

“Profile of the Obsessed”
CRAZY LOVE¹ – Chapter 8
DEUTERONOMY 6:5

CONSUMED WITH JESUS

1. Obsessed = “to have the mind **excessively** preoccupied with a **single** emotion or topic”²
2. Is it really **possible** to be **focused** more on Jesus than on this world?
3. What specifically do I need to **adjust** in my **lifestyle** if I want to be more focused on Jesus?

KEY THOUGHT: My priorities and my thinking must become **vertical** (Matt. 10:37-39).

I. BEING OBSESSED WITH JESUS MEANS I WILL HANDLE MY MONEY RADICALLY DIFFERENT (1 TIMOTHY 6:9-11).

A. I must worship the **Provider** and not the **provision** (1 Tim. 6:10).

1. Though false teachers were Paul’s primary target, too many Christians have been more in love with **money** and **stuff** than **God**.
2. Being **content** with the **basics** will allow the Christian the opportunity to live a godly lifestyle (1 Tim. 6:6).

B. The “man of God” is known by his **living out** the truth of the Bible (1 Tim. 6:11).

1. Godliness is defined in my life by what I **flee**, **follow**, fight for, and am faithful to **live** for (1 Tim. 6:11-14).
2. “**Godliness**” refers to my reverence for God and my desire to be like Him.
3. “**Righteousness**” emphasizes my desire to do right toward God and toward man.

KEY THOUGHT: My desire for godliness in my life **demand**s righteous actions regarding my finances and anything else I hold dear.

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

² Crazy Love, p. 129

II. **BEING OBSESSED WITH JESUS MEANS I WILL CULTIVATE A CHRIST-LIKE ATTITUDE (MATT. 10:37-39).**

- A. My **salvation** is the most valued event, or possession, in my life (Matt. 13:44).
1. My Heavenly Father is pleased and glorified when I remain **attached** to Him and bear much **fruit** (John 15:8).
 2. My focus must be to remain **vertical** and **attached** to Him because apart from Him I can do nothing (John 15:5).
- B. I will live to serve Jesus by **servicing others** (Matt. 10:38; 25:34-45).
1. There is a great need for me to remain **humble** if I am going to remain **close** to my Father (Matt. 5:16).
 2. I want to be a **giver** and not just a **taker** in the Kingdom of God (Acts 20:35).

KEY THOUGHT: Cultivating an intimate relationship with God demands that I **plant** myself in His **presence** (Ps. 1:3).

I WANT TO BE CONSUMED WITH JESUS.

- It is my intent to make my priorities and attitudes **vertical** as often as possible.
- I want to be sure I am worshipping the **Provider** and not the provision.
 - ◆ I want to use **less** of the resources given to me and return more to Kingdom work.
 - ◆ My desire for godliness will be revealed in my total **stewardship** (Matt. 6:19-21).
- I want to serve **Jesus** by serving others.
 - ◆ My desire is to point **others** to God by my **life**.
 - ◆ I will **focus** on being a giver and not just a taker in the Kingdom of God (Acts 20:35).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

May 23, 2010

SUNDAY: *I desire that my priorities and my thinking become vertical (Matt. 10:37-39)!*

For me, I need to be consumed with Jesus. That means to be fully engaged with Him in my thinking. Francis Chan describes the similar feeling of being “obsessed.” Both convey the idea of being excessively preoccupied with a single emotion or topic. Is it really possible to be more focused on Jesus than on this world? Though it would be a struggle, I am convinced it would be fulfilling. What specifically do I need to adjust in my lifestyle if I want to be more focused on Jesus? What selections do I make throughout my day to tweak and shift my focus from the horizontal to the vertical? How do I use my discretionary time? Who am I around? It demands that I consciously make the choice to avoid the things that draw my mind and heart to see the world from a horizontal perspective. “Lord, please help me recognize when I have shifted to a horizontal perspective. Make my heart uneasy and troubled to be living apart from a vertical perspective.” *May the shift of my priorities and my thinking to the vertical perspective bring a wonderful obsession with my Lord and Savior!*

MONDAY: *I must worship the Provider and not the provision (1 Tim. 6:10)!*

Paul uses the phrase “man of God” to refer to Timothy. It is an amazing phrase that describes the sacred privilege of being the personal possession of God. The description brings an innate responsibility to carry out your ministry tasks with precision. Though false teachers who taught for money were Paul’s primary target, too many Christians have been more in love with money and stuff than God. Comfort and status quo are very easy to rationalize and justify. However, being content with the basics will allow the Christian the opportunity to live a godly lifestyle (1 Tim. 6:6). My soul needs to be completely sufficient with the Provider alone and to passionately worship Him. Contentment makes it much easier to worship the Lord God apart from His provision. Being obsessed with Jesus would mean that I would handle my money radically different! “Lord, help me to worship you with all of my heart and being so that You are the most important thing in this life to me! Thank You for Your provision and may I be a good steward of it.” *May my priorities shift from the horizontal perspective to the vertical of worshipping the Lord more than anything I would possess on earth!*

TUESDAY: *I want to be known for living out the Bible (1 Tim. 6:11)!*

The man of God realizes that there are certain things to be avoided at all costs. Godliness flees from sexual sin, idolatry, and “youthful lusts”. It is clear that any evil associated with the love of money needs to be swept from one’s life (vv. 9-10). Just as fast as a man of God runs from the corrupting love of money, he approaches spiritual virtue. The pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness is the aim and goal. Godliness is defined in my life by what I flee, follow, fight for, and am faithful to live for (1 Tim. 6:11-14). “Godliness” refers to my reverence for God and my desire to be like Him. “Righteousness” emphasizes my desire to live right toward the Lord and toward man. My desire for godliness in my life demands righteous actions regarding my finances and anything else I hold dear! “Lord, lift my eyes up to value Your virtues and not those of the world that are bought by money.” *May the increase of godly virtue bring about precise living which honors and glorifies the Lord!*

WEDNESDAY: *My salvation is the dearest thing in my life (Matt. 13:44)!* How do I shift to a vertical perspective for longer than a minute? The answer is to cultivate a Christ-like attitude. That demands that I value everything in my life with God's currency scale. My salvation is the most valued event, or possession, in my life (Matt. 13:44)! Jesus said that my Heavenly Father is pleased and glorified when I remain attached to Him and bear much fruit (John 15:8). Pruning is necessary for me to be a producing vine for Him. My focus must be to remain vertical and attached to Him because apart from Him, I can do nothing (John 15:5). My salvation is the dearest thing in my life! "Lord, shield me from anything that averts my eyes from You and the precious value of my salvation." *May my love for Jesus consume me and yield a humble spirit like my Lord!*

THURSDAY: *I live to serve Jesus by serving others (Matt. 10:38; 25:34-45)!* There are too many times when I whine to God. Far too often, I complain about the load being heavy and that I feel I have worked hard enough to warrant a significant break. I begin to think more highly of myself and my efforts than I should think (Rom. 12:3). There is a great need for me to remain humble if I am going to remain close to my Father (Matt. 5:16). I want to be a producer of fruit for the kingdom of God! Fruit producers are givers and not takers. I want to be a giver and not just a taker in the Kingdom of God (Acts 20:35). For me, that means I will live to serve Jesus by serving others (Matt. 25:34-45). That is going to require large quantities of humility that can only come from being regularly in the presence of God. "Lord, help me stop being so busy. Guide me in the reduction of my schedule so I can be with You more and serve others humbly." *May the decision to be consumed with Jesus begin to appeal to you because your salvation has become more valuable to you!*

FRIDAY: *Intimacy with the Lord demands I be in His presence (Psalm 1:3)!* There will be no humility in my life unless there is regular, intense intimacy with the Lord. I must cultivate an intimate relationship with God. That demands that I plant myself in His presence (Ps. 1:3). This verse states I should be like a fruitful "tree" whose leaves do not wither. A healthy tree is full of sap that infiltrates every cell of the tree, bringing nourishment and nutrients. Evidence of that sap is present in every cell of that tree. For me to have intimacy with God, I must have evidence of the presence of God in every aspect of my life. I want to be in the presence of God more than anything in this life – planted in His presence and just being able to serve Him with every breath I draw. "Lord, block the distractions in my life that draw my attention to the horizontal and off of You. Lord, fill my life with Your presence through the Holy Spirit." *May the presence of the Lord bring such joy, peace, and comfort in my life that others would be drawn to Him!*

SATURDAY: *I want to be consumed with Jesus (Matt. 6:19-21)!* The Treasure Principle speaks about investing all that I have in the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:19-21). The kingdom of God is like a field that contains a treasure that is so valuable a man would sell all that he had to purchase it (Matt. 13:44). My salvation has become that valuable to me. Its supreme value has caused me to reevaluate every aspect of my life and every priority that I hold. It has led me to the conclusion that I want to be consumed with Jesus. "Lord, continue to assist me with the emptying of the worthless and the less worthy from my life so that more of Jesus can be added to my life." *May the journey only intensify as I seek to be filled with His Spirit and led by His holiness (Gal. 2:20)!*