:10, NKJV).

Notice that Paul taught the church to put on the new man by experiencing the knowledge of God's image, or personality. This knowledge fascinates and renews us so that we can live in the abandonment to God that our human design demands.

Supernatural information about God's emotional makeup has a surprisingly powerful impact on our emotional chemistry. Knowledge of God actually releases God's power in us. Living with our hearts fascinated by fresh discoveries of God's affection and beauty is the fountainhead of renewal.

Paul beckons us all to experience renewal of the heart that results in a dynamic emotional chemistry change. Knowing God's beauty fascinates and awakens our hearts in a supernatural way. Oh, to know what God's heart looks like, and to know what we look like to God in Jesus! This revelation results in true transformation.

How do we get it? The revelation comes as we meditate on passages in the Word

of God that focus on God's personality or splendor. The Holy Spirit then illuminates our minds, and a place deep within us says, "Yes, that is true." Our spirits begin to resonate with the very flame of the love of God, and we are empowered for righteousness and fulfilling the Great Commission.

Oh, to live fascinated! When we do, we desire worship, we desire the Word of God, and obedience seems reasonable.

As we gain ever-increasing knowledge of God along with greater knowledge of who we are in Christ, we experience an internal change that deeply motivates us in righteousness. Satan knows that when we walk in a revelatory understanding of what God looks like and what we look like to God, his power of accusation is broken. We truly are renewed according to our knowledge of the image of God.

When people ask me, based on a book I wrote, how to grow in passion for Jesus,

I tell them to grow in knowledge of

His passion for *them*, and over time they will see the passions of their hearts awoken with deep, affectionate love for Him. Because of the way our hearts have been designed and created by God, when we receive greater revelation of Him we are renewed, invigorated and emotionally empowered. The more we see of His fascinating beauty, the more we are awakened in love.

We must see the intensity with which God desires us! We are the very focus of His burning desire. He enjoys us. He is ravished by us. When we lay hold of this revelation, we will never be the same. □

Living with our hearts fascinated by God's affection is the fountainhead of renewal.