

ONE MONTH TO LIVE
Living A No Regrets Life
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We're concluding our series One Month To Live and thank God you're alive!

The whole point of this series was not so much to prepare you to die as it was to prepare you to live!

God willing, you will live for many, many more months, years, or decades, enjoying life to the fullest, forever changed as you embrace the God who has given you life!

Over this past month we have discovered four principles that enable us to live life the way God desires:

- to live passionately,
- to love completely,
- to learn humbly
- and to leave boldly.

Someone once said, "Your life is a gift from God. What you do with it is your gift to God."

If you've seriously taken the one month to live challenge you will have made some significant changes and your life is different.

Now what?

If there is one thing that I could get you to take from this series it would be to ignite and restore passion to your life.

Because if you only had one month to live, you would want to enjoy every single moment as the precious gift it is.

And you would want to make every second count toward something meaningful.

The fuel for sustaining the one-month-to-live lifestyle over the long haul is passion.

In John's Gospel Jesus tells us that:

"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."

Jesus said my purpose is to give you life, to give you a zest for living, to give you an enthusiasm for your life, to fill you with passion.

Jesus wants you to be a passionate person.

Doctors today are always trying to come up with new medicines so that we can add years to our lives, so we can live longer.

Jesus said I have come, not to add years to your life, but to add life to your years.

I want you to live a passionate life so you will have no regrets.

But how do we do that?

It is actually pretty simple → and it is spelled L I F E

L. LOVE

Love is the foundation piece

Everything revolves around love

The fuel that fires the passion in a marriage relationship is love.

The fuel that fires the productivity at the workplace is love.

In fact, they did a study over a 20 year period, with a cross section of American workers, they studied thousands of workers and at the conclusion of the study what they found is:

If you do what you love to do long enough, success will come.

Success will come because people don't succeed at what they don't love.

I love what I do.

I love being your pastor.
I love this church.

Sometimes people ask me, Steve, do you ever get tired of the ministry?
The answer is NO.
I get tired **in** the ministry, but I never get tired **of** the ministry.

Love is the foundational piece if we want to have passion in life.

Love is essential if we are to live a no-regrets life.

The problem is, most people don't know what love is.

Love is not a feeling

Love is a choice.

Love is an action that produces powerful feelings, but it is not a feeling.

There is a big difference between passion and lust.

When you have a passion for something the more you do it the more satisfied you are.

With lust, the more you do it the less satisfied you are.

Lust leaves you empty.

Passion comes out of love.

An unselfish love.

Lust comes out of selfishness.

Most of the love songs today, are not love songs at all -- they are lust songs.

They are not about giving unselfishly, they are all about taking. --- That's lust.

Love is essential if we are to live a no-regrets life.

Maybe you can look back at a time in your life when you felt a lot closer to God, when you felt a lot more passionate, when you felt God was right there with you.

If you are feeling right now that you are not as passionate about God as you once were, then you have to do the things you did when you first fell in love with God.

What did you do?

You spent time with God

You were in love with God

The second piece to a no-regrets life is **I – Integrity**

Integrity is simply integrating what I say I believe into my daily actions, into my daily walk.

Integrity is putting what I say I believe into action.

The problem is, many of us compartmentalize our lives.

Think of your life like a pie.

There are all these different slices in the pie.

- You have a career slice.
- If you are married you have a marriage slice.
- If you have a family you have a family slice.
- Maybe a hobby slices, a recreation slice,
- maybe a God slice.

But God says I don't want to be just one little slice in your pie of life.

God wants to be first in our life:

Remember the words of the Shema – the words that Jesus tells us are the most important commandment.

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

If you want to have integrity you have to integrate God into first place of every area of your life.

Just as lust destroys the passion in our lives, so does the lack of integrity.

Nothing frustrates us more than when we say that we believe something, but we don't live it out in our lives.

Nothing frustrates us more than to say God is first place, but yet we don't give God the time, the talents or the treasure that God expects.

When we don't have integrity – when we don't live what we believe it strips the passion from our lives

We need to keep the passion alive by living with integrity.

The third piece to keeping passion in our lives is **F – FORGIVENESS**

Nothing drains our passion like unresolved conflict.

And truly the only way to resolve conflict is through forgiveness.

We have to learn to forgive.

Too often we carry around resentment, and bitterness,

We've been hurt and we carry it around and hold onto that hate and it just steals our passion for life.

The person that hurt us could care less.

It doesn't hurt them a bit.

We're not getting back at them a bit. It's just hurting us and it just drains you of your passion for life.

When you have a conflict with someone and something's not right and you don't resolve it, you don't work toward resolving it, it's just out there, it steals your passion.

We have to learn to forgive

The final piece to the puzzle of having a no-regrets life is to have a life filled with **E- ENTHUSIASM**.

To live a no-regrets life I need enthusiasm.

Emerson said nothing great ever happens without enthusiasm in life.

Enthusiasm comes from two Greek words, *en* and *theos*.

Theos is the Greek word for God.

En simply means in.

It literally means God within.

The most enthusiastic, the most passionate person who ever lived was Jesus!

In Colossians 3:23 The Message we are reminded:

don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God

Whatever you are doing – do it with passion!

We have spent the last month focusing on the question – If I knew that I had only one month to live → how would I live my life?

This hasn't been about dying → this is all about living

Live passionately

Love completely

Live humbly

Leave boldly

And if you do → when your time is up on this earth, you will be able to go knowing that you have no regrets!