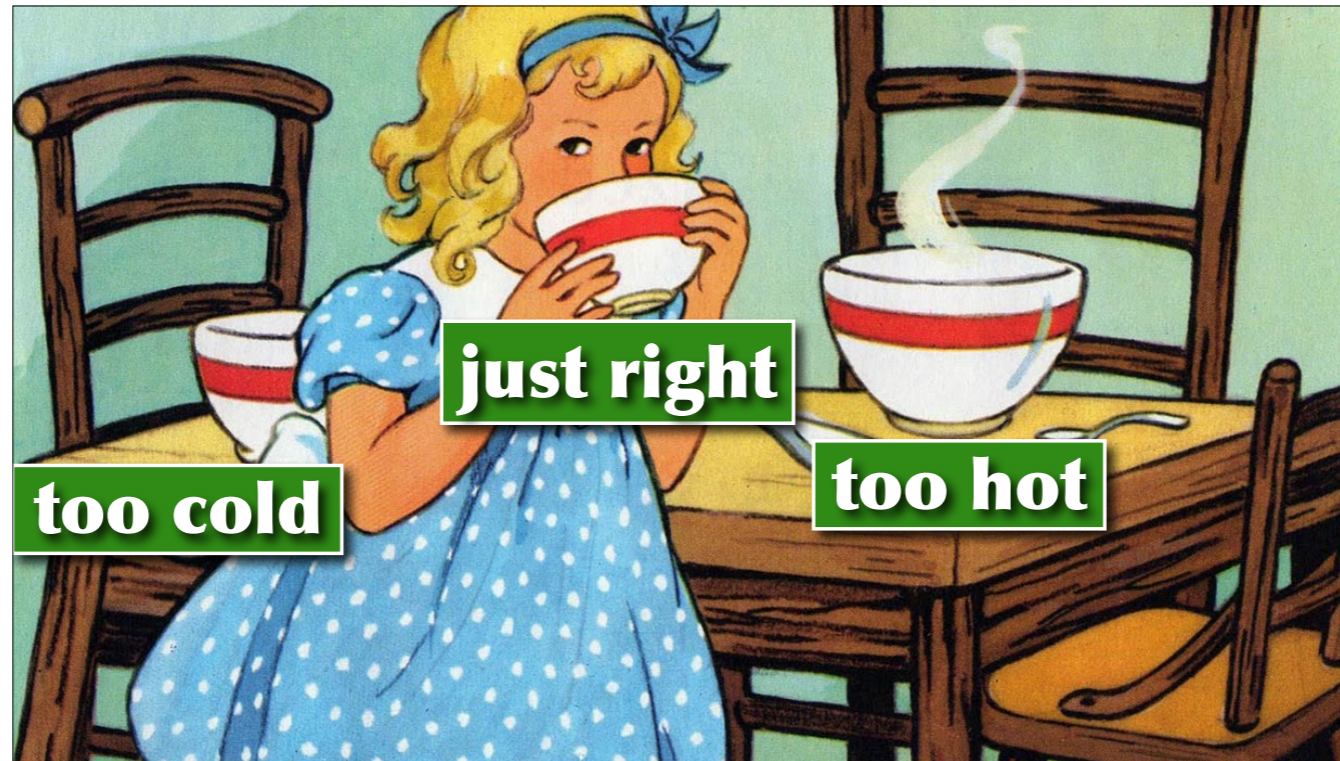


- Am I Lukewarm?

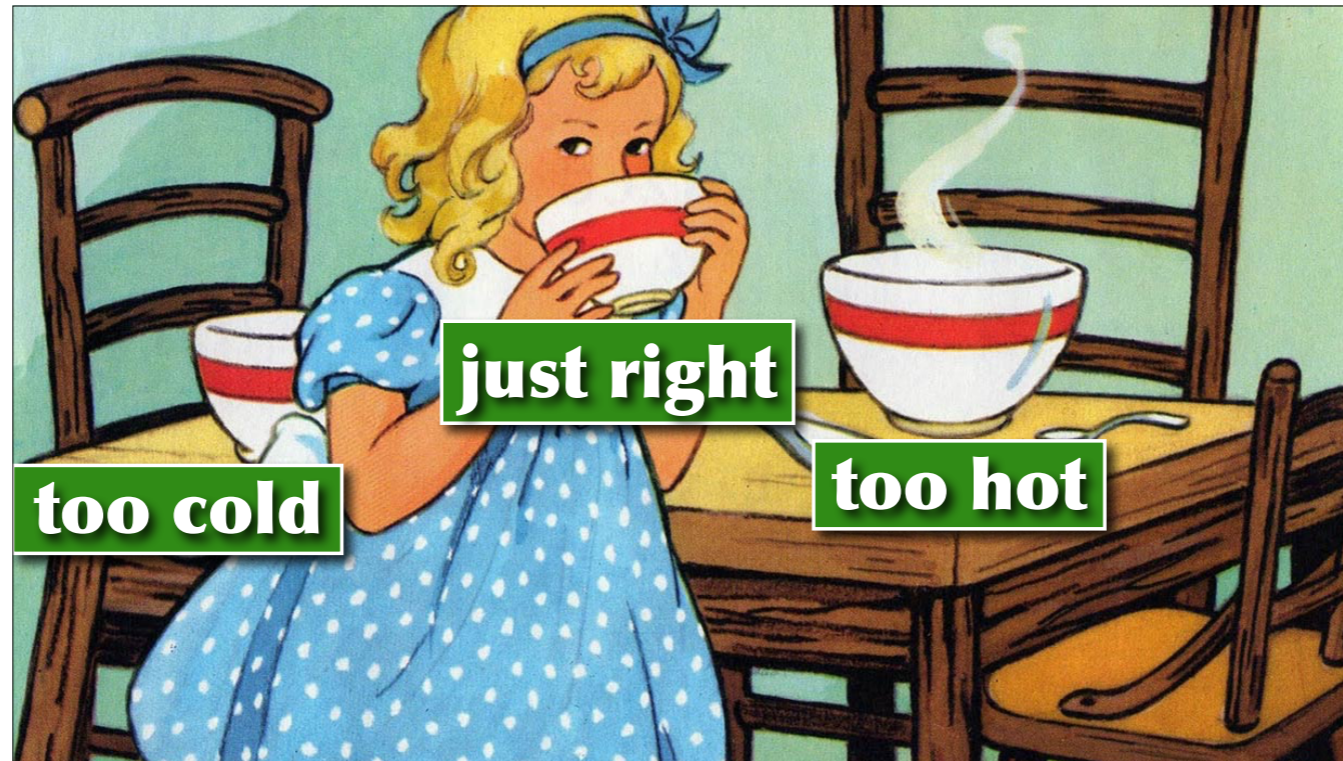
How do we know when someone is passionate about something?

Bike: ride, talk, teach, # of bikes, smile

Some think I overdo it!



- At the table in the kitchen, there were three bowls of porridge. Goldilocks was hungry. She tasted the porridge from the first bowl.
- "This porridge is too hot!" she exclaimed.
- So, she tasted the porridge from the second bowl.
- "This porridge is too cold," she said
- So, she tasted the last bowl of porridge.
- "Ahhh, this porridge is just right," she said happily and she ate it all up.



- We've been taught to find the middle. Not too hot. Not too cold.
- Don't be too passionate.
- Don't be too passive.
- Be just right.
 - fit in
 - don't make waves



- Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and destroyed temple completely
- Judah in Babylon for 70 years
- Return to rebuild temple
 - Excited?
 - Ready to work?



- Foundation laid, and there is weeping
 - not as glorious as temple Solomon built
- Work stops on temple for various reasons
 - What happened?



- Haggai is sent to get them refocused
- Haggai 1:2-7 (ESV) 2 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.” 3 Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, 4 “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? 5 Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. 6 You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. 7 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.



- Consider your ways
 - paneled houses vs. temple in ruins
 - sown much, harvested little
 - eat, never enough
 - drink, never have fill
 - clothed, not warm
 - wages in a bag with holes
 - Consider your ways



- Working for myself but neglecting the things of God
 - Have some, but never enough
 - Something is lacking



- Consider your ways
 - This is a challenge to us
 - Look at this group/church
 - Are we glorious?
 - Are we everything that Jesus would want us to be?
 - Look at myself, my life.
 - Is something lacking?

You Are Lukewarm

**I know your works:
you are neither cold nor hot.
Would that you were
either cold or hot!
So, because you are lukewarm,
and neither hot nor cold,
I will spit you out of my mouth.**
Revelation 3:15-16, NT p. 429



- Revelation 3:14-22 (ESV) 14 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. 15 “‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

You Are Lukewarm

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So, because you are lukewarm,
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I will spit you out of my mouth.**

Revelation 3:15-16, NT p. 429



- I know your works
 - It was not that they were doing nothing at all.
 - They were working
- Lukewarmness is not just about busyness.
 - What am I busy doing?
 - Why am I doing it?

You Are Lukewarm

**I know your works;
you are neither cold nor hot.
Would that you were
either cold or hot!
So, because you are lukewarm,
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I will spit you out of my mouth.**

Revelation 3:15-16, NT p. 429



- Clearly our Savior doesn't like lukewarmness
 - Because it so easily deceives us into thinking things are okay.
 - It is the essence of complacency and going with the flow.
 - Comfortable.



- Why am I lukewarm?
- This is not intended as a guilt trip.
 - Unless you need it.
- Lukewarmness most often happens without making a conscious, specific point, decision.
- We easy into it, and still feel we are making progress.
- So let's consider our ways...

Why Am I Lukewarm?

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

I **LOVE** God.

- I FEAR God more than I LOVE God.
 - It's not wrong to fear God, in the sense of respect Him and honor his power and authority
- Hebrews 10:26-31 (ESV) 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Hebrews 10:31, NT p. 388

I **LOVE** God.

- Hebrews 10:26-31 (ESV) 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Hebrews 10:31, NT p. 388

I **LOVE** God.

- Salvation ... from hell.
- Serve ... to keep from hell.
- Obey ... afraid of hell
- I don't want to be punished
- Common attitude, especially for those who are immature in Christ

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

I **LOVE** God.

"and to keep the commandments
and statutes of Jehovah, which I am
commanding you today for your
good."

Deuteronomy 10:13, OT p. 293

- Deuteronomy 10:13 (ESV) and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

I **LOVE** God.

*"If you love me, you will keep my
commandments."*

John 14:15, NT p. 188

- John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

I **LOVE** God.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears
has not been perfected in love.”

1 John 4:18, NT p. 417-418

- 1 John 4:18: There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears
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1 John 4:18, NT p. 417-418

I **LOVE** God.

- Psalms 103:3 (ESV) who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- Psalms 103:12 (ESV) as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- Psalms 103:14 (ESV) 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I **FEAR** God.

I **LOVE** God.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears
has not been perfected in love.”

1 John 4:18, NT p. 417-418

- Think NOBLE things of God. McGuiggan
- More correct view of God
- Deity: separate, distant, angry: destroys
- Father: near, cares, loves: saves
 - Wants a relationship with me.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

I'm **fruitful** for God.

- I'm distracted by the world more than I'm fruitful for God.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

"the cares of the world and the
deceitfulness of riches choke the
word, and it proves unfruitful."

Matthew 13:22, NT p. 24

I'm **fruitful** for God.

- Matthew 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

"the **cares** of the world and the
deceitfulness of riches choke the
word, and it proves unfruitful."

Matthew 13:22, NT p. 24

I'm **fruitful** for God.

- Cares - anxiety: Matthew 6:25-33

- Matthew 6:25 (ESV) 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"
- Matthew 6:33 (ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

"the cares of the world and the
deceitfulness of **riches** choke the
word, and it proves unfruitful."

Matthew 13:22, NT p. 24

I'm **fruitful** for God.

- Riches: selfish, trust in self
 - Haggai 1:2-4 (ESV) 2 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord." 3 Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, 4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"
 - Revelation 3:15 (ESV) "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!"
- Jesus' attitude
 - John 5:30 "**I can do nothing on my own.** As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.
 - John 8:28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.
- My Purpose
 - 2 Corinthians 5:9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.
 - 2 Timothy 2:3-4 (ESV) 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
 - Am I wandering aimlessly, or am I purposeful in being fruitful to God?
- Relationship!

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

"the cares of the world and the
deceitfulness of **riches** choke the
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Matthew 13:22, NT p. 24

I'm **fruitful** for God.

- Revelation 3:15 (ESV) "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!"

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

I'm **fruitful** for God.

"I can do nothing on my own."

John 5:30, NT p. 166

- Jesus' attitude
 - John 5:30 "**I can do nothing on my own.** As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.
 - John 8:28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

I'm **fruitful** for God.

"We make it our aim to please Him."
2 Corinthians 5:9, NT p. 311

- My Purpose

- 2 Corinthians 5:9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

- 2 Timothy 2:3-4 (ESV) 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **distracted**
by the world.

I'm **fruitful** for God.

"Do all to the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31, NT p. 296

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- Am I wandering aimlessly, or am I purposeful in being fruitful to God?
- Relationship!

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **satisfied** with myself.

I'm **desirous** of God.

- I'm satisfied with myself (my life), more than I'm desirous of God.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

"For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.'"

Revelation 3:17, NT p. 429

I'm **satisfied** with myself.

I'm **desirous** of God.

- Revelation 3:17 (ESV) For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.
 - I'm good enough.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

“For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’”

Revelation 3:17, NT p. 429

I’m **satisfied** with myself.

I’m **desirous** of God.

- I’m busy enough for God.
 - False comparisons (I’m doing more than _____!)
 - Deceive myself (I’m rich!)
 - 17: “not realizing”
 - wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, naked”
 - vs. 18: “see”
 - I don’t see myself as God sees me.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

“For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’”

Revelation 3:17, NT p. 429

I’m **satisfied** with myself.

I’m **desirous** of God.

- Weary
 - Galatians 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
 - Tired, depressed — —> quit

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **satisfied** with myself.

"O God, You are my God;
earnestly I seek You."

Psalm 63:1, OT p. 910

I'm **desirous** of God.

- Earnestly Seeking God

- Psalms 63:1-5 (ESV) 1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **satisfied** with myself.

"O God, You are my God;
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Psalm 63:1, OT p. 910

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- 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
- 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **satisfied** with myself.

"O God, You are my God;
earnestly I seek You."

Psalm 63:1, OT p. 910

I'm **desirous** of God.

- Philippians 3:12-16 (ESV) 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but **I press on to make it my own**, because Christ **Jesus has made me his own**. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Why Am I Lukewarm?

I'm **satisfied** with myself.

"O God, You are my God;
earnestly I seek You."

Psalm 63:1, OT p. 910

I'm **desirous** of God.

- Relationship
 - "good enough" vs. "what more can I do?"
 - Excellence for the God I love and who loves me.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Why Am I Lukewarm? (part 1)

Revelation 3:15-16

Synopsis: Jesus warns us about the danger of lukewarmness in his later to the church in Laodicia. In this lesson, we'll look at some reasons why we so easily default to lukewarmness and see how to overcome it.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."