

## Apostolic Passion

### Introduction:

I want us to think now about “apostolic passion.” Maybe it is a term you are not familiar with. Passion and apostolic-when you join these two ideas together you really have something earth shattering and earth changing.

What is Apostolic Passion? I see it clearly illustrated in Paul’s words to the Roman church, recorded in **Romans 15:15-21**

*“But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience--by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God--so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”*

The word “**Apostolic**” is literally “one sent forth with a message.” It was used much like a King sending a courier with his royal decree. The courier has two distinct characteristics:

1. Authority (because he is on the king’s business. He speaks the king’s words in behalf of the king.)
2. Priority (because the King sent him, it is priority business. He must go and he must deliver the message.)

**The word “Passion”**= is literally “pathos” in the Greek. He delivers the message with urgency, feeling, and heart felt desire. In the New Testament, the word passion can mean:

1. To suffer with=see **Acts 1:3** which says Christ was alive after His passion (suffering)
2. It can describe your strong emotions= See **Acts 14:15** “...men of like passions”
3. It can mean Strong affections= see **Col 3:5**...immorality, passions, evil desires.

**So, from God’s perspective**, your passion is what you are willing to suffer & sacrifice for.

So I see apostolic passion springing forth from the heart of Christ. I cannot get it, until I get Him! We might ask, “What was on His heart that He was willing to suffer for?” Read the book and see that Jesus had the world, including all the nations on his heart. **Matt 24:14**-Declares that the gospel be preached to all the nations.

**Matt 28:19**... to all the nations

**Acts 1:8**-to the uttermost parts of the Earth.

God wants His Son worshipped in every nation tongue and tribe. See **Revelation 4:4** as the four living creatures & 24 elders worship the Lamb! They are from all the nations and from old and new covenant saints.

**Some questions need to be asked:**

**Is apostolic passion for the nations limited only to the Apostles?** No, it is not. Throughout the church's history men and women have been captured by the passion to tell the nations that "*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself*"

**How can you know when you have lost this apostolic passion?**

- It is evidenced when my quiet time dreams and prayers do not focus on the name of Jesus being worshipped in every nation, tongue and tribe. Far too often our spiritual time with God is telling him what you need and want, not listening to God's heart for the nations.
- It is evidenced when I can sing about heaven but live as if earth was my home. I am earth bound when I am "stuff" possessed.
- Apostolic passion is dead in my heart when I aspire and strive for sports, toys, places to go, and people to see, and not striving for the nations to know God's Son.
- I know too I have lost it when I make decisions based on the dangers or cost involved and not if Christ will be glorified in it.

**How can you know if you- like Paul are striving for the nations to hear of Jesus?**

- When you are planning to go, but willing to stay.
- When you are deeply disappointed that God has not called you to leave your home and go out to the nations.
- If you are not willing to suffer and sacrifice for something-you are not passionate about it.

**How can I deepen my passion for the lost and the nations?**

**First of all-**you cannot order it like a pizza or by calling an 800 #. Caring about what God cares about will need some time and work from both you and God's Spirit working in you.

**Secondly,** you must know Him, living so close to Him you can hear his voice and are willing to obey what you hear. After Paul's Damascus road experience, he gave himself to knowing Christ. He desired more and more revelation of Christ and his purpose in the earth.

**Thirdly,** you must chose it-That's what Paul did. In **Romans 15:20** he says, "*I am earnestly striving.*"

Paul's lifelong ambition was to tell the gentile world of Christ's love. He chose to see that nations worship and gather around the lamb. In **Romans 15:16** he sees the gentile nations as his love offering to Christ.

**Finally,** you must strive for it, seek it passionately, making apostolic passion your ambition. Decide now- I am going to care about what God cares about! I am giving Him my life! Who are the most dangerous people on earth- men and women of apostolic passion!