

## **Maintaining Passion in a Numb World**

Series: Following Jesus: Servanthood

Romans 12:9-13 (0833)

Steve Wood

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### **I. The battle for passionate faith**

#### **a. The subtle slide**

#### **b. Placing numbness in spiritual context**

Ecclesiastes 2:11 ...everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind

Romans 5:20 TM But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace. When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down.

Revelation 3:16 <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Matthew 9:36 <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

#### **c. Engaging the battle with Godly wisdom**

Isaiah 40:30 <sup>30</sup>Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall

Isaiah 40:28-31 <sup>28</sup>Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. <sup>29</sup>He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. <sup>30</sup>Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup>but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Galatians 6:9 <sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Hebrews 12:3 <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Psalms 63:1 O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

### **II. Benchmarks of a passionate servant (Romans 12:9-13)**

#### **a. Love and Hate**

Romans 12:9 <sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

#### **b. Devotion and Honor**

Romans 12:10 <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

John 13:35 <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

#### **c. Zeal and Fervor**

Romans 12:11 <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

#### **d. Joy and Patience**

Romans 12:12a <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction...

#### **e. Faithful and Engaged**

Romans 12:12b-13 faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.