

Title: PURPOSEFUL PASSION

The word 'passion' comes from the Latin '*passio*' which means ***suffering or enduring***.

Modern definition of the word ***passion*** means *an intense feeling of enthusiasm that drives us to do something we love or enjoy*.

In *Romans 12:11* Paul states, "... work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."

We are to serve Him passionately!

The other rendering of *Romans 12:11* says...
Never be lacking in zeal... fervent in the spirit... Never give up... Serve the Lord with heart full of devotion... be enthusiastic in the spirit.

Paul encourages us to be passionate to what Jesus is passionate about.

"Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion." G. Hegel

Passion is what separates the good from the great, the ordinary from the extraordinary.

What are we passionate about?

When our passion is aligned with our values and goals, it brings joy and fulfilment to us.

- The foundation of our passion is **CHARACTER**, not a professional skill.
- The nature of our passion is **SERVICE**, not being served.
- The motive of our passion is **LOVE**, not money or power or position.
- The measure of our passion is **SACRIFICE**, not success.
- The authority of our passion is **SUBMISSION**, not pulling rank.
- The purpose of our passion is **TO GLORIFY GOD**, not to glorify ourselves.
- The privilege of our passion is **GROWTH**, which may be in depth rather than in numbers, in quality rather than in quantity.
- The tools of our passion are **PRAYER AND SCRIPTURES**, not marketing and self-help handbook.
- The power of our passion is **THE HOLY SPIRIT**, not programs.
- The model of our passion is **JESUS CHRIST**, not an organisation or a man.

3 greatest passions of Christ which must be our greatest passions in life as a believer:

1. **Passion for His presence.**

Jesus is passionate to be in His Father's presence.

Read *Mark 1:12-13, 35; Luke 5:16; Matt. 6:6a*

We are called to be in His presence!

Read *Mark 3:13-15*

His Presence leads us to do His work effectively.

The church of Antioch sets an example that passion for His presence must be first in importance – even before service.

In *Acts 13:2* says, “*As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them’.*”

2. **Passion for the Word – Scripture**

Jesus is passionate about the Word of God - scripture. Read *Luke 2:41-52; Matt. 4:1-11*

In a Church service, worship plays an important role, but it is not the main thing.

Worship only prepares our hearts so we can receive with meekness the engrafted Word of God.

It is not worship that brings the passion for the Word. It is the passion for the Word that brings the true spirit of worship.

3. Passion for the lost

Jesus is passionate for the lost! Read *Luke 19:10; Luke 15:4*

A deep passion for His presence and His Word will develop and create in us a passion for the lost!

God did not send Jesus to make bad people good but to make dead people live.

Without Jesus, we are dead and we are lost!

Luke 19:10 – For the Son of man came to seek and save those who are lost.

Jesus spent much of His time sharing the gospel with others. As believers, we are called to follow Christ's example.

Why do we need to be passionate for the lost?

- **To fulfil the Great Commission**

We have been commanded to preach the gospel to all creation.

Read *Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15*

As followers of Christ, we are called to follow this commandment and share the message of salvation to those who are lost.

- **To fulfil the Great Commandment**

Matthew 22: 36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘**Love your neighbour as yourself.**’

We are called to love our neighbours the way we love ourselves.

As true followers of Christ, we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, and there is no greater act of love than to share the good news of Jesus Christ to others, especially to those who are lost.