

# January 2010

It's amazing to consider that another year is gone and a new year is upon us. At this time of year, many people will take time to set their New Year's Resolutions. These resolutions often cover a wide range of areas and activities. However, no set of resolutions would really be complete, if it didn't include any resolutions about our faith and walk with Christ.

One of my favorite t-shirts says this, "You might call it an obsession, we call it Duke Basketball." It's a message to all who see it that this is no passing fancy. It's a commitment and dedication to Duke Basketball. This should be even truer with regard to our faith. We should be obsessed with our faith, obsessed with God, obsessed with Jesus Christ. In his book, *Crazy Love*, Francis Chan gives a profile of the obsessed. Consider below what he says about those who are obsessed with Jesus Christ.

**Obsessed:** *To have the mind excessively preoccupied with a single emotion or topic.*

**Lovers** – *There has to be more to faith than friendliness, politeness, and even kindness. True love makes you stand out. People who are **obsessed** with Jesus give freely and openly without censure. Obsessed people love those who hate them and who can never love them back.*

**Risk Takers** – *People who are **obsessed** with Jesus aren't consumed with their personal safety and comfort above all else. Obsessed people care more about God's kingdom coming to this earth than their own lives being shielded from pain or distress.*

**Friends of All** – *People who are **obsessed** with Jesus live lives that connect them with the poor in some way or another. Obsessed people believe that Jesus talked about money and the poor so often because it was really important to Him. (Matt. 16:24-26; 1 John 2:4-6)*

**Crazy Ones** – *Sometimes I feel like when I make decisions that are remotely biblical, people who call themselves Christians are the first to criticize. **Obsessed** people are more concerned with obeying God than doing what is expected or fulfilling the status quo. A person who is obsessed with Jesus will do things that don't always make sense in terms of success or wealth on this earth. (Luke 14:25-35; Matt. 7:13-23; 8:18-22; Rev. 3:1-6)*

**The Humble** – *It's pride, plain and simple, that keeps me from giving God all the glory and keeping some of it for myself. A person who is **obsessed** with Jesus knows that the sin of pride is always a battle. Obsessed people know that you can never be "humble enough," and so they seek to make themselves less known and Christ more known. (Matt. 5:16)*

**Servers** – *I question whether many American churchgoers are really in love with God because they are so hesitant to do anything for him. People who are **obsessed** with Jesus do not consider service a burden. Obsessed people take joy in loving God by loving His people. (Matt. 13:44; John 15:8)*

**Givers** – *The crazy part about God's heart is that He doesn't just ask us to give; He desires that we love those in need as much as we love ourselves. People who are **obsessed** with God are known as givers, not takers. Obsessed people genuinely think that others matter as much as they do, and they are particularly aware of those who are poor around the world. (James 2:14-26)*

**Sojourners** – A person who is **obsessed** thinks about heaven frequently. Obsessed people orient their lives around eternity; they are not fixed only on what is here in front of them.

**The Engrossed** – Our goal as people who follow Christ should be no less than becoming people who are madly in love with God. A person who is **obsessed** is characterized by committed, settled, passionate love for God, above and before every other thing and every other being.

**Unguarded Ones** – God wants us to be open with Him. People who are **obsessed** are raw with God; they do not attempt to mask the ugliness of their sins or their failures. Obsessed people don't put it on for God; He is their safe place, where they can be at peace.

**The Rooted** – God wants His Word to be a delight to us, so much so that we meditate on it day and night. People who are **obsessed** with God have an intimate relationship with Him. They are nourished by God's Word throughout the day because they know that forty minutes on Sunday is not enough to sustain them for a whole week, especially when they will encounter so many distractions and alternative messages.

**The Dedicated** – A person who is **obsessed** with Jesus is more concerned with his or her character than comfort. Obsessed people know that true joy doesn't depend on circumstances or environment; it is a gift that must be chosen and cultivated, a gift that ultimately comes from God. (James 1:2-4)

**Sacrificers** – A person who is **obsessed** with Jesus knows that the best thing he can do is be faithful to his Savior in every aspect of his life, continually saying "Thank You!" to God. An obsessed person knows there can never be intimacy if he is always trying to pay God back or work hard enough to be worthy. He revels in his role as child and friend of God.

Let us resolve that 2010 will find us obsessed with God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Scott