

## Essentials to Leadership: Passion and Perseverance

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### Course description: Passion and Perseverance – part 2

This course continues the discussion of passion and perseverance. The ideas from this lesson, and future lessons, assist students to learn about what passion means, how passion factors into our daily lives, and why it is needed in the church.

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

- A. Considered the differences between Intensity and Passion.
- B. Discussed both an interest-based passion and an issue-based passion.
- C. Looked at a passion pyramid and the “4 Levels of Passion” with the intent of making application of these levels to our Christian walk with God.

### Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of four. Write two words on the whiteboard: Intensity and Passion. Ask each group to take five minutes to write what they believe the differences are in these two words.
- B. Ask each group to share their thoughts. Following the discussion, write out the following ways Steve Moore explains the difference in Intensity and Passion under each word.
  - 1. I want *you* to believe                      *I* really believe this
  - 2. Marked by *emotion*                              Marked by *conviction*
  - 3. Packaged with *hype*                              Comes with *authenticity*
  - 4. Appears *superficial*                              Appears *natural*
  - 5. Talks *loudly*                                      Talks *plainly*
- C. Discuss with the class ways their understanding of the differences in these two words connect with the ideas expressed by Steve Moore.
- D. The following information is based out of Steve Moore’s book (listed below). Steve contrasts the ideas behind an “Interest-based” passion and an “Issue-based” passion.
  - 1. Interest-based: characterized by pleasure, things we do leisurely, areas that are fun, activities—usually ones we have natural abilities (sports, recreational, etc.)
  - 2. Issue-based: areas that bring fulfillment, purpose, legacy. These are causes that often emerge from experience (homeless, children’s homes, abuse—physical, mental, sexual, etc.)

E. Moore also develops what he refers to as the Passion Pyramid. Within the pyramid are the “4 Levels of Passion.”

1. Level 1: Learn more about it
  - a. The idea connects to both interest-based and issue-based passion.
  - b. When we are passionate about a specific area, we initially begin to look for information. We want to learn more about an interest or an issue.
  - c. We begin reading articles online, find books about it, ask people who have expertise in that area, etc.
2. Level 2: Engage in activities
  - a. Once we gather information regarding the area we are passionate about, we engage in activities connected.
  - b. This may involve helping at a homeless shelter or a women’s abuse shelter, serving at a children’s home, etc.
  - c. One may also pick up a sport (begin playing golf), get involved in a recreational area (get a boat, camper, etc.)
  - d. Level 2 is an area where we get involved to see if we like what we have learned about. If we do, then we go to the next level.
3. Level 3: Influence others
  - a. At this level we begin talking to others about what we’ve learned and experienced.
  - b. We want others to see the enjoyment, value, benefit, or need that might attract them to also get involved.
  - c. We find great satisfaction in seeing others follow the same path we’ve taken.
4. Level 4: Even when Sacrifice is required
  - a. The final level identified by Moore is one that takes our passion to the highest level. Here one is ready to make whatever sacrifice is required to participate in this area of passion.
  - b. At this point, the cycle begins again. A part of the sacrifice may involve learning more (deeper understanding and knowledge), engaging in further activities (becoming more involved, or spending more time), influencing more people to become part of the cause (rallies, email campaigns, etc.), and then we make even greater sacrifice.
  - c. Paul was a Level 4 kind of guy. He was completely given to the cause.

- F. Ask each group to consider the “4 levels of passion” and write out several ways these levels apply to Christianity. Give them about 5-10 minutes.
- G. Once they complete their list, ask for each group to share one specific area or thought that connects the levels of passion to Christianity.
1. We begin by learning more about God’s word, Christianity, creation, salvation, the church, etc. We are curious and want to learn what it is all about.
  2. We take a step and engage in some of the activities: potluck, bowling group, worship service, game night, etc. At this point, we may decide to become a Christian.
  3. We then want others to know about what we’ve found and how they can enjoy the love, fellowship, and hope we discovered.
  4. This level becomes a bit more challenging. At times, we find those who reach this point and dig more deeply, they get more engaged in every area possible, and they talk to everyone they know and meet.
  5. What we have to stop and think about here is what level are we, personally? And what level would we describe most in the congregation?
    - a. Are we dabbling in learning, half-heartedly engaging in worship, but nothing else, afraid to speak to anyone about Christ?
    - b. Are we willing to make sacrifices to serve the Lord, grow in fellowship with His people, strive to achieve greater unity and maturity, and to help others to come to know Him?

Conclusion:

- A. Passion is an interesting subject and one that deserves more thought and study. The choice is ours to determine. Do we really know what we are passionate about, and can we say we are passionate about our faith and relationship to God?
- B. This lesson helped us see the differences between Intensity and Passion and how Steve Moore describes the “4 Levels of Passion” in the Passion Pyramid. We’ve also discussed how these levels connect to Christianity today.
- C. Next week, we want to take another step in looking at how we can develop passion in our lives.

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*