

# Why the Cross? Initiating Spiritual Passion

March 18, 2018

**Isaiah 53: 3-6** He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## Moving from Lukewarm to Spiritual Passion

**Revelation 3: 16, 17, 19, 20 (NLT)** <sup>16</sup> But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

<sup>19</sup> I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. <sup>20</sup> "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

### Causes of Lukewarm Spirituality

1. Independence (vs. 17)
2. Distractions (vs. 17)

### Results:

1. I'm more concerned with impressing people than living for God.
2. I'm obsessed with life on earth rather than eternity.
3. I rationalize sin and justify the consequences.
4. I believe in Jesus, but rarely share my faith.
5. I turn to God only when I need Him.
6. I want to be served but am too busy to serve.

### Causes of Spiritual Passion

1. Diligence (vs. 19)
2. Connections (vs. 20)

### Results:

1. I stand up for my faith even though I know I'm going to be mocked.
2. I give my time and finances not out of abundance but trust in God.
3. I forgive or apologize even when I don't feel like it.
4. I reach out to someone God has put on my heart.
5. I pray for something impossible or attempt something I could never do without God's help.
6. I connect with things that move or break my heart.



*The Passion of Christ*

*Inspires*

*Spiritual Passion*

