

## WHAT ARE MY PASSIONS?

### Passion answers the question: "WHERE am I energized?"

Much of what we say and do is motivated by our passions. Passion can make the difference between doing something that is acceptable, to that which is exceptional. Passion drives us to go out and make a difference - to go the distance. It's the fuel that propels us forward and helps us hold on and persevere. So, as we evaluate 'WHERE' we might serve in our families, congregations, and our communities, it is important to understand our passions. Knowing your spiritual gifts will answer "WHAT" you do best, but knowing your passion will tell you "WHERE" to do it.

**"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:3-4)**

When you think about it, it is exciting that God places a passion in us and gives us the desires of our heart as we serve Him!

## PASSION ASSESSMENT

### 1) Now, ask yourself a few questions...

You may be able to identify your passion by simply asking yourself a few probing questions. Please pray over and answer the following questions with the thought in mind that you have no absolutely no restrictions that will stop you from fulfilling your heart's desire. Don't concern yourself about whether you can do something, or how it might be done. Simply think about what you might accomplish if you assuming you had unlimited resources:

#### What drives you?

- What would you do for God if you knew you couldn't fail?
- What pushes you to action?
- What moves you so deeply that it keeps you awake at night?

#### Who are the people you most want to help?

- Who do you feel you can influence the most?
- Is there an age range you feel most drawn to? If so, what age group?
- Is there an affinity group I feel most drawn to?

#### What are the needs you feel most drawn to?

- What are the top two needs I love to meet for people?
- Why do I love meeting those needs?

#### What cause are you most passionate about?

- What cause or issue makes my heart race?
- Where could I make the greatest impact for God?
- What conversations would keep me up late at night?

#### How would you like others to see you?

- What legacy would I like to leave at the end of my life?
- What would my friends say I am most enthusiastic about?

## 2) Identify Groups and Causes

A second way to assess your passion is to identify groups of people, issues, and causes and different types of functions that you might feel strongly about. Next, put a check beside all that may apply:

### PERSONS/GROUPS:

Addicts	Infants	Singles
Cancer / Illness Survivors	International Students	Single Parents
Children	Intellectually Disabled	Teen Moms (Parents)
Children of Divorce	Military Personnel	Terminally Ill
College Students	New Mothers	Unchurched
Developmentally Disabled	Orphans	Unemployed
Divorced	Parents & Family	Victims / Abused
Elderly	Persecuted Believers	Widowed
Empty Nesters	Poor	Women
Engaged Couples	Prisoners	Young Marrieds
Homeless	Refugees	Youth
Hospitalized	Sick/Shut-ins	Other: _____

### CAUSES:

Addiction Rehabilitation	Family Development	Missionary / Outreach
Arts	Finances	Parenting
Career Transition	Fitness & Health	Peacekeeping
Charity	Grief & Loss	Poverty Alleviation
Childcare	Healthcare & Wellness	Prison Ministry
Disabilities	Homelessness	Relationship Loss
Disaster Relief	Hunger	Social Rights
Discipleship	Immigration	Transitions in Life
Economics	Inner City Development	Violence / Abuse
Education	Literacy	Other: _____
Environment	Marriage Enrichment	

### LOCAL MINISTRIES:

Administrative Functions	Hospitality & Fellowship	Technology
Audio / Visual	iMIS & Record Keeping	Tiny Seeds & Nurseries
Children	Leadership & Emerging Leaders	Visitation
Coaching & Mentoring	Non-attending	Women & Men
Communications	Peacemaking	Work of Ministry
Community Outreach	Prayer Group	Worship & Music
Emerging Leaders	Preaching	Young Families
Event Management	Prepare & Enrich	Youth
Finances	Property Management	Other: _____
Greeters	Seniors	
Grief	Small Groups	

### 3) Identify Experiences that bring you Joy & Fulfillment

The following exercise can help you uncover a theme from your experience which may give you a different insight into your Passion. List the top 1-5 experiences you have had in your life and briefly describe what you did and why it was meaningful to you. The experience may stem from experiences such as: family situations, education, vocation or spiritual circumstances. These experiences may have been taken place at home, school, work, or even during your free time. It may have been something you fixed or something you made. It may have been a problem you solved or something you achieved. It may have been something like helping a friend out, constructing something, or doing a special favor for someone in need. Just remember that these are experiences that made you feel fulfilled and brought you joy.

List your top five positive experiences and explain why the experience was meaningful to you.

Top Five Positive Experiences:	Why is this Experience is Meaningful to me?
1. _____ _____	_____ _____
2. _____ _____	_____ _____
3. _____ _____	_____ _____
4. _____ _____	_____ _____
5. _____ _____	_____ _____

#### 4) Identify some Painful Experiences that may have resulted in compassion, understanding, or growth

Similar to the positive experiences in exercise three above, Passions can also stem from painful experiences we have had in our lives. Sometimes our difficulties shape us and prepare us for a particular kind of ministry. Experiences that we dreaded the most can be a new door that God opens up through you for the benefit of others.

Next, examine some areas in your life that may have been painful. After much prayer, consider if these are something you may have a passion to help with. Write down your thoughts below:

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**Review:**

Now, review all of your responses to the different exercises, paying particular attention to only your responses (rather than re-reading the questions or written materials that prompted them). See if you can identify any underlying themes in your answers. For example:

- Is there a particular group of people you enjoy being with or a need you are consistently drawn to?
- Identify any areas where you would like to be in a creative role and could build things from scratch.
- In what ways might you strongly connect with and desire to support people who are hurting?
- Are you drawn to a specific cause or feel strongly about a particular church function?
- While reviewing your experiences, are there areas in which you find particular joy or fulfillment?
- Are there particular areas in which you would enjoy experiencing growth?
- What else do you know about your own interests or passions that would be valuable to consider?

Even the things we sometimes complain about most at church may very well be an area of passion. Pray over it and submit yourself to God. He will open up new ways for each of us to better understand our calling from Him.

**Results:**

Based on your answers and experience you have a passion for:

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## Passion Categories:

Identifying a specific passion might be more difficult for some people than it is for others. Maybe you are passionate about something for a while, but then seem to get distracted or lose focus over time. Or in other cases, even when great efforts of time and prayer are devoted, your passion doesn't initially become obvious. When this occurs, you may find it helpful to simply identify your motivations and source of passion in a more general sense. We can identify passions more broadly through Passion Categories. Passion Categories can also allow for the variety of expression you may prefer. Even when a passion is clearly identified it may be helpful to see how your passion may align within God's work.

Consider one or more of the faith based Passion Categories provided:

<b>Foundation Passions:</b>	When our convictions and motivations are founded in providing structure, support, and assistance for others to prosper
<b>Strengthening Passions:</b>	When our convictions and motivations urge us to uplift, connect, care for, and support others
<b>Equipping Passions:</b>	When our convictions and motivations invest in people in order to discover, to create opportunities, and/or to provide tools which support their success
<b>Worship Passions:</b>	When our convictions and motivations prompt a strong outward expression of praise, devotion, music, word, the arts, and/or prayer in reverence to God
<b>Community Passions:</b>	When our convictions and motivations create an impulse within us to reach out, connect, relate, touch, and welcome; uniting all people in good Christian fellowship

The Passion Categories I relate the most with, are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## AN IMPORTANT FINAL CONSIDERATION

### A final test of your Passion:

Whatever your passion is, there are two questions you should ask yourself:

1. How can your passion glorify God?

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2. How can your passion edify others?

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When your passion can serve these two purposes, your passion serves God and He will bless your efforts!