

# “Where Did My Spiritual Passion Go?”

Part 2, Acts 7:37-53

## Three Key Ideas in Stephen’s Sermon:

- I. God’s Plan includes Change
- II. Blessings are not limited to the worship center
- III. God’s People have a history of opposing God’s Plans and Men

## Spiritual Passion comes as a result of a process:

- Adoption – being related to God
- Fellowship – open lines of communication
- Relationship – knowing the essentials about God
- Wholeheartedness – being totally committed
- Passion – a passion for His purposes

Our Spiritual Passion is tied to Our View of God’s

Grace, Reign, Aversion, Cleanness, Edicts

## **III. Aversion** – “but thrust Him from them” (Vs. 37-43)

Aversion = A fixed, intense dislike; repugnance, distaste, abhorrence, disgust

### **Losing Perspective of the Jealousy of God** **Verses 37-43**

Jealousy – Not Wanting to be Replaced

- Vigilant in guarding something: *We are jealous of our good name.*
- Intolerant of disloyalty or infidelity; autocratic: *a jealous God.*

God’s jealousy is linked to His love relationship. He sees it as a structured relationship. If we love Him, we will obey Him and commit ourselves only to Him. As a husband with a wife.

Exodus 20:2-7 – A command and warning about God’s Jealousy

## God will not Share You with

- Moloch – (Sun) – children of Ammon
- Remphem – (Moon) - ? the Stars –

## Jealousy is a dynamic at work in His:

### A. **Attributes** – “*the Lord your God*”

It is Integral to Who God Is

- Exodus 34:14 – He says it is His name

### B. **Associations** – “*God turned, and gave them up*”

It is Dynamic to Our Relationship

- Deut. 32:15-20 – example of the dynamics
- James 4:1, 4, 8 – shows His view of our unfaithfulness
- **Joshua 24:16-20** – tells us of the choice we must make

## **IV. Cleanness** – “tabernacle of witness” (Vs. 44-50)

**Losing Reverence for the Holiness of God**

*Holiness is:*

- A. Represented in the Tabernacle – “*fashion he had seen*”
  - The priests
  - The veil
  - The ceremonial washings
  - The blood
  - The preciseness of all placement and timing
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- B. Related to Our Service – “*Solomon built Him a house*”
  - David wanted to build the temple but was not allowed
  - We may want to serve Him but we must remember He desires Holy vessels
    - Romans 12:1-2, **I Thes. 4:7-8**
    - Isaiah 66:1-2
- C. Recognized by Our Behavior – “*the Most High dwells*”
  - We bow our heads
  - We are careful what we say in church
  - We dress up for church
  - We search our hearts before communion

**V. Edicts** – “who have received the law” (Vs. 51-53)

**Losing Sensitivity to the Message of God**

*God’s message confronts Our:*

A. **Arrogance** – “*stiff-necked*”

Full of Pride and Stubborn

**Arrogance** - offensive display of superiority or self-importance; overbearing pride, "to claim for oneself, assume,

B. **Allegiance** – “*uncircumcised in heart*”

Lacking Love and Allegiance

C. **Attention** – “*uncircumcised in ears*”

Inattentive and Disobedient

These are specific ways we choose to resist the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives. We are constantly battling this central issue of whether we will choose what God wants ( His Word) or what we want – Our sinful will.

By not taking special Care to acknowledge God’s

Grace

Reign

Aversion

Cleanness

Edicts

***We quench the spiritual passion that God wants in our lives***