

PURPOSE AND PASSION

APRIL 11, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

Fulfilling our purpose requires passion, zeal, fervency or enthusiasm. Purpose has to do with our head – thinking right about why we're here. Passion has to do with the heart, or the internal fire that motivates us to fulfill our purpose. **ROMANS 12:11 (AMPC)** Paul's purpose was to know Christ intimately. **PILIPPIANS 3:10 (AMPC)** No matter what the purpose, it's passion that separates success from failure.

- A French military strategist said “the most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire.”
 - A German philosopher said “nothing great has been accomplished without passion.”
 - Albert Einstein said, “I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.”
 - Jesus said, “those who hunger and thirst, shall be filled.”
 - David said, “earnestly will I seek you; my inner self thirsts for you, my flesh longs and is faint for you.”
- PSALMS 63:1 (AMPC)**
- Jesus was zealous, Paul was passionate, Apollos was burning with zeal. (**ACTS 18:25 AMPC**).

INCREASING OUR SPIRITUAL ZEAL

1. Evaluate our walk with God. Questions to ask ourselves:
 - A. What am I most passionate about? **PHILIPPIANS 3:5-6** Paul was passionate about his purpose – destroying the church. Some are passionate about sinful pursuits, and other things.
 - B. Am I satisfied with my passion for God right now? Am I cold, lukewarm or hot? Is it okay?
 - C. How can God become my greatest passion? **REVELATION 2:5** Remember, repent, redo.
2. Focus on the cross. **JOHN 12:32** It was at the cross we fell in love with Jesus and that's where we regain lost passion.
3. Consider the judgment. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:10, 1 CORINTHIANS 3:13-15** Doing so will sober us.
4. Examine our motives. **ROMANS 10:2** Passion and purpose go together. Paul was passionate about the wrong purpose and so were these. They had zeal, but no knowledge.
 - A. Serving God is not about money, personal glory, prestige, or making a name for ourselves.
 - B. It's about love for God, for God's Word, for the church and for the lost.
 - C. Apathy means lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern.
5. Examine our worship.
 - A. Is it of the heart? **JOHN 4:24** Do we find ourselves just going through the motions?
6. Let go of sins and weights. **HEBREWS 12:1**
 - A. Do some spring cleaning. Dig up what needs removed.
 - B. Whatever extinguishes the Spirit's flames must be dealt with: unforgiveness, wrong attitudes, bitterness.
7. Make prayer a priority. **LUKE 18:1**
 - A. Epaphras was passionate about two things: prayer and people. **COLOSSIANS 4:12-13**
8. Feed on the Word. **MATTHEW 4:4**
 - A. Reading the Word adds fuel to the fire. **LUKE 24:32** As Jesus opened the scriptures, their hearts burned within them.

CONCLUSION:

We are to guard the flame within us and protect our passion, for it's the enemy's primary target against us.