

Essentials to Leadership: Passion and Perseverance

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Passion and Perseverance – part 3

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. Determined what we are passionate about in life.
- B. Considered the three fundamental issues of passion.
- C. Discussed four ways we can increase and maintain our passion for the Lord.

Outline of the class:

- A. Make sure each individual in class has a piece of paper and pen/pencil. Ask three questions, but only give about three seconds to answer and move to the next. The questions to ask are the following.
 - 1. If you could do anything and make a living at it, what would it be?
 - 2. What is your favorite hobby or pass-time?
 - 3. What about the church do you love the most?
- B. Once everyone has answered the questions, ask students to share their answers. Try to get as many as possible to share. Try to observe the following.
 - 1. Is there a correlation between their answers for #1 and #2?
 - 2. Then, ask everyone to consider and share ways they might incorporate what they love most about the church with their hobby. Is it possible to talk about what we love about the church with others who share our same interests?
- C. Take a few moments to discuss “Three Fundamental Issues” as they relate to passion. This information is from Tim Elmore at growingleaders.com.
 - 1. The three issues Elmore discusses include desires, motives, and passion. When we are aware of these areas, we begin to see where our passion exists.
 - a. Our passion may exist in the arena of sports or recreation.
 - b. Our passion may exist in the arena of political or social issues.
 - c. Our passion may exist in the arena of relationships (family, friends, etc.)
 - d. Our passion may exist in the arena of spiritual matters.

2. The three issues are highlighted in three questions:
 - a. What do we really want? (the answer emphasizes our desires)
 - b. Why do we want it? (the answer emphasizes our motives)
 - c. How badly do we want it? (the answer emphasizes our passion)
- D. Divide the class into groups of four and ask each group to take about ten minutes to make a list of three ways they believe someone can increase and maintain their passion.
- E. Once everyone completes their list, ask each group to share and make a list on the whiteboard of the answers provided. A few potential answers to add to their list include:
 1. Begins with the decision to be passionate yourself. John Wesley said, “When you set yourself on fire, people will come to watch you burn.” Decide to be passionate
 2. Reflect on and rekindle that first love (cf. Rev. 2:1ff).
 3. Surround ourselves with passionate people. Passion is contagious.
 4. Share our passion with others (cf. Mark 5:1-20 and focus on vv. 18-20).
 5. Spend personal time with God.

Conclusion:

- A. We may have a level of passion for several areas in life, but we definitely need to determine the ways we can increase and maintain our passion in areas of a spiritual nature.
- B. When we are passionate about the Lord and His kingdom, we cannot hide it. It becomes contagious, and the world around us cannot help but fall in love with people who are passionate about what they do.
- C. Next week, we will take another step in the area of passion but add components that describe the true nature of passion.

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*