

THE POWER OF



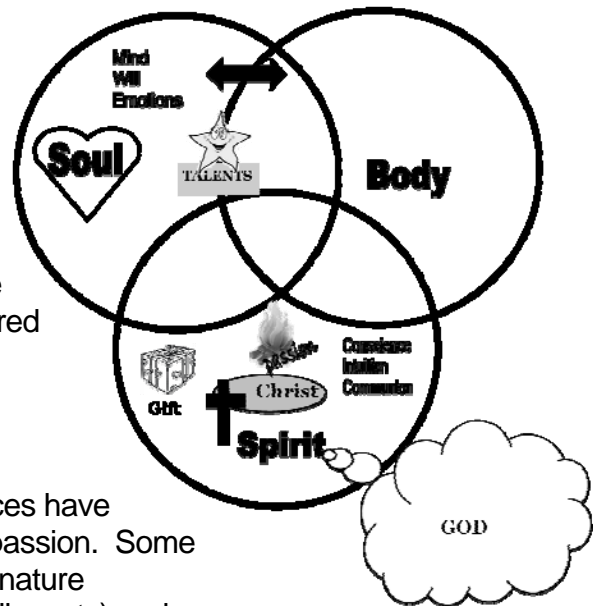
The Path to Passion and Purpose

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Romans 12:11

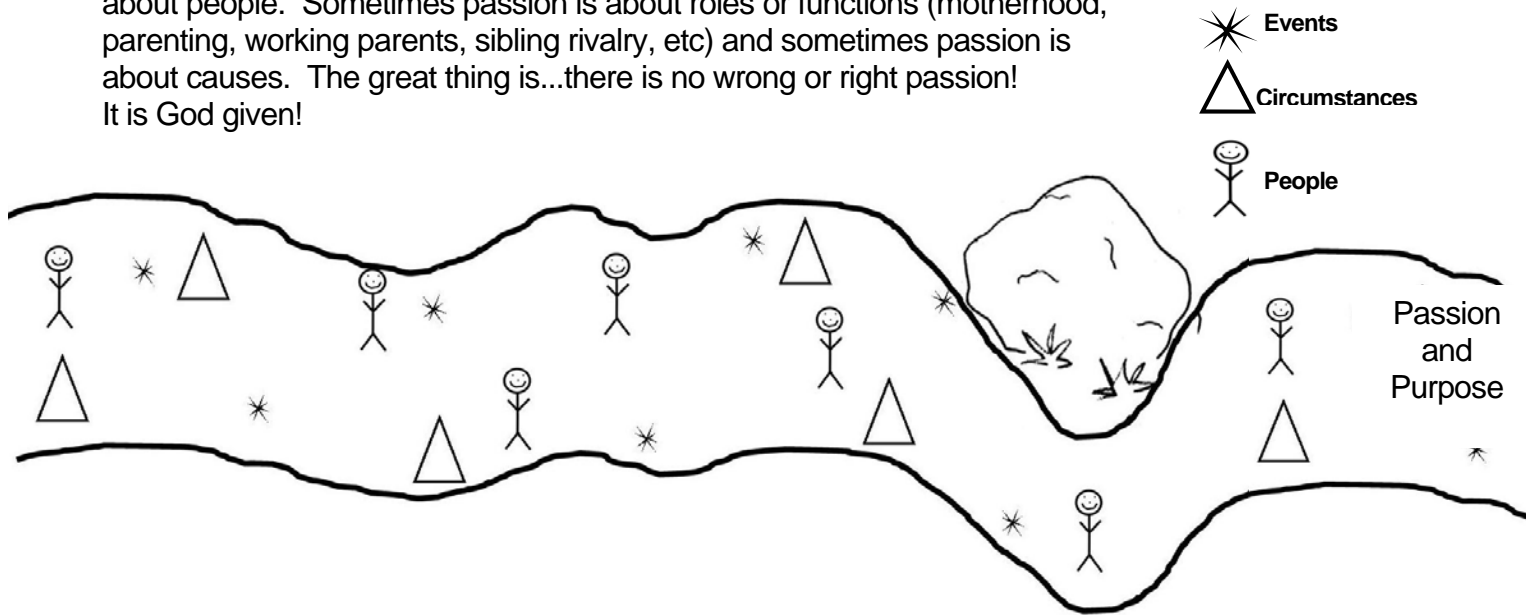
We were made for passion and purpose. We were meant to serve with zeal and spiritual fervor, but we often find ourselves drained from life and serving with a lack of passion and without clear purpose. But when serving within our unique design, utilizing our spiritual gifts, understanding our temperament and serving in an area we are passionate about, we become incredible powers in the kingdom. However, the discovery of our passion and purpose is perhaps the most difficult because while they are God given and driven by the Holy Spirit, they are also subjected to our experiences of life, people we encounter and life events. In other words, it is developed over time. Not *given* over time, but *developed* and *understood*.

Passion can be defined as *the desire that compels us to make a difference in a particular area of ministry or "life-calling" and gives us purpose in service.*

Each person cares about something more deeply than the other people around them care about that something; and that can begin to give us insight into discovering our passion. Discovery of passion can be the most difficult to assess because it is often discovered over a period of time and can even take several years to understand where our passion lies. It is definitely a path that begins with information, evaluation then service. The path may look something like the path below where people, events and circumstances have each had some type of influence as we discover our passion. Some events, circumstances and people may be spiritual in nature (church youth camp, mission trips, Pastors, Bible Studies, etc) and some may not *appear* to be spiritual in nature (school teachers, movies, friends, co-workers, bosses, etc). But all have influenced you in some way toward discovering your passion. Some may describe passion as a "burden" or a dream



or vision (“If I could do anything about _____, I would”) Sometimes passion is about people. Sometimes passion is about roles or functions (motherhood, parenting, working parents, sibling rivalry, etc) and sometimes passion is about causes. The great thing is...there is no wrong or right passion! It is God given!



Don't feel discouraged if you find it difficult to determine your passion or are not able to verbalize your passion right away. It is very common and it may take several months or even years to determine your passion.

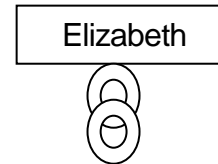
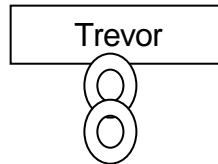
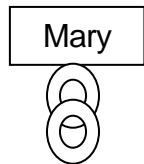
Here are some suggestions that will help you through this process:

- Get around passionate people
- Pray for Passion and that God would help you to understand
- Begin marking important moments
- Begin to serve and be active

For Reflection:

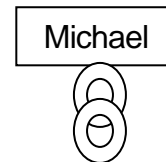
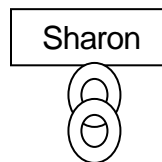
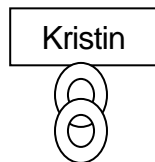
Attach action steps to each of the previous four bullet points. Action is the key. What will you do to better understand your passion?

Linking Spiritual Gifts to Passion
Situation 1: Same Passion, Different Gifts



SAME PASSION	Children with difficult life situations	Children with difficult life situations	Children with difficult life situations
DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL GIFT	Administration	Giving	Teaching
Possible Areas of Service	Organizing events to serve children	Funding a program and materials	Teaching Parents and Guardians
	Coordinating Classes and Training	Adopting a child or family	Leading a study
	Facilitating transportation	Support training for volunteer workers	
	Identifying resources and people to meet needs		






Situation 2: Different Passions, Same Gift
 Same Gift: Teaching



DIFFERENT PASSION	Elderly	Homeless	Discipleship
SAME GIFT	Teaching	Teaching	Teaching
Possible Areas of Service	Leading Bible studies in retirement homes	Leading Devotionals in homeless shelters or in areas of town where there are many homeless people	Small Group Leader
	Teaching Sunday School classes for or on the aging	Teaching Sunday school classes on homelessness	Mentor
			Writing self guided training programs

Linking Temperaments to Spiritual Gifts:

What are some potential strengths and weaknesses of those who have the following temperaments and spiritual gifts?

TEMPERAMENT	Choleric	Sanguine	Phlegmatic	Melancholy	Supine
					
SPIRITUAL GIFT	Leadership/Apostleship	Mercy/Giving	Teaching/Hospitality	Intercession/Faith	Helps/Hospitality
POTENTIAL STRENGTHS					
POTENTIAL WEAKNESSES					

Do your work with enthusiasm. Work as if you were serving the Lord, not as if you were serving only men and women. Ephesians 6:7

What would be the benefit of understanding how we are uniquely wired and then not use it to benefit the body? Our originality is given to us and empowered by God so that we may serve fulfilled and satisfied within the body of Christ, thereby advancing the Kingdom.

Why though, do we experience frustration and emotional drain sometimes when we serve?

1. You may be using your gifts in the wrong place

Determining where to use your gifts can be just as important as identifying them. Using your gifts may sound risky because it may mean change or uncertainty. It could result in criticism or even failure. It could also bring the fulfillment you are longing for.

For example: Beverly volunteered to teach children’s Sunday school since her daughters were young. Although she taught very well, her efforts often left her drained and feeling disappointed. After she learned about spiritual gifts and identified her spiritual gift as “Administration”, she felt so relieved! She quit teaching and began supporting the children’s Sunday school through finding substitute teachers, keeping materials supplied and labeled, keeping lesson plans organized and setting out materials for each week. Everyone began to benefit from her gifting and she went away each week feeling satisfied.

2. You may be in a season of waiting

Sometimes because of your “season of life”, illness, new responsibilities, or other circumstances you may be unable to use your gifts in a way that would be totally fulfilling to you. During these seasons (and they will come!) it’s very important that you recognize how you are serving right where you are (like meeting the needs of your young children, new marriage, ailing parent or family member, etc.). It is important during these times that you reflect on what might come next. You can use this season of waiting to obtain training, study the Bible for more knowledge, learn a new skill, or investigate a ministry that you are interested in. Doing all of these things *while waiting* may fit into God’s next season for you.

Biblical Examples of waiting

- David waited 10 years to become King AFTER he was anointed.
- Joseph spent 13 years in prison for a crime he didn’t commit before brought him out for His purposes.

3. You may still be growing

Although we never completely finish growing; we must be willing to grow in our ability to use our gifts. Just because someone may have the gift of teaching it does not mean that they can immediately fill a teaching spot at the level of someone who has been teaching for 5 years. Everyone needs practice and mentoring to grow in our ability to use our gifts. Learn from those around you and take advantage of training whenever possible. Read and study about how to use your gift(s) while seeking out opportunities for service.

4. You may be using your gift in opposition to your temperament

Although this is a possibility; be careful not to use your temperament as an *EXCUSE* to ignore or abuse your gifts.

Example: I’m just not a “people person” so I can’t teach.

Maybe you are more suited to teach in a large group setting rather than a small group setting.

Individual Reflection Activity:

1. In the first block write down what you feel is your primary passion.
2. In the second block, write down what you sense is your primary Spiritual Gift.
3. In the third block, write down some possible ministry areas in your church or community where you feel you can serve with your Passion and Spiritual Gift.

My Primary Passion	
My Primary/Secondary Spiritual Gifts	
My Primary/Secondary Temperament	
Some Possible Ministry areas where I feel I can serve with my Passion and Spiritual Gift are:	

Reference Materials for The Power of Identity

Victory over the Darkness, Neil Anderson

Handbook to Happiness, Dr. Charles Solomon, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc 1971

Spirit Controlled Temperament, Tim LaHaye

Network, The Right People In the Right Places for the Right Reasons, Bugbee, Cousins Hybel, Zondervan Publishing House 1994

Visioneering, Andy Stanley

Temperament for Dummies <http://www.ericb.info/temperament1.html>

Temperaments.Info <http://temperaments.info>