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Some like it hot and steamy

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I don't know from personal experience, but I've heard that if you place a frog in hot water he will jump right out, but if you place him in cool water and gently heat it up, the frog will stay in and boil away with the water.

I realized that I am much the same way. My wife likes her showers hot and steamy, so if I take my shower after her, I know to turn the knob down until I get in. After the initial soaping, I crank the heat up some to finish my shower with a hot rinse. It is all a matter of knowing how much to adjust the cold.

When I was on vacation, I entered a tub and tested the water coming out of the faucet before pulling the shower lever. I realized very soon that I had run the water too hot. So, I increased the cold water flow. Suddenly, I had to jump back because the water had turned too cold. I underestimated how quickly the cold can cool off the hot.

The tendency for what's cold to cool off what's hot is more than just a physical phenomenon; it's the reason for many a spiritual disaster. Someone who was really hot spiritually, cooled off because they got too close to some thing or situation which was spiritually cold, or at least cooler than they were. Someone who was enthusiastic and on fire had their enthusiasm dampened by someone or something or some word of discouragement. Critical tongues and spirits will rain on anyone's parade and cool things off quickly. It's amazing what cold does to hot.

And don't underestimate how quickly cold can cool off hot. I've seen it happen spiritually many times over the years - in business or with friends we spend a lot of time with. The tendency is for us to start cooling off, compromising, and cutting corners spiritually to get along with the situation or people we are hanging around with. The deeper we get in, the harder it is to get out.

The Scriptures tell us that we need to be in the world and not of the world - which creates a little bit of a dilemma for Christians. Some like their faith hot and steamy, others are more moderate in their expressions of their faith temperature. All have their place in the body of Christ. What is important is that all of us are called to use our faith to help warm up the lives of those around us in the love of our Lord, and that we need to be aware that there are danger zones for a child of God. All of us need to be careful of the things and people of the world that would cool us down in our outreach or freeze out the warmth of God's love..

I look at my own life and the movies and television shows I watch. That one isn't too bad, just a little bad language or just some questionable morals shown - I know myself and I realize it's worldly, but I can handle it. It is all a matter of knowing how much to adjust the cold. At the same time, it's important to remember how easy it is to misjudge how quickly the cold can cool off the hot. It's amazing how de-sensitized I can become so quickly. The truth is, I try to gage how much of the world in my life I can handle and not compromise my faith. Would it not be better to instead of focusing on how much of the world I can handle, to focus instead on how much of God's love I can embrace and share? And if I used to be a lot warmer in my love for Jesus, could it be that I've just gotten too close to what's cold?