

“Ignite” – Story behind the song

Several years ago, when I was in college, my passion was basketball. I lived and breathed basketball. Being at Oklahoma State, that comes very naturally. The Cowboys are passionate about all that takes place in the legendary Gallagher-Iba Arena. That’s a great thing. Unfortunately, when we let anything other than God consume us and become our #1 passion, we replace Him with earthly pleasures, and that’s when it’s a problem. Eventually, those things leave us feeling empty, because they don’t last. I began to feel that after a while. I remember one day, after a big OSU victory, I was speaking with a friend of mine. He said, “Matt, I see how excited and passionate you are about OSU basketball, and last night I was thinking God could do some great things with you if you would direct that passion toward Him and the things that matter.” So I nodded my head and went on about my business, but I have never forgotten about that conversation. A year or two later, I had the privilege of attending the Passion OneDay conference in Memphis, TN. I heard them talking about living for the glory of God. They read from Isaiah 26:8 which says, “Yes Lord, walking in the way of Your truth, we wait eagerly for You, for Your name and Your renown are the desire of our souls.” I wanted to live for something that had eternal value. Something of the greatest worth. I wanted to have that desire of knowing God more intimately, and a passion to make Him known throughout the earth. If you’ve been around the Passion movement or events very often, then you’ve heard this over and over again, and the theme of “Ignite” might sound familiar. Through that time, “Ignite” became my prayer. The song was written a couple of years later, and this song is still a great reminder to me that Jesus should be the one that I am most passionate about. I hope that it encourages you as well.

- Matt