

WHEN FAITH IS SHAKEN!

Luke 24:13-32

INTRODUCTION: Our Lord Jesus passion of love to His Father caused Him to go to the cross. Jesus passion for the love of His Father for you and I caused Him to leave heaven; it caused Him to come to this earth and to die on the cross for our sin: John 3:16. Our heavenly Father wants us to live with passion for everything He has called us to do also. At times we lose our passion for life, for our jobs, our mates and our families, and our churches but passion that has been lost can be regained. Do you know that restoring your passion for Christ will automatically restore your passion for all He has for you to do? Let's look at two disciples who lost their passion and had it restored: Luke 24:13-17; Luke 24:18-32. These two disciples had their passion restored. We need burning hearts; we need a fire lit in our souls for Jesus Christ because that is what is behind every truly great life. Passion makes the impossible possible. Passion energizes life! Passion is the difference between just going through the motions of life and living life to the full.

I. WHY CHRISTIANS LOSE THEIR PASSION

Why do Christians lose their passion? Luke 24:24. The first step to losing our passion is when we allow doubt to enter our hearts: Luke 24:21. Doubt will always cause you to lose your passion. How many times does Jesus join us in our doubt and we don't recognize Him? The disciples lost their passion because of disappointment: Luke 24:21; Matthew 16:21; Matthew 20:17-19. We can become disappointed in the Lord if we expect Him to act the way we think He should! They lost their passion because of disbelief: Luke 24:25. Disbelief is the root of all other sins: John 3:16-18; Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 14:1. The disciples lost their passion because of discouragement: Luke 24:16. If Jesus is alive and He has conquered death and there is life everlasting and heaven is real Jesus will solve all our problems of life.

II. GOD'S ANSWER FOR OUR LOST PASSION

Maybe you have lost your passion and have let discouragement come into your heart. What can we do to restore our passion? We need to remember God's plan: Luke 24:26. The disciples thought the cross was a disaster but it was exactly what God had the prophets teach was going to happen. Without the cross there would be no resurrection for us. God's plan for us may include some suffering as well: Romans 8:17-18. We must return to the promises of God: Luke 24:26-27.

III. RECOGNIZE GOD'S PRESENCE!

Luke 24:31. Jesus had been walking along with them but their eyes were not able to see. As soon as God opened their eyes their hearts were filled with passion! When you know Jesus is real; when you know Jesus is alive and that He cares for you that will restore your passion! If you will invite Jesus into your life He will come in and stay with you and restore His passion in your heart: Revelation 3:20; Jeremiah 29:11-13.