

What is "passion"?

According to <u>Dictionary.com</u>

Pas-sion is a noun meaning "any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling."

When you are passionate about something, you feel such powerful emotions regarding it that you cannot help but share about it, talk about it, promote it, even if you aren't getting anything in return. Meaning, you would talk about it, share about it, and promote it, even if you would never get paid to do so.

Have you read a good book or seen a good movie lately? Did it trigger some emotion in you? As a result, did you tell your friends about it? This is similar to how passion works. However, when you think of passion, take it one step further. Because with something you are passionate about you do not easily bore of talking about it. Unlike the good movie or book, you don't get uninterested in it after you've talked about it for a while. You will also be able to make a fairly extensive list of things that you know about this particular subject.

This may already have you thinking and you may be quite certain that you already know what your passion is, or you may be wondering if a particular thing could be your passion, still you might be completely unsure. No matter which place you fall, we will work through to finding your passion and then developing that passion into a platform which you will speak from and write about.

So, are you one who is certain that you know what your passion is? Great! Start now by making a list of everything you know about your passion or could share about it.

Think you know what your passion is, but you're just not certain?

Let's explore the possibilities:

Answer the following questions:

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What are some things that easily get your attention?

What do you do in your spare time?

What do you enjoy researching, reading about or learning more about?

Narrow Down Your Passion

After listing these things, narrow down what you are most passionate about by making a list of what you know and can share the most about. You might have to make more than one list on the different topics you are considering as you narrow them down to finding your specific passion. You can then see clearly which thing you know the most about and are able to share the most information.

You will want to have a fairly extensive list when you are done in order to truly feel comfortable in sharing about that particular topic.

Now, I know you're wondering what if I still don't know what it is that I am passionate about? Don't worry, we're about to dig deeper.

We are going to take two tests. Don't stress out! They aren't the graded kind. These tests will help you to learn more about yourself and where your passion might lie. We are going to explore both your personality and your spiritual gifts.

You see, God created all of us as humans in "his image." The Bible says it this way,

"So, **God created man** in **his own image**, in the **image** of **God** he **created** him; male and female he **created** them. "Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

As a part of this God made each of us **unique**.



The Bible explains,

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am **fearfully** and **wonderfully** made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the **secret** place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth." Psalm 139:13-15 (NIV)

These verses help us to know and realize that God made us unique and intricate. We are complicated human beings, and a part of this is our personalities. Though many of us have similar personalities we are all extremely different too.

There are no two of us exactly alike which is why you have something to share that no one else does. So, do not be intimidated by others who may already be sharing what you consider to be your "passion" and therefore you are hesitant to share because someone else is already doing so. They are not going to share the same things that you will share and they do not have "your story." As we will talk in future lessons, we all have a unique story to share with the world.

This story, is a part of who you are. Your personality is something that should be explored in an effort to find your passion. As your personality has a large part to do with what types of things you will be drawn to and therefore passionate about.

Let's explore your personality

We are going to take a personality test. Taken from Florence Littauer's Personality Plus: How to Understand Others by Understanding Yourself <u>click here to take the personality survey.</u> You can print it out for easier use.



From the test we see that there are 4 personality types. These types lend themselves to very different passions and gifts.

Your gifts tie into your personality but are not the same thing. There are also things that you are skilled in doing these things are called your talents. Your talents and your gifts are also similar but not the same thing.

Let's explore your gifts

Gifts in a "physical" sense and in a "spiritual" sense are something that we are given that we do not necessarily deserve. A spiritual gift however unlike physical gifts are given to use by God and help us to do what he has called us to do.

Spiritual gifts are given to us as believers at our time of "salvation" or when we accept Jesus into our life. God then works out these gifts in our life, enabling us to do what He is calling us to do. Likewise, our spiritual gifts allow us and give us another means by which to worship or bring glory to God.

Spiritual gifts as I mentioned are different from natural talents in that they come from God and are used supernaturally, meaning through God's power not our own power is what is being used to carry out His work. Natural talents often give us the ability to do things on our own apart from God, spiritual gifts we cannot use separate from God.

We all know people who do not profess to be Christians that use their natural talents for their own success, money, etc. They do this even though they do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ, with spiritual gifts, this would never be possible. Spiritual gifts are only manifest within our relationship with God and are used to ultimately bring



glory to Him. This being said, many times our passions come from our spiritual gifts.

In order to understand and explore our gifts more please take the following survey:

Click here to take the Spiritual Gifts Analysis

For further research on this subject you will also want to read the following Scripture passages:

1 Corinthians 12

Romans 12

Ephesians 4

Now, that you have explored your personality as well as your spiritual gifts spend some time in prayer and meditation, thinking and praying about how your personality, as well as your spiritual gifts and natural abilities could lead you to your passion.

If you already knew what your passion was, hopefully you were reaffirmed in that, if you weren't sure, hopefully you've gotten a more concrete idea, and if you were totally clueless hopefully you are on the path to finding your passion.

Develop Your Platform

Now, you want to take that passion and turn it into a platform from which you can speak, write and minister, after all that is what fulfilling your God given call is all about.

One of the most valuable steps in building your platform is knowing your passion, so



you have step one out of the way, another important step is tapping into God's power. He is all-knowing and all-powerful and in order to receive that power from God all you have to do is ask.

The Bible says,

"If any of you **lacks wisdom**, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." James 1:5 (NIV).

It really is as simple as that, asking God for the wisdom that you need will give you more power than you can imagine and with that power you can truly accomplish your purpose and share your passion with others.

This is why spending time in prayer is such an important step in this process. Never discount the power of prayer.

We have covered the emotions, feelings and intricate things like personality, talents and gifts that go along with finding your passion and building your platform, all of which are important, but there are also some "housekeeping" things that you must do starting out to be on the right track to a successful ministry.

Having a ministry that allows you to share your passion successfully takes planning. We will also help you to determine if you will minister through speaking, writing or both in both ways



Want to read or research more about your personality or spiritual gifts? I recommend the following resources:

Recommended Resources:

The Personality Tree – by Florence Littauer

Personality Plus – by Florence Littauer

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts - by C. Peter Wagner

What's So Spiritual about Your Gifts? - by Henry Blackaby and Mel Blackaby

Discover Your God Given Gifts – by Don and Katie Fortune



Worksheet

What are some things that easily get your attention?
What do you do in your spare time?
What do you enjoy researching, reading about or learning more about?



Create an extensive list of what you could share or what you know about your specificopic that you are passionate about in the space below:
_ist Your Personality Type and a short definition of what it means in the space below:
∟ist Your Top 3 Spiritual Gifts in the space below:



List your natural skills / talents in the space below: