

Passion

Passion answers the “where do I serve” question

Much of what we say or do is motivated by our passion. Passion can make the difference between doing something that is acceptable to that which is exceptional. Passion drives us to go the distance - to make a difference. It is the fuel that propels us forward and holds us there to persevere. Therefore, as we evaluate where we might serve in our church, it is important to understand our passion. Knowing your spiritual gift may answer “what” you do in a ministry, but knowing your passion will tell you “where” you do it.

Passion is often associated with groups of “people” and/or “causes”. In the Passion Assessment there are check boxes with common passion areas for your review. However, passion can also be associated with church function or the filling of a particular role (passion to solve problems, systems, organization, structure). God also uses all our experiences, the good and the bad, to prepare us for His ministry. Whatever your passion is, however, there are two questions to ask yourself: Does it glorify God? Does it edify others? How exciting that God places a passion in us, and gives us the desires of our heart as we follow Him!

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

Passion Assessment

Please prayerfully answer the following questions in a mind-set that you have no restrictions to fulfilling your heart's desire. Do not be concerned about whether you can do something, or how it can be done, but what you might accomplish if you had unlimited resources.

What if questions ...

What if I know I could not fail at something, what would I do? What legacy would I like to leave at the end of my life? What would my friends say I am enthusiastic about? What conversations would keep me up late at night?

Another way to help assess passion is to identify people groups, issues/causes and church functions (or ministries) that you feel strongly about. Mark all those that apply.

People Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Career Women <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> College Students <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Empty Nesters <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Group <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized <input type="checkbox"/> Infants <input type="checkbox"/> Mentally Challenge <input type="checkbox"/> MOPS <input type="checkbox"/> Parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoners <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees <input type="checkbox"/> Single Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Single Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuser <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Moms	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Young Married <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
Issues / Causes	<input type="checkbox"/> Abortion <input type="checkbox"/> Addiction <input type="checkbox"/> AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/Creative <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care <input type="checkbox"/> Homosexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Injustice	<input type="checkbox"/> International <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy <input type="checkbox"/> Media (TV, Music, Print, Movies) <input type="checkbox"/> Politics <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Racism	<input type="checkbox"/> Reaching the Lost <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Violence <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
Church Function/ Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Care <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Connecting People <input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Men <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring <input type="checkbox"/> Missions <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery <input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving <input type="checkbox"/> Resources: CD,books <input type="checkbox"/> Retreat <input type="checkbox"/> Seekers <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Worship <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

The following exercise may help you uncover a theme from your experience which will give you insight into your Passion.

List the top 1-5 experiences you've had in your life and briefly describe what you did and why it was meaningful to you. The experience may stem from family situations, education, vocation or spiritual.

These experiences may have been taken place at home, work, school, or during your free time. It may have been a clock you fixed or a dress you made. It may have been a puzzle you put together or an award you received. It may have been helping some friends move, building a house, winning an election, or giving to someone in need. Remember, these are experiences that you enjoyed doing and felt fulfilled.

Postive Experiences

Why This Experience is Meaningful to Me

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Likewise as with postive experiences, God also uses painful experiences in our lives. Sometime it is through life's difficulties that God uses us the most to prepare us for ministry. As Rick Warren states, "The very experiences that you have resented or regretted the most in life - the ones you've wanted to hide and forget - are the experiences God want to use to help others. God never wastes a hurt!" Examine those areas in your life that have been painful, and prayerfully consider if this is something that might develop into a ministry. Write your thoughts below.

Conclusion

Now, look for an underlying theme or pattern in your answers for the preceding questions. Is there a particular group of people you enjoy being with or are you consistently being drawn to a need? Do you find that you like to be in a creative role where you can build things from scratch? Or do you like to be in the background meeting with people who are hurting? Are you drawn to a specific cause or feel strongly about a particular church function or ministry? Even the things we complain about the most at church may very well be a passion area, and should be prayerfully submitted to God to determine if God wants you to get involved (in a constructive way!).

Based on my answers and experience, I sense I have a passion for:

Making a statement about Passion is not easy for everyone. Remember that this is a process (journey of discovery) to identifying and clarifying your Passion. As you think, pray, and gain more ministry experience, your Passion will become more clear over time.