



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
BASEBALL**

Passion - Part 2

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30)

Jackie Robinson is quoted as saying; “Baseball is like a poker game. Nobody wants to quit when he's losing; nobody wants you to quit when you're ahead.” Anyone who ever had the opportunity to see Jackie Robinson play would never doubt his passion for the game!

That passion fuels optimism. Optimism that allows ballplayers to believe that each at-bat, each groundball, and each pitch is a new opportunity to achieve greatness on the field. It is optimism fueled by the love of the game!

Think about the passion you have for baseball. It gives you a single-minded focus that allows you to succeed on the field. It is breathed from the love you have for the game. This love comes from the desire to be the best you are capable of becoming. It also stems from the fact that baseball is a lot like life. Bob Feller, former pitcher with the Cleveland Indians said it best; *“Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is.”*

Everything we do in life is fueled by passion. It gets us out of the bed in morning. It's what fueled Jackie Robinson to integrate professional sports in America by breaking the color barrier in baseball and play like he did on the field; and provided him with the passion in life to fight tirelessly to improve the quality of life not only for African-Americans, but for society as a whole. By becoming the first black vice president of a major American corporation, Robinson continued to open doors for African-Americans.

As Christians we have optimism fueled by passion – passion ignited by Jesus and what he did for us on the Cross. Through His love for us and saving grace we can walk with optimism and fueled by passion to let others know about Him. The Disciples and early Christians lived life with this passion, willing to put their desires of the flesh aside and put their own lives on the line for Christ on a daily basis? They knew that they were pursuing God and His greatness – it gave them that single-minded focus.

Without that single-minded focus we can't succeed on the field. We have to have that same drive to take a 100 plus groundballs daily, to run that extra sprint, workout that extra 5 minutes in the weight room, and to train our mind to overcome adversity and failure.

Jesus tells us what that passion looks like when he is recorded in Mark as saying; *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30).*

As you work to improve your skills this winter and condition your body to get bigger, faster, and stronger for the upcoming season, I challenge you to pay attention to the time you are also spending on your relationship with Jesus. If we are truly passionate about our love for Christ we must be willing to follow and obey his words.

As ballplayers we would never miss an opportunity to take batting practice. In the same way let us not miss an opportunity to get better with God.

Challenge: Pay attention to the time and effort you put into the game of baseball. Are you focusing the same energy on your walk with Christ?

Reading This Week: Mark 12:30, Deuteronomy 6:5.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your Son Jesus and for the example He provided for us. Please give me the courage and intentionality to have the same single-minded focus needed to become great on the field as needed to become more like Jesus. Grant me the desire to read your Word, Pray, and Share your love with my family, friends, and teammates.

-- Todd Burger – Director, NOVA/DC FCA Baseball