



Ephesians 2:4-10 Created to live out His purposes.

GOD'S PURPOSE... MY CALLING

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2 | OUR PASSION

Every believer has a God-given purpose—a divine calling that burns like holy fire. It's not mere ambition but the work God ordained before birth. This passion, meant to advance His Kingdom, is discovered through prayer and surrender, not human ingenuity.

"Passion cannot thrive in settling for a life beneath your true potential." — Nelson Mandela

1. Our God-given Passion begins in God's heart.

- Jeremiah 1:5 *Before I formed you in the womb I knew (chose) you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*
- Passion is part of God's design, a divine "assignment" placed in you before birth. You were created with purpose, uniquely designed for His Kingdom. It's not manufactured but discovered as you draw closer to Him.

2. Not all passion is from God. The world promotes self-centered ambition, but passion from God is focused on advancing God's will, not our own. Paul had tremendous zeal but was persecuting the church until his encounter with Christ (Acts 9:1-6). When our passion is not surrendered to God, we can work against His purposes instead of fulfilling them.

3. The Holy Spirit reveals and ignites passion.

- Philippians 2:12-13 *...for it is God who works in you to... fulfill his good purpose.*
- The Holy Spirit is the one who inspires, empowers, and directs our passion. He is really the One who places a specific burden in us and then empowers us to fulfill it.

How the Holy Spirit reveals your passion...

1. It is a strong burden in our hearts.

- Nehemiah felt deep sorrow for the broken walls of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 1:3-4)
- Moses was moved when he saw his people suffering. (Exodus 2:11-12)
- Jesus wept over Jerusalem's condition. (Luke 19:41-44)
- Paul was distressed over idol worship in Athens. (Acts 17:16)
- Your passion is often connected to what breaks your heart.

2. **He not only reveals our spiritual gifts but also activates them within us.** Your passion is deeply connected to your spiritual gifts, and the Holy Spirit empowers you to fulfill the calling He has placed on your life. We will go over the three types of Spiritual Gifts next week (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-13)
 - The Greek word for “gift” is *charis*(ma), which signifies something that brings joy and fulfillment. However, a spiritual gift is not just for your benefit, it operates through you to serve and minister to those in need.
 - If you are called to teach, you will have a deep hunger for God’s Word and an ability to communicate truth. If you are called to evangelism, you will burn with a desire to see souls saved. If you are called to intercession, you will sense a strong, Divine urgency to pray. Etc.
3. **Your passion may be confirmed in different ways.**
 - Samuel anointed David as king, confirming his destiny. (1 Samuel 16:12-13)
 - Paul was dramatically confronted by Christ and his purpose was revealed by Ananias. (Acts 9:15-16)
 - The Holy Spirit spoke to the church to set apart Paul and Barnabas as the first missionaries. (Acts 13:2)
 - Timothy’s calling was affirmed through prophetic words spoken over him. (1 Timothy 4:14)
 - The environment of the moving of His Spirit, prophetic words, spiritual mentors, often confirm the passion God has placed in you.
4. **A passion from God does not fade when difficulties arise, it intensifies.**
 - Jeremiah wanted to quit, but instead proclaimed that God’s word was in His heart like a burning fire! Jeremiah 20:9 *But if I say, “I will not mention His word or speak anymore in His name,” His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.*
 - Paul was beaten, imprisoned, and persecuted, yet he could not stop bringing the gospel to the Gentile world, the very ones he was bringing the Gospel to! (2 Corinthians 11:23-28)
 - When God ignites your passion, NOTHING can extinguish it!

The process

1. Your passion is tested and refined through a process. God shapes us through trials and testing, much like silver purified in fire. This process removes wrong motives, reliance on human strength, and knowledge, etc. while strengthening our faith and preparing us to be fit for our Kingdom work.
 - Hebrews 5:8 *Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*
 - Passion is not developed overnight. Many people abandon their calling because they expect immediate results. However, God often takes us through a crucial process before launching us into our purpose. Two examples include the following men:

Joseph faced incredible challenges after sharing his dreams! Genesis 37–50) His life was deeply affected by betrayal, slavery, false accusations, and imprisonment. God was refining and preparing him for his ultimate purpose, to save the lives of his family, who would later become the nation Israel. Psalm 105:17-19 *He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.*

David was anointed King with no immediate fulfillment (1 Samuel 16:12-13); he was severely tested and opposed in his service to King Saul (1 Samuel 17:33-37); there was continued persecution from King Saul (1 Samuel 18:10-11); then, he was further refined in the wilderness season (1 Samuel 22:1-2). God brought David through the refining process and he became King as was prophesied many years before! (2 Samuel 5:4-5; Acts 13:22)

2. **Our passion goes through stages of development.**

- God reveals the calling.
- God allows trials to shape our character and build perseverance, as seen in Joseph's life.
- God launches us into our assignment as we remain faithful to His Word. Joseph's dreams were fulfilled and he became a ruler in Egypt as seen in Genesis 41.
- Many want to be used by God but are unwilling to go through the refining process. Because of the strength of a God-given passion, it *must* be purified through humble obedience and perseverance.

3. **Walking in your passion with power.** 2 Timothy 1:6 *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

- Seek God's presence every day. Passion grows in the presence of God. If you neglect that, your fire will diminish. (Matthew 6:33)
- Make sure your passion is biblically sound. Not every strong feeling is from God. Psalm 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:...*
- Start small and step out in faith as God opens the door.
- Surround yourself with people who are passionate and who are on fire for God. Proverbs 27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*
- Stay filled with the Holy Spirit. God's anointing fuels your passion. Ephesians 5:18 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,*
- Satan will try to quench your passion through discouragement, fear, and distractions. Paul's command to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:6 is also a command to us!

Assignment

- **Memorize** Romans 12:6-8 *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us...*
- **Motivational Gifts Questionnaire.**
- **Join a small accountability group** (2-4) for the duration of the class. Set aside one time per week to meet in person or by phone to discuss the lesson.