
FIRE



> *Jeremiah 20:9* <

But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

If you're reading this you're probably living in a place where it's OK to be a Christian. You're probably in a city or a community where your faith isn't going to get you killed, beaten, or put in jail. Because of this, it's often difficult for us to relate to people who experience great persecution, whether in the Bible or in our world today.

Jeremiah was in a bind. He was stuck in the very difficult place between being called by God to be a prophet to the Israelites and being faced with the penalty of being persecuted if he were to open his mouth. For Jeremiah, this wasn't even a real option. He says that if he were to be quiet and not tell about the God who called him, then it would be like the insides of his bones were on fire. There's no way he could keep something that powerful inside him. Is God's presence that strong in your life? Are there things that you've experienced with God that are so powerful there's no way that you can keep it in? Many of us, if we were truthful, would answer no. I don't think this is because God isn't active in your life. I think it's because you haven't really spent time thinking about things like God's grace, mercy and love.

Jeremiah is describing passion, a passion that can't be contained. This passion is a gift from God. Seek it out.

Go and Do

This week go and ask five people who are close to you to name a few things they see you being passionate about. Ask them to try to be as specific as possible. Take these lists and compare them to each other. Do you see some common answers emerging? God instills in us natural passions for certain things. As you discover them, spend time fostering that passion, thinking about why God created that in you.
