

# Daily Thoughts for week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Week 2

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

My dictionary describes 'passion' as 'a feeling of intense enthusiasm or a compelling desire for someone or something'.

The most famous example of passion is Jesus beginning with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem and ending with His crucifixion on the cross. Consider how passionate you are about Jesus? Are you willing to suffer or sacrifice or strive for the things of God?

Today's word is **passions** (v. 1).

What do you understand by the word **passions**?

**Reading:** Romans 12:9-13 (if your version of the Bible uses the word zeal you can read passion) and Hebrews 12:1

**Question:** What do these verses teach us about passion?

**Prayer:** Pray that you can 'keep your eyes fixed on Jesus' and serve Him passionately.,

## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

**Thoughts:** James taught us last time that those who truly display God's wisdom will be peacemakers. You could look at James 3:18 if you need a refresher. Those who have genuinely had their heart changed by God to understand and live how He expects will live in peace with one-another. James asks the same question:

**What causes fights and quarrels among you?** The answer is sin.

James was writing to a church that was going through a lot. Some were being oppressed. Some were being ignored. Some were living in blatant sin and saying that it was OK. Others were saying this is really wrong and needs to stop.

The language they used towards each other was not good; they were destroying each other inside this church with their strongest weapons they had **their words**. I'm guessing a lot of people were overwhelmed by the sin all around them. I'm sure they felt like they were losing the battle with sin personally and with one another, and they had no idea what to do.

**Question:** What do you do when you feel overwhelmed by sin (your own, or the sin of others around you)?

**Prayer:** Ask God to forgive your sin and help you not to repeat the same sins. You need the strength and love of God to achieve this.

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January

**Reading:** James 4:1-3

**Thoughts:** Sin leads you to fight with others. Also...

**Sin leads you to fight with yourself.** Sin wants you to let your pleasures take control of your life, rather than God. It's the reason you fight with others around you. It's the reason you have fights with yourself.

You have desires and passions within you. What are these about? These are words that remind us that if we think something is going to make us happy or bring some sense of joy, then we do it no matter the cost.

As a Christian we desire to do what pleases God. We want to do the right thing.

**BUT**

Sin makes us fight with ourselves, and we're tempted to do what pleases us instead of God.

It lies to us and says: You deserve to feel good about you! Go ahead and tear others down to make yourself feel better. You don't deserve to be in trouble...lie to get what you want. Cheat to get those grades. You deserve to be happy.

You can't get what you want, so you fight. You hate. You get so **ANGRY!** Sin is leading you to fight with yourself.


Verse 2 says you don't have because you don't ask. You fight with yourself, refusing to ask God for help, even though you know He can help. Maybe you aren't asking for forgiveness? Maybe you aren't asking for help with the sin you keep going back to? Maybe you aren't asking for help to grow in your relationship with Him? You're fighting with yourself, so you don't do the thing you should. Sin convinces you that you don't need God.

**Sometimes our desires lead us to sin. How can you fight against them? Where does the power to resist come from? (Look at Galatians 5:16-18 for a hint.)**

**Prayer:** Use the information you have found in this Galatians reading to help you to pray.

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

**Let's dig a little deeper**



**Read John 15:1-6.** In what category would you place the people who constantly give into their sin? Think about your own life—what do you love? What are you loyal to?

### **Put It into Practice!**

Have you been fighting lately? Maybe with others or even yourself? What can you start doing today to be a peacemaker?

## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

**Time out** - Read Psalm 51:1-4. Ask God to forgive your sins and help you realize how costly your sin actually is. Let God know how thankful you are for your salvation.

If you have not trusted in Christ for salvation, ask Jesus to give you faith to believe and for the help to turn from sin.

Ask for help to stop fighting with others and with yourself. Ask for help to desire the right things and for sin to be less tempting.

Ask God for wisdom to understand how to live His way.

## Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Some hymns of passion to listen to and reflect upon -

<https://youtu.be/yMji7TypHOI?si=OzTwYrK-HS09Llpo>

<https://youtu.be/VTByzluCtMo?si=OKyjhV3hcyTmHbAp>

[https://youtu.be/yKJnxA\\_3AY8?si=4DZrcTJHBS2uXPY1](https://youtu.be/yKJnxA_3AY8?si=4DZrcTJHBS2uXPY1)

<https://youtu.be/gXzETuK792E?si=BpHMhiRXxaMNomT2>

[https://youtu.be/JWiFYJMGas0?si=bSS2maeQGCL\\_qi9L](https://youtu.be/JWiFYJMGas0?si=bSS2maeQGCL_qi9L)

Back in 2004, there was out cry around the world when the film 'The passion of Christ' was released with all its controversy. Today we can stand back and reflect upon this.

In the Bible study question to use along with this film was this question-

**Do you think The Passion, or the resurrection is more important? Why?**

And this is still a good question for today!!!



# The Passion