



Taking your pulse... in Messiah

By David Brickner, Executive Director

Recently a ministry partner told me, “One thing I love about Jews for Jesus is that you have stayed true to your calling to Jewish evangelism.” I told him that passion for the lost is one of our core values, and God has used it to protect us from drifting.

Passion may be defined as “focused energy” that sometimes enables people to excel beyond their natural strength. Passion can blur fatigue, pain and concern for one’s own well-being. Paul was speaking from that kind of passion when he wrote: “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:1–3).

Paul’s passion in this passage is clear, and it presents three pulse points by which we can measure our own passion for the lost: awareness, angst, and altruism.

Paul shows self-awareness when he shows us his transparency, his vulnerability, and the genuineness of his own feelings. They are in alignment with the joint witness of his conscience and the Holy Spirit. How honest are we about our passion for the lost? Our conscience, that inward sense of moral right and wrong, can be polluted by sin. But the witness of the Holy Spirit is always pure. It takes prayer, introspection, and reflection to reach that awareness.

Second, Paul expresses great angst when he says, “I have great sorrow and continual grief.” How’s your angst meter today? Paul’s turmoil over the lost was continual. God has called us as His people to care deeply to the point of real discomfort. God calls us to experience a measure of emotional distress when we submit to the Spirit’s desire to share with us His passion for the lost.

Paul’s third pulse point is altruism, promoting someone else’s welfare even at the risk of our own: “For I could wish that I myself were accursed.” Paul sounds like Moses as he interceded for disobedient Israel: “blot me out of Your book which You have written” (Exodus 32:32).

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Moses and Paul, in wishing to substitute themselves as recipients of the punishment due to their people, are reflecting the heart of our Messiah Jesus and His passion for the lost. That passion fueled the incarnation and the crucifixion of our Lord who was cursed on behalf of others that they might be saved.

I could wish along with Paul to take the punishment for my people so they could be spared—but my death would not produce even one person's salvation. But I know the One who was cut off for the sake of my people. And because He was perfect, holy, innocent, and undefiled, death could not hold Him and the grave could not keep Him.

None of us can sustain that passion in our own strength. We need to take our spiritual pulse and ask the Holy Spirit to renew our wonder over God's grace in saving us, our anguish over the spiritual condition of others, and our identification with our crucified and risen Lord in His amazing passion for the lost.



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Question and answer with Bob Mendelsohn

Is it true that messianic Jews celebrate all the holidays, even Christian ones, then why be Jewish after all? -MJ

A: Thanks for your good question, MJ, and thanks for processing this with us.

No, it's not true that all messianic Jews do the same things at all! What is true is that we are saved and in love with Yeshua, and that's about the only thing we all agree on!

He's our Messiah and has forgiven us by the shed blood on Calvary; everything after that is subsidiary. Our focus is on him, whether we celebrate Sukkot or Messiah-mas or Easter or Passover.

Some refuse to practice anything 'pagan' and others embrace much of many cultures. If we keep our eyes on Yeshua, and him as the Lamb of God or as the Risen One, then we win. If we look to the Lord who 'tabernacled' with us and gave us eternal life, we will find deep meaning and satisfaction.

Being Jewish is about the preservation of our lineage and that's accomplished by the Lord who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Get to know Yeshua; and celebrate him in any and all circumstances of life. He and you will both be glad.

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We understand the confusion that has been pronounced due to Covid and lockdowns, but be assured that our shop is open weekdays, normal business hours, and we want you to visit! We have 800 products in the shop, including candles and oils, books by your favourite messianic authors, novels, cookbooks, CDs of your favourite artists, DVDs and so much more. Judaica like Mezuzahs and shofars, Menorahs and ...well the list goes on.

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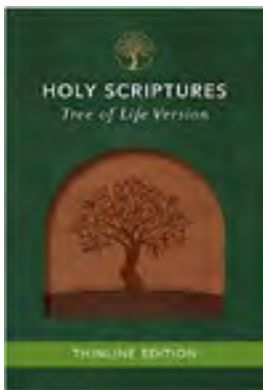
Tree of Life

Leatherette Bible

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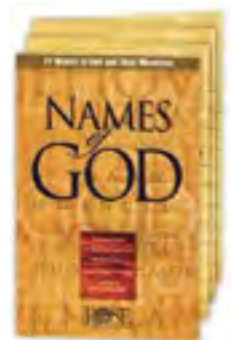
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You may feel inadequate to the task; after all, there is only one C.S. Lewis. But evangelist Randy Newman skilfully helps us to apply the methods Lewis used (storytelling, humour, imagery, and more) in our own conversations. **COST: \$29**



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