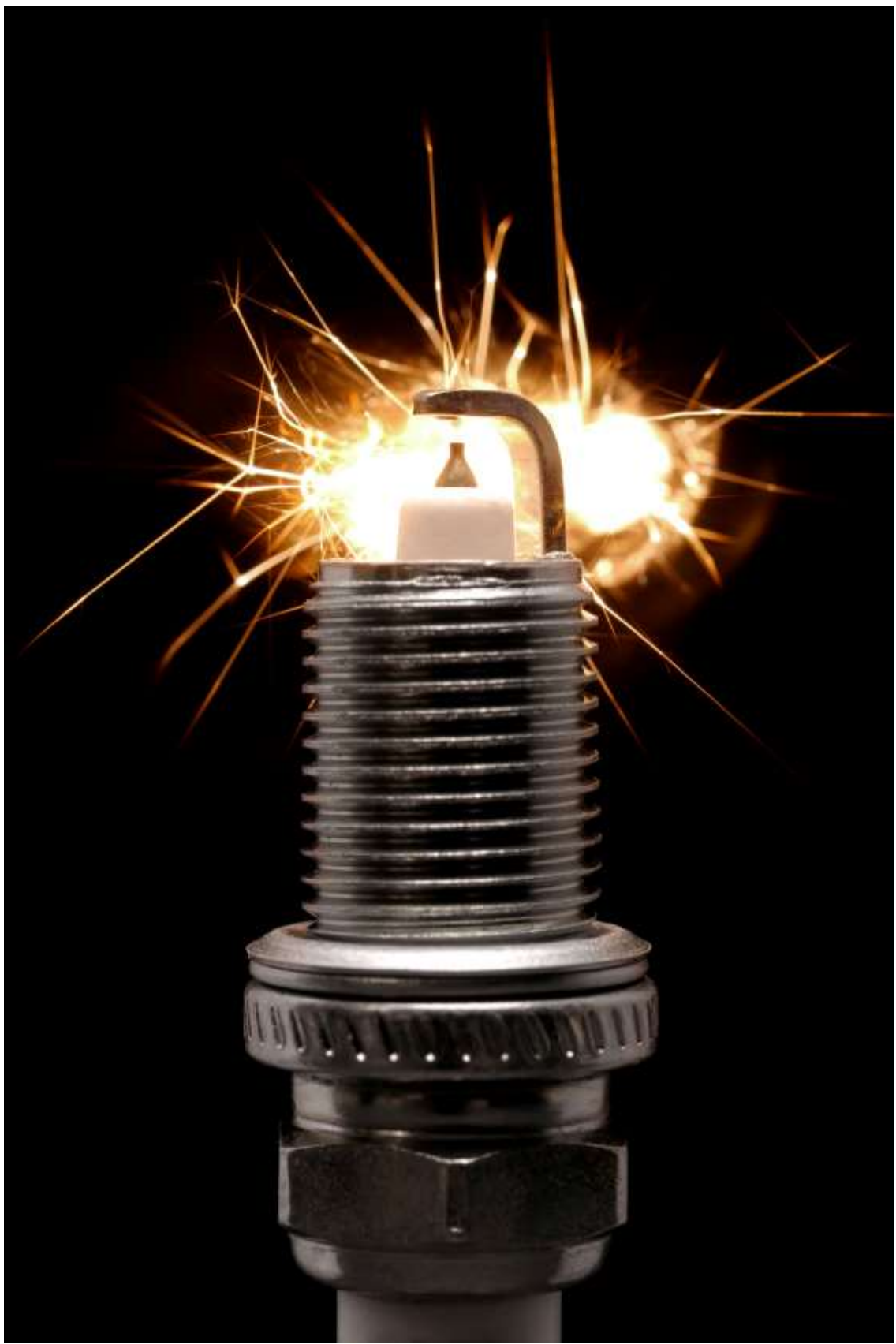




Let the Sparks Fly!



“...and the people worshiped the Lord in earnest. Then Haggai, the Lord’s messenger, gave the people this message from the Lord ‘I am with you, says the Lord!’ So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of God’s people.” Haggai 1:12-14 (NLT)

Frightening Power Sparks Enthusiasm

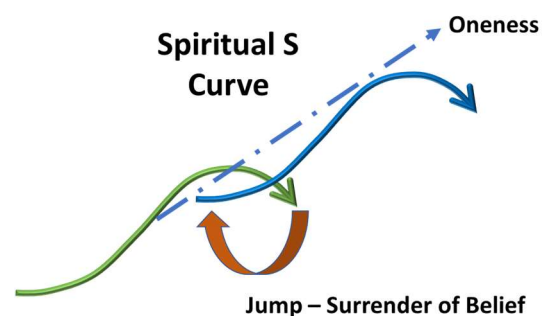
In my kindergarten, the school had a traffic light set-up in the hallway. There was a control on the wall that we could use to flip the lights... green, yellow, red. Was a lot of fun, until one day I went to the controls and “Bam!” My whole body was abuzz. You might say it “sparked my enthusiasm!” Everybody around knew something happened, that’s for sure. I connected with real and frightening power and it sparked my enthusiasm.

Time for a "Jump Spark"?

In the days of Haggai, the Israelites had drifted away from God, preoccupied with building up their own lives and treasures.

“Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?” The Lord| Haggai 1:4 (NLT)

Time to fess up... Are you any different? Of course not...because all of us follow the natural and inevitable cycle of the Spiritual S. After periods of close intimacy, we begin to drift, falling away from oneness of purpose with



God. It happens so subtly that we don't even notice it.

The telltale sign is a loss of enthusiasm. Sure, you may still be doing good, but that fresh "you won't believe what just happened!" kind of excitement has drained away. What's your level of enthusiasm? Low enthusiasm means you have moved too far from the frightening power of God. It'll take a Jump to spark you up.

It's not like flipping a switch

I know when I was sparked by that light switch, it made me very wary, honestly afraid, to move to the controls to try it again. The memory of the jolt made me feel uncomfortable. Power is scary; it could hurt! Likewise, I believe that even though we know God is good and want to be close, we are a bit frightened of him because he is so powerful. "What might God make me do if I get close to him?! Will I have to give up something I really like a lot?"

Yes! Well, kinda... making a Jump to move close to God again always requires giving something up. Will Jesus say to you what he said to the rich young ruler:

"Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." Jesus Christ| Mark 10:21 (NLT)

Probably not. But God will ask you to lay down a worldly belief in exchange for putting faith in one of his powerful promises. How bad can that be?

Jumps start here

The Israelites *"worshiped the Lord in earnest"* and then he sparked them with enthusiasm. When you make an earnest effort to worship the Lord,

he takes possession of more of you -- “enthusiasm” means “possessed by God’s essence” or “God in you”.

When I was shocked by that light switch, I sure felt possessed by the buzz of electricity! That frightening power went right through me and out to the world. The whole class learned of its power. Enthusiasm spreads what’s in you.

Are you feeling a bit apathetic? Lacking enthusiasm? Perhaps it’s time to make a Spiritual S Jump. Boldly confront your fear of the Lord’s frightening power, worship him earnestly and he will tell you what worldly belief you need to surrender. Then...

Let the Sparks Fly!

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

I will Jump my Spiritual S to spark my zeal.

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” The Apostle Paul| Romans 12:11 (NIV)



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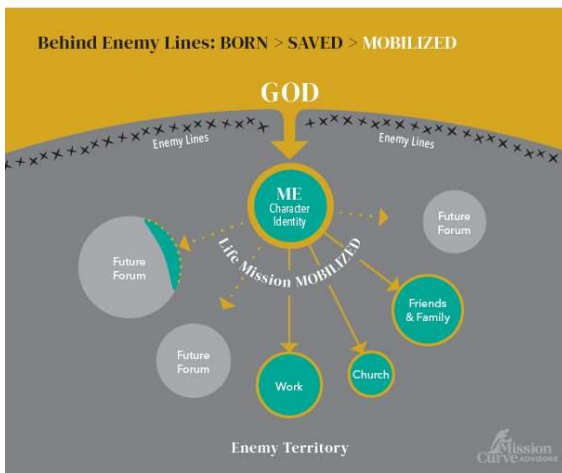
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