

Break Free...

*A Thought for the Week From Patrick Kemper at
No Strongholds Ministries*

Week 6

Perpetual Passion

Psalm 139:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

How passionate do you believe God is about you?

I know there are times when we are getting it right – we are walking with Him well, we bash temptations that normally wreck our universe, we are helping others and serving sacrificially... but what about when we are NOT qualifying for our holy merit badges? Is God still as jazzed about us during the times when we are not hitting it out of the park (but striking out as we watch the pitch go by)?

God is not just passionate – He is passion. Everything about God is done without moderation. He is passionate about every detail, in all aspects of everything He does... all the time.

He is passionate in His pursuit after His lost kids and passionate in His hatred for sin (and those who use it in an attempt to make His kids stumble). God is passionate in His joy over their choice to come home, listen and obey.

God is passionate about you – He *created* you in His own image. He gave you a mind of your own, and as a result, God is passionate about every grain that falls through the hourglass, every second that ticks away from the set number of days He assigned to your life. He gave you just so many, so not one of them passes without His noticing.

Like a parent who stands by and silently cheers on a child who takes entrance exams for college, or through a driving test, during their first night away from home and when they are miserably sick and cannot take care of themselves, God is there through every test, every trial, every triumph... and every failure of your life.

Application

From the first time He ever thought of you - what you would look like and how your eyes would be affected when you smile, how you can always find a sale on shoes but never figure out which way is north and how you are always capable of being strong and focused through any disaster, but can never keep the tears from flowing when you see your kids sleeping safely in their beds - God has always been, and will always be, passionate about you.

He is your biggest fan.

And while there are times He must also stand by and allow the consequences of our choices to rouse our attention, it is in these times that God is *more* passionate about us, not less.

Spend some time this week considering all the things that are unique about you. Make a list of all the peculiarities (and if you don't think you have any, ask someone you know to write out a list) and embrace the fact that these were all intentional. God formed you and wired you so specifically, there is not another combination, anywhere in the world, exactly like you. Such intentional planning and design was not accomplished without intent and purpose.

How sensitive is God when it comes to you and your well-being?

Zechariah 2:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ For this is what the LORD Almighty says: "After he has honored me and has sent me against the nations that have plundered you--for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye--

⁹ I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me.

Is God passionate about you? He isn't passionate about anything more than you.

Psalms 139:1-10 (NIV)

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

⁵ You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Take your list into your worship time and give Him the credit for the characteristics that make you who you are. Ask Him to reveal to you the purpose for which He gave them to you, so you can bring honor, glory and praise to His name through them.

Homework for the Week...

1.) What is unique about you? What do you love to do? What do you do well? What do you hate to do? What do you suck at doing? Write down everything you can identify about you that fits into these categories. Can you see how intentional God was in creating you? Can you see a pattern in these items that points to what God created you to do? Ask God to help you see these characteristics for what they are – His choices for your life’s purpose. Take them to Him in your worship time and ask Him to help you embrace and appreciate them so you can bring glory to His name. Who can you contact to help you?

2.) Mid-week check. List the opportunities you have had and how you responded (this is your obedience indicator). If you are still posting a doughnut, more than likely you weren’t all that truthful when you asked God for chances to respond and improve. Check your heart; be authentic. Ask God to show you the way through what is blocking you from submitting in obedience.

3.) How are you doing compared to the way you started the week? If you still need improvement, refuse to move on to the next session. Stay here, submit, and choose to be obedient no matter what it takes. Explain how you have improved, or make a commitment to continue working. When you are operating in obedience in this area of your life... turn the page and move to the next session.
