

## Keeping Your Spiritual Passion

Passion is "a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something" (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/d...>)

**Romans 12:11** "Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically".

**Romans 12:6** In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

### "Passion Isn't Something You Have, It's Something You Develop"

**1) Ask God for it! .....Then RECEIVE it by FAITH! (not feeling)**

**Deuteronomy 6:5** And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. (MSG) Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got!

**2) Add-in your dream....the thing God has CALLED you to do and be.**

"Your dreams are not far from your reality. The distance between your dreams and reality is action."

**3) Be CERTAIN you are being Passionate about God's way, not YOURS!**

**Romans 10:1** Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. 2 I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. 3 For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. 4 For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who **believe in him** are **made right** with God.

**Ezekiel 33:11** As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness..... Why should you die?

**Matthew 28:19** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**3) Rediscover and reaffirm your PURPOSE..... Passion and Purpose go together!**

**4. ASK for it, then Nurture it**

**Leviticus 6:12** Meanwhile, the fire on the altar must be kept burning; **it must never go out**. Each morning the priest will **add fresh wood to** the fire and arrange the burnt offering on it. He will then burn the fat of the peace offerings on it. **13 Remember, the fire must be kept burning on the altar at all times. It must never go out.**

**5. Work at it. Work hard at it.**

**Romans 12:10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

**Revelation 2: 2** "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. 3 You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

4 “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! 5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.

## 6. Surround yourself with inspiration.

**Hebrews 10: 24** Let us **think of ways** to **motivate** one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but **encourage** one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

**Romans 12:11** Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically/serve the Lord with a zealous spirit/KJV “fervent in spirit.”

**Titus 2:14** He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, zealous/**totally committed** to doing good works.

**John 2:17** Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God’s house will consume me.”

## 6. Let fear do its righteous work in you.

### 7. Reposition your treasures.

### 8. Constantly change the way you are thinking!

### 9. Avoid the Passion Killers:

- **Unconfessed Sin**
- **Unresolved Conflict** (because it leads to anger, which KILLS passion.
- **An “Unsupported” Lifestyle**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9** Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

### - **Forgotten or Unclear Purpose**

**Matthew 28:18** Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

### - **An Undernourished Spirit**

**1 Timothy 4:7** Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives’ tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. 8 “Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”

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**Knowing ———> Doing ———> Being (transformation)**

### **Practical Application:**

What needs to change so that God becomes my greatest passion?

Think of a time when your spiritual passion was high. What circumstances caused it?

Think of a time when your spiritual passion died. What caused that? Learn from the past.

### **Every day this week, I am asking God to give me a passion for:**

Him	Prayer
Souls	Hospitality
Obedience	Fellowship/Sharing Life
Serving	Giving/Generosity
Encouraging	Worship
God’s House	Care and Comfort of the sick/alone
Feeding the hungry	Other _____