

# Finding what makes you passionate

Jesus said to the Laodecians: *“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white*

*I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person and they with me.*

*clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear*

*what the Spirit says to the churches.” Rev 3:15-22*

Remember when you were a child waking up on the morning of Christmas day? You stretch and yawn, and at first it feels like any other morning. Then the realization that it's Christmas day reaches your conscious awareness.

You are suddenly transformed. A wave of excitement and joyful anticipation washes over you. The day is going to be amazing — filled with surprises, fun, and celebration. You feel fully alive at that moment. You throw the covers back and race downstairs to greet the day. Wouldn't it be extraordinary if you could wake up that way now? How would it feel to greet every single day with that level of enthusiasm — or at least the adult version of it?

**When you have a passion in life — especially a passion fuelled by vision and purpose — you can wake up with that same joy and enthusiasm.**

Unlike children, we adults have cluttered our lives with emotional baggage, crammed schedules, and physical stuff. We are swimming in a sea of pollution that inhibits us from having clarity, energy, and time — necessary ingredients in creating a passionate life. Clearing the clutter of your inner and

outer life is important work. It forces you to take an honest look at yourself and your life to see how you have strayed from the path of becoming the person God wants you to be. If you are interested in finding and living life passionately, beginning this clean-up work is a great place to start.

### **Passionately believing:**

The first stage in being passionate is to really believe. Jesus Christ is “the Way the Truth and the Life”. He came to give us abundant life. He is your

saviour if you believe in Him, and has given you eternal life. Cry out to God in humility each day, sacrifice your life to Him and others, and you will find faith and passion rising in your heart.

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*

### **What acts of service inspire you?**

Whether it's greeting new people, teaching English, visiting the “widows and orphans” or bringing friends to church, ask God what is the area that He wants you to be fruitful in, and then sow seeds of action in that direction. Offer yourself in service to others who have a passion to see the Kingdom of God grow.

### **Buy into someone else's passion**

If you've prayed and God hasn't revealed anything for you get passionate about, or you don't seem to be able to get passionate, then buy into someone else's passion. This is what the disciples did when they left all to follow Jesus. They knew that he is the truth and trusted enough to follow him. Belonging to a team, such as a football or cricket team, you get caught up with their passion as you give your all. Put yourself at the centre of the church and as you serve daily, the passion of others will rub off on you.

### **A daily passion:**

The secret of being passionate daily is to walk hand in hand with Jesus. This is achieved by being disciplined every day: beginning the day with Him – reading His word alone or together, crying out for mercy like the man in the temple, and praying for others as you go about your work. So you will be given works to walk in: *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph 2:8-10*

**Have you lost a passion you once had?** Things were going well, but then worry, or disappointment came in and your life is now heavy, grey and uninspired. First of all, trace the reason for this. Was it the loss of a loved one? This is no fault of your own, and grief is appropriate and understandable. However, this kind of mourning will have an ending. You have a calling – to please Jesus Christ.

*“If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it.”*

### **How the enemy works to steal our passion:**

Jesus’ whole life was passionate, and with Him inside us, we should expect to be passionate too. However, there is an enemy of our souls who is constantly fighting against us to rob us of that passion and put it to death.

**Sin:** sometimes we do wrong; things that we well know are displeasing to God and others. But the Word of God says that “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” At this point the Enemy accuses us and tries to condemn. We need to stand on God’s Word and not allow guilt to rob us of our life of faith. The best way to combat his devices is to ignore Him totally and think about “whatever is good...” and to do the works we should do.

Or was it a sin that you committed in the past that is still putting you under a dark cloud? Confess it to God and someone else, and He will forgive and forget. So must you – forgive yourself and forget it, because you have a calling – to please the living God.

*“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”*

- Jesus gives us abundant life, but as He says in John 10, there is a thief who is trying to steal, kill and destroy. Whether it’s political correctness, social pressure, pride or just plain shyness, we are inhibited from expressing ourselves and living life to the full for Jesus. He also said: *“If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it.”* The simple remedy is to live in a loving relationship every day with Jesus, praying in the spirit that He will guide us throughout the day. So we will find His life being lived out through us, as Paul says: *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* Gal 3:20,21.

*“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”*

- we don't realise how poor we are; if we were poor in spirit, that would be an advantage as the kingdom of God is ours. However, because we are rich in the wrong way, we are poor in quality of life.

*“I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”*

- as the refiner to refine you and to cleanse you.

### **How does Jesus inspire us to be on fire?**

*“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.....But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ Mark 13:28-37*

*Keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back*

### **Finally:**

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

- Jesus is standing at the door of our hearts, wanting to share daily life with us. Let's let Him in, and we will experience the wonderful joy and freedom of living every day with the living God.

Songs: I want to serve the purpose of God; All I once held dear; The greatest thing in all my life; for I'm building a people of power