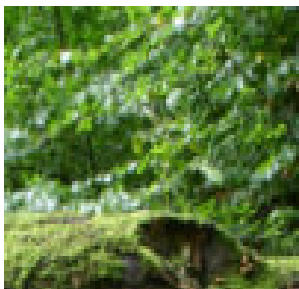


Christ-Centered Change



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New Beginnings Coaching

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Fan the Flame

The apostle Paul, who wrote a good portion of the New Testament, lived a model life after his Damascus Road experience. Apparently seeing Jesus appear out of nowhere – to ask Paul what he thought he was doing – had a profound effect on the remainder of Paul’s life. He stopped persecuting Christians, started traveling all over the Middle East and Europe spreading the Gospel, and was eventually martyred for boldly proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior of the world and God in the flesh.

Much of Paul’s writings rolled off his pen while he was under house arrest or in prison. Some of the last inspired words he wrote were intended to encourage Christians to live the life – to be all we can be for God. He wrote in II Timothy: ‘Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you...’. Paul later in the same letter (II Tim. 3:10) lays out his core values: purpose, faith, patience, love and endurance.

Paul was sold out for Christ and lived his life (after his conversion) as a faithful follower of Jesus and a leader who had passion and purpose in all he did. He loved others like Jesus did, even as they dealt with him treacherously. Paul followed Christ through suffering – enduring great persecution patiently.

Do we love God with that kind of ‘passion’? How can you fan into flame the gift of God in you? It may cost you your life – it will without doubt require purpose, faith, love and patient endurance. But whatever the cost, Jesus is worth it. He thought you were worth dying for and He passionately gave his life blood for you. What will you give Him? Will you live for Him – really live for Him? Fan the flame – live passionately for the Lord!

-Bill