

#### Volume 4, Day 9: Faithful: the Fire of Desire

Many people pursue a life of virtue. And virtuous living is respected by all. It tends to give us a sense of goodness. And it certainly helps us live peaceably in community. There are banners in most schools and places of worship with words of character. Yet with all of this, the focus on the **what-to-do** aspect of character rarely gives one those traits. We can manage our behaviors by sheer determination, but ultimately we run out of strength and fail in one area or another. The song lyrics below are an example of the religious version of the character for living to which most of us subscribe.

There is a general consensus about the behaviors which are to be sought after in order to treat each other well. However, the missing piece of the puzzle is the **how-to-be** a person of character. We are born with a healthy sense of self. We are taught to look out for number one or no one else will. Yet this need to protect, prosper, promote and be powerful is often the very thing that causes us to fail in our attempts to be persons of character.

When we exchange the fire of our devotion for the fire of desire for relationship with one another, good character becomes a by-product of our love. In short, genuine affection (love) for another compels us to do good to them. The more you love them, the less likely you are to hurt them!

“O may all who come behind us find us faithful.  
May the fire of our devotion light their way.  
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe,  
and the lives we live inspire them to obey.  
O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

— Keith Green