

Hearts Desires and Passions

Our heart is not always our best guide. On the one hand, Jeremiah 17:9 reminds us that “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” On the other hand, we all know that even as a Christian our heart isn’t always “into” certain duties like tithing, sharing our faith, or loving our enemies. No matter what, our heart can never justify disobedience to God. But a **new** heart locked in on Jesus . . . that’s a tool God will use!

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
—Psalm 37:4

From what is our passion derived? (Proverbs 27:19)

Above all else what should we guard? (Proverbs 4:23)

How do we define passion? Who do you know that is passionate about something?

Passion helps you answer the question, “What are you going to do with all that you are?” If you try to fill your life full of things that _____ life deflates. But if you give yourself away to others and to God, life _____ with _____.

Passionate people

1. _____ God and believe in His mission.
2. Look for where God is _____.
3. Understand their _____.

We all know we have passions, but we might have a harder time understanding how those passions fit into a church or ministry setting. It might be easier to connect your passions with the church if you think of them in terms of our complete SHAPE.

Think about your spiritual gifts. Which have you used in a ministry setting? How much did you enjoy using them? Think about your abilities and talents. Which have you used in a ministry setting? How much did you enjoy using them? Think about your experiences. What church ministries or community events have you been a part of that you really enjoyed and would like to do again? Finally, think about the people around you in life. Who do you like to help? The answers to these questions just might help you get a handle on your God-given passions.

If you need more help discerning your own heart, consider the following questions:

1. You receive a phone call. The person says, "I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that you have just been fired. The good news is that I want to give you a new job and it will be literally the job of your dreams. Describe this job and it is yours." What would you say?

2. What are the topics that you could stay up late talking about with friends or strangers?

3. Name 3 people who have had a tremendous positive impact on your life. What did they do that you want to emulate in your own life?