



WEEK 2

live with passion

JANUARY 8 & 9, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

review: my time is limited

How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog — it's here a little while, then it's gone. James 4:14 NLT

Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. *Psalm 90:12 NLT*

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity... Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. *Ephesians 5:15–17 NLT*

this week: how do i live with passion?

"But my servant Caleb — this is a different story. He has a different spirit; he follows me **passionately**." *Numbers 14:24 The Message*

1. _____

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Romans $12:11\,\text{NIV}$

- ...keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Romans 12:11b The Message
- ...serve the Lord enthusiastically. Romans 12:11b NLT

QUESTION:

WHAT WOULD I WANT TO DO IF I HAD ONE MONTH TO LIVE?

- Take time this week to write out a long list
- Then make a **shorter** list: **Circle** what you really want as a part of your life now

Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your **passion** and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list." *Matthew 22:37 The Message*

2.

Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what's right for the glory of God. $Romans\ 6:13\ NLT$

QUESTION:

HOW CAN I SPECIFICALLY PURSUE THE ITEMS I CIRCLED?

3.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for Him, and when they found Him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for You!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else...."

Mark 1:35–38a NV

Just as you trusted in Christ to save you, trust Him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him... go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous. *Colossians* 2:6-7 18

QUESTION:

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE IN MY LIFE TO FUEL MY PASSION?

[Paul:] "For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better." *Philippians 1:21 NLT*

ALL GODLY PASSION STARTS WITH UNDERSTANDING

daily meditations

monday

Look back over the verses and points from the message. What point from the weekend message hit home for you? Why?

If you knew your life would end in a few weeks, what would be your biggest regret? Why?

In what area of your life are you suffering from the "Someday" syndrome (as in, you put it off until "someday")?

This week, tell at least one other person that you're doing a study about what you'd do if you had "one month to live". See if an interesting discussion results...

Ask God to turn the next few weeks of study into a life-changing study for you.

tuesday

Read Luke 12:13–21. What do you think is the point of the parable? How does it relate to our current series?

Today start that list René spoke about: What would you do if you had one month to live — how would you change? Where would you go? What would you do?

Ask God to give you real insight as you write out your "one month to live" list.

wednesday

Read Romans 12:1–21. How would you summarize the big idea of this chapter?

Today go over that list you wrote yesterday. Circle only the items you would like to do in your life this year, on a regular basis if possible.

Now get specific about at least five of those items you circled: How will you specifically reach these goals? Jot down some ideas.

Today write a letter to God, being as honest as you can about how you would like your life to change so that you "live like you're dying...". As Him for His divine power!

thursday

Jesus was a man of passion, beginning in his youth (See Luke 2:49) and continuing into adulthood (See Luke 13:34; Luke 22:44; John 13:1). How are we to reflect His passion as His followers?

Now go back and look at the list that you've been working on this week, and see if it brings to mind at least one passion, one dream, that you believed God planted in your heart that you would like to achieve before you die.

Ask God to reveal to you one thing you can do today to further your pursuit of His dream in your life.

friday

Read Colossians 2:6–7. This past weekend René talked about "fueling your passion". What are the current barriers to spiritual health and vitality in your life?

How can you help to change this today?

What are some simple steps you can take today, by God's grace, to improve your spiritual health and fuel your passion? (You may want to review the practical suggestions in Ephesians 5:15–20)

Ask God to help your passion for Him to burn brighter!

saturday

Read Matthew 22:34—40. Jesus answers the dry, technical question about which commands are the most important with a reply about passionate and practical love for God and others. Why is love the most

important command?

Although we know this, why do we seem to forget this — almost daily?

Ask God to increase your passion for Him (and others) again! Please pray for God to bless the weekend services. Thanks!



Be very careful, then, how you live
— not as unwise but as wise,
making the most of every opportunity,
because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15–16 NIV