



**“Renewed Passion”  
— Dear Church—  
Small Group Plan**

*Christ is not valued at all,  
if He is not valued above all.*

-- Augustine

Once there was a man who lived in a great forest. He spent his days cutting wood and had stacked up huge walls of wood, enough to last him for years and years.

In his great library were many practical books on the purpose and use of fire. He liked to have long conversations with neighbors on the strength and power of fire.

But when everyone went home, he spent each night alone and cold. It had been years since he had felt the warmth of a fire, because he had everything that he needed, except the spark.

**OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- In this modern parable, what is the “spark” that makes religion real?
- Why do some have the equipment of religion, but not the spark?

**LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

***WHOLE-HEARTED OR HALF-HEARTED?***  
**Revelation 3:14-22**

<sup>14</sup> *“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: “These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat*

down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

- Why does Jesus identify Himself as the “Amen” (v. 14)?
- Does Jesus really prefer “cold” faith to “lukewarm” faith (v. 15-16)? Explain.

### **FAITH SIMULATED**

#### **Vs. 17**

<sup>17</sup> You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

- How were the Laodicean Christians deceived?
- What is misleading them?
- How can our own success – “wealth” – lead us off course?
- Why is it deadly dangerous to ever think that we “do not need a thing”?

### **FAITH STIMULATED**

#### **Vs. 19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

- Why do “love” and “rebuke” often belong together (v. 19)?
- How would you describe an intense, serious, relentless faith quest?
- How has Jesus “knocked” on your door?
- Since this unusual correspondence is not from Jesus to unbeliever, but from Jesus to believer ...
  - ... how would you describe faith with Jesus on the outside?
  - ... what changes when Jesus is moved inside?
- Why doesn’t Jesus save some time and just break down the door?

### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- How does indifference show itself today – in what areas of life?
- How would you describe an apathetic mindset of attitude?
- On the other hand, describe a passionate, engaged mindset?
- How would you advise a Christian who says, “I want to change my indifference to enthusiasm”?
- Close by thanking God for His passionate, enthusiastic love for humanity. Ask Him to show you how to extend his love on to others.