

“When You’re In Love”
CRAZY LOVE¹ – Chapter 6
PSALM 63:1-5

GO VERTICAL!

1. The **horizontal** orientation for worship constantly asks the question, “What do **people** think?”
2. When we **go vertical** in our worship and lifestyle the key question becomes, “What does **God** think?”
3. When we go vertical with our **love**, it is lived out with those **around** us (Gal. 5:13-14).
4. When we worship in a vertical manner we learn to **freely love** God.

KEY THOUGHT: The words of Psalm 63:1-5 tell us to go vertical in our **relationship** with **God**.

I. I MUST CHOOSE TO BE VERTICAL IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (REV. 3:20).

- A. Decide to **draw near** to God (James 4:7-8).
 1. Corporate **worship** should be a place we can **practice** being vertical with God.
 2. In that environment, each of us seeks the Lord’s help to **cultivate** a deep **love** for Him (James 4:8).
 3. As long as your relationship with Jesus remains **vertical** then you face less temptation leading to **sin** (James 4:7).
- B. Be a **follower** of Jesus and not just a **fan** (Ps. 4:7-8; 28:7; 119:11).
 1. Crave **transformation** in your life, and do not just settle for a **ticket** to heaven (Eph. 4:1-3).
 2. **Submit** to the Holy Spirit to **enable** you to live a transformed life (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:17).

KEY THOUGHT: Vertical **Christianity** puts you on a **quest** to reach other people (Matt. 4:19)!

¹ Crazy Love, by Francis Chan; Publisher: David C. Cook, © 2008

II. I NEED TO GIVE JESUS FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE (MATT. 6:19-21).

- A. A radical Christian lifestyle depends on the power of the gospel to transform lives and propel the church (Rom. 1:16).
1. Our word “dynamite” comes from the root of the Greek word for power.
 2. No Christian can live the radical lifestyle that Jesus is demanding of His disciples without the power of the gospel in his life (Matt. 10:38-39).
- B. Brokenness can make us much more useful to the Lord (Ps. 51:17).
1. When brokenness occurs in your life, it is the perfect time to seek a simpler lifestyle.
 2. Stop pretending to be “spiritual” and start surrendering to the Lord’s leadership in your life (Ps. 23:1-3).

KEY THOUGHT: Putting my heart next to God’s heart allows me to hear its beat and do what He wants (Gal. 2:20).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

May 2, 2010

SUNDAY: **Go vertical (Ps. 63:1-5)!** The horizontal orientation constantly asks the question, “What do people think?” When we **GO VERTICAL** in our worship and lifestyle, the key question becomes, “What does God think?” When we go vertical with our love, it is lived out with those around us (Gal. 5:13-14). Worship services should train us to look up and **GO VERTICAL!** When we worship in a vertical manner, we learn to freely love God. Do you feel free in your Christian life? Why do so few Christians find joy and pleasure in their relationship with God? Remember, lukewarm living and claiming Christ’s name simultaneously is completely disgusting to God. The words of Psalm 63:1-5 tell us to **GO VERTICAL** in our relationship with God. Think of God on His throne when you pray today. Ask for God’s help in developing your *thirst* for Him. Request the strength not to feel you have to apologize for the spiritual content of your life. ***May your decision to GO VERTICAL bring immediate blessings and strength into your walk with the Lord!***

MONDAY: **What does God think of your submission (James 4:7-8)?** I must choose to be vertical in my relationship with God (Rev. 3:20). Fellowship with the Lord is dependent upon my willingness to confess my sin and truly repent of it. How do I keep from immediately sinning again? By deciding to draw near to God (James 4:7-8)! How do I learn to draw near to God? Worship services should be God-focused. Corporate worship should be a place we can practice being vertical with God. When we gather to worship, we stand beside one another in the presence of God. In that environment, each of us seeks the Lord’s help to cultivate a deep love for Him (James 4:8). As long as your relationship with Jesus remains vertical, then you face less temptation leading to sin (James 4:7)! What does God think about your submission? Ask the Lord to point out areas where you are not living a vertical life. Plead for forgiveness for any sin that has emanated from this horizontal living. ***May your awareness of the need to be vertical with the Lord bring the peace, joy, comfort, and strength that should be present in a disciple’s life!***

TUESDAY: **Be follower of Jesus and not just a fan (Eph. 4:1-3)!** It should be clear that you are a follower of Jesus and not just a fan (Ps. 4:7-8; 28:7; 119:111). Crave transformation in your life and do not just settle for a ticket to heaven (Eph. 4:1-3). The only hope the church has to reach people is through the life-transforming, radical power of the gospel. It has to be all about God – **GO VERTICAL** (John 3:30)! Allow the Holy Spirit to help you live a transformed life (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:17). It means putting your heart next to God’s heart and feeling His heartbeat. The heartbeat of God is so distinct and powerful that you will feel lost when you have moved away from it. Commit to the Lord today that you will be a follower and not just a fan of Jesus. As you go before the Lord in prayer and scripture reading seek to hear His heartbeat. Wait, be still, and listen with the ears of your soul. ***May your decision to GO VERTICAL bring the blessing of hearing the heartbeat of God!***

WEDNESDAY: **Vertical Christianity puts you on a quest to reach other people (Matt. 4:19)!** When you become a follower of Jesus and **GO VERTICAL**, you will feel His heartbeat to reach the unsaved (Luke 19:10). In fact, it will become a significant part of your life because it is

important to Jesus. Jesus told His disciples that if they followed Him, He would make them fishers of men (Matt. 4:19). Not only will they be given the motivation and inspiration, but the tools that are necessary to be effective “fishermen.” It is important to remember that fishermen cast bait that the fish then choose to bite. We are to be fishers of men and not hunters! It is the transparent nature of the Christian that draws the non-Christian to a desire to know Jesus. Ask the Lord to show you when you are living in a vertical relationship throughout the day. Request the Holy Spirit’s prompting to alert you when you have ceased to live in a vertical manner with the Lord. ***May your growing vertical worship of the Lord give you tremendous strength and courage!***

THURSDAY: ***A radical Christian lifestyle depends on the power of the gospel to transform lives and propel the church (Rom. 1:16)!*** Paul says that the gospel is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16). Our word “dynamite” comes from the root of the Greek word for *power*. Only God’s power is sufficient to forgive and remove the sin of man. No one can live the radical lifestyle that Jesus is demanding of His disciples without the power of the gospel in his life (Matt. 10:38-39). It is the power of God that fuels a church and not its programs, or its ministries. **VERTICAL** Christianity puts the Christian on a quest to deliver the unsaved from wrath of God and rescue them to the safety of being in Christ. When loving Jesus becomes an obligation, a box on your “to-do-list”, you are not living a **VERTICAL** life. Stop and ask the Lord to help you examine your life. Are you living a vertical life of faith? ***May this pause for evaluation bring needed adjustments as well as comfort to your life with Christ!***

FRIDAY: ***Brokenness can make us much more useful to the Lord (Ps. 51:17)!*** When brokenness occurs in your life, it is the perfect time to seek a simpler lifestyle. King David had reduced his life to prayer during the time of the child’s sickness. When the child died, the king bathed and ate before going to worship in the temple. David’s life had become very simple and had acquired a sharp focus. Brokenness can do this for you as a Christian. Stop pretending to be “spiritual” and start surrendering to the Lord’s leadership in your life (Ps. 23:1-3). Bring an end to faking your “godliness” and just start rejoicing in who Jesus is in your life (Mark 4:35-41, emphasis on verse 41). Out of spiritual brokenness you can find the tremendous joy of the Lord. Where is there brokenness in your life right now? Turn this area of your life over completely to God. Confess any sin and ask for the forgiveness of the Lord. Thank Him for that forgiveness and commit to **GO VERTICAL** in your relationship with Him. ***May the freedom you now feel become a source of strength to witness to others around you!***

SATURDAY: ***Putting my heart next to God’s heart allows me to hear its beat and do what He wants (Gal. 2:20)!*** When something slips through our fingers and shatters at our feet, the best thing we can do is pick up the pieces and make something beautiful out of it. When I decide to **GO VERTICAL** with my worship and lifestyle, it allows God to bring healing to anything broken in my life. Additionally, my passions and priorities change to His – a quest for those without a relationship with Him begins. Silently read Galatians 2:20 and pray through each portion of the verse. Allow the power of the gospel to energize your life and be filled with the Holy Spirit as the Lord lives through your life. Choose to live with a **VERTICAL** orientation! ***May the horizontal never be appealing to you again because you cannot hear the heartbeat of God when you live horizontally!***