

## **Essentials to Leadership: Passion and Perseverance**

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### **Course description: Passion and Perseverance – part 1**

This series of lessons focuses on the discussion of passion and perseverance. The ideas from this lesson, and future lessons, assist students to learn what passion means, how passion factors into our daily lives, and why it is needed in the church. Future lessons will build on this foundation.

### **Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:**

- A. Described initial definitions of passion.
- B. Examined questions that relate to areas we are passionate about in life: home, work, and church.
- C. Considered the “4 Passion Switches” described by Darren Hardy in his book *The Entrepreneur Roller Coaster*.

### **Outline of the class:**

- A. Divide the class into groups of four. Take the next ten minutes and ask each group to define passion.
- B. Once everyone is completed, ask each group to share the definition they created with the rest of the class. The following are a few suggestions to add, if needed, to the discussion.
  - 1. “Strong and barely controllable emotion.”
  - 2. “A strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something.”
  - 3. “A strong or extravagant fondness, enthusiasm, or desire for anything: a passion for music.”
  - 4. We will come back to this idea of what passion really means as we move into additional lessons that address the subject before us.
- C. Think about the following questions:
  - 1. When was the last time we could not sleep because we were so excited about something we were involved with at home, work, or for the church?
  - 2. What can we spend hours and hours working on and never get tired of working on it?
  - 3. What could we not stop doing regardless of the consequences?

D. Focus the remaining time in the class period to talk about Darren Hardy's "Four Passion Switches."

1. Be passionate about **what** we do:
  - a. This is the area that most people think about and believe must exist. We need to be passionate about what we do, our work, the daily tasks for home and business, most of which go unnoticed and receive no glory.
  - b. There will always be specific parts of what we do that require greater effort when it comes to our passion.
2. Be passionate about **why** we do it:
  - a. This area can ignite more passion about *what* we do. Understanding the why behind what we do often makes the difference in moving forward.
  - b. In many congregations, we have a great understanding of what we do, and we understand how we do it, but we often fall short of knowing why we do it.
  - c. When we grasp why, everything changes in perspective to what and how we do what we do. It becomes a game-changer for passion.
3. Be passionate about **how** we do it:
  - a. We are talking about the effort we give to *what* we do that ensures a greater quality to the outcome. We are never satisfied with doing just enough to get by, to maintain the status quo. We strive to excel above and beyond the minimum.
  - b. There is an added component here: Not only is it about the effort to ensure quality, but the mindset that goes along with it. The idea is to find joy in doing the extra so that it provides quality.
4. Be passionate about **who** we do it for:
  - a. This is the major factor in the passion category. Hardy's book speaks to serving the business, family, close friends, people in our lives, or people in the world.
  - b. However, from a spiritual perspective, the implication here goes far beyond this physical realm. We are talking about the God we serve and our Savior, Jesus. The One for whom we do this, the driving force in our passion must be clearly grounded in "Who" we do it all for.
    - i. Our family, friends, and people we meet on a day to day basis factor into this equation.
    - ii. Yet, the bottom line all comes down to knowing God is the center for all we do.

Conclusion:

- A. In this lesson, we considered an initial definition of passion and how our passion connects to our daily lives: home, work, and the church.
- B. We also discussed Darren Hardy's "4 Passion Switches," specifically focusing on the fourth switch as it directs the whole of where we are headed when it comes to passion in leadership.
- C. Next week, we will build on this lesson to consider more about the levels of passion that exist and how those levels relate to our relationship with God and the work of His kingdom.

Recommended Reading:

Duckworth, Angela. *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*

Moore, Steve. *Who is my Neighbor? Being a Good Samaritan in a Connected World*

Hardy, Darren. *The Entrepreneur Roller Coaster: Why Now is a Good Time to Join the Ride*