

20th/21st November 2013

Home Group Study Notes

Crazy Love* (Chapters 8&9)

Obsession



Obsessed: *To have the mind excessively preoccupied with a single emotion or topic.*

The idea of holding back certainly didn't come from Scripture. The Bible teaches us to be consumed with Christ and to faithfully live out His words. The Holy Spirit stirs in us a joy and peace when we are fixed on Jesus, living by faith and focused on the life to come. There has to be more to our faith than friendliness, politeness and even kindness.

1. We've all known people who are obsessed with different things. What characteristics and behaviours define obsessed people?

Read Luke 6:32-36

2. Chapter 8 of the book "Crazy Love" gives a series of descriptions of the obsessed: Lovers, Risk Takers, Friends of All, Crazy Ones, The Humble, Servers, Givers, Sojourners, The Engrossed, Unguarded Ones, The Rooted, The Dedicated, Sacrificers. Discuss which ones particularly challenged you.

*Studies inspired by "Living Crazy Love", a book by Francis Chan

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Read Luke 14:12-14

This is Christ's Love - He gave us something for which we can never repay Him, and then He asks us to keep giving like He gives.

3. Would you say that you place your personal comfort and safety above what God may want to do in you and through you? What risks might God might be calling you to take?

Watch the Crazy Love DVD/Video Resource for session 8

4. Describe what your gathering of Christians would look like if you began to live the type of obsessed Christian life that characterised the early church. Try to be both practical (be specific) and imaginative (think outside the box).
5. How can you join together with and commit to the other Christians in your life so that you can help one another to live this type of devoted life?

Who really lives that way?

Francis Chan says: "At this point, you may have the feeling that devoting yourself wholeheartedly to God is a noble goal but that it's unrealistic and you'll never reach that point. I understand this concern. I have never reached a point where I felt as though I had reached my goal. As the Holy Spirit works in us, we will always be growing – and we will always have further to go".

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Paul said, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on" (Phil. 3:12)

Watch the Crazy Love DVD/Video Resource for session 9

6. Who has God put in your life who serves as a good example of what it means to follow Jesus? What character qualities, activities and attitudes do these people possess that you would like to imitate in your own life?

Read James 5:13-18

7. Why does James refer to Elijah in this passage? What point is he making?

8. What fears do we have in our lives that prevent us from following God fully? What do you think God would say to those fears (if you can think of any Scripture that applies here, write it down).

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9. Describe one or two tangible steps that could help us overcome these fears? How can we help each other?

If Jesus is worth following at all, then He is worth following now! If God really is as great as the Bible says He is, then every other pursuit and every single excuse pales in comparison. How could we possibly choose anything over God?

*If you love God with this intensity – if you even **want** to love God with this intensity – then its time to take some steps in that direction (if you haven't started already). You may not be convinced beyond doubt what God is calling you to do, but we all know at least a few things that God would have us do in the midst of our unique setting.*

Pause for thought:

Think about what these things might be and start taking some steps to put your love for God into action (write them down here).

The next Home Group meeting is on 4th / 5th December - Chapter 10

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