

Day 11

JESUS CALLING: Finding Your Inner Passion

A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position ... John C. Maxwell

It isn't what you do, but how you do it ... John Wooden

Finding your passion is the next step in becoming the YOU God created you to be. The seed was planted in you at birth. God is waiting for you to discover it!

Erik Rees tells us that when you are trying to figure out what your Christian calling might be, think of it as Jesus knocking or ringing the doorbell of your heart. When you hear the knocking, it is most likely connected to God's plan for your life. It involves activities you are passionate about.

In today's society, there is so much going on in our busy lives, you might not hear Jesus' call. If you do hear the knock, you can pretend you are not home or you can answer. Rees says answering the knock requires taking some risks, moving out of your comfort zone. You must ask yourself some hard questions. "How much do I really love God?" "What does God want me to do about this need I see?" "Am I willing to do *anything* he asks of me?" If you are afraid to answer God's call, remember He has placed these desires in your heart. When you surrendered your all to him, He promised to be with you and show you the way.

Some of us are passion driven all our lives, while others struggle to find our passion. Sometimes trying a few things to see what feels right is helpful. Your passion does not have to be in Christian ministry. If you ask, God will show you how to use your passion for Him, no matter what it is.

If you have not discovered your passion, Rees lists some questions to ask yourself that might help you hear Jesus at the door.

- When you dream, where do your dreams usually drift?
- If money was not an obstacle and you could do anything for God, what would it be?
- What is it that gets you off the couch?

Before you can know what God wants you to do for others, you must discover who you are and what God created you to be. When we stay at a job that gives us mostly frustration, we are not living the life God planned for us. When we are excited, anxious to do more of what we are doing, we are doing what God created us to do. If we surrender everything to God, he will stir up our passion so that we are able to accomplish all that he planned for us.

Rees says if you have a dream that you don't think will ever come true, let God surprise you. Expect him to, and he will.

He tells the story of Britain's Got Talent contestant, Paul Potts who was a seller of cell phones, but wanted to be an opera singer. He pursued that dream and now has a singing career. Last summer, after many years of trying to become a professional singer, 47 year old Susan Boyle, another of Britain's Got Talent unlikely contestants, sang "I Dreamed A Dream" and is now known all over the world for her singing.

Each of us has been created to do a job for God. There are many needs to be met for others. What or whose needs might you meet? Rees suggests that you look at the needs God has met in your life and see if you can find a way to pass that blessing on to others.

He comforts us every time we have trouble, so when others have trouble, we can comfort them with the same comfort God gave us. 2 Corinthians 1:4

Reflect on what needs you might meet for others. Some possible ones are listed below.

1. Educational needs, best met by those who enjoy training, teaching and developing others.
2. Emotional needs, best met by those who enjoy counseling.
3. Relational needs, best met by those who discover their passion in helping people connect.
4. Material needs, best met by those who simply want to help someone in need.
5. Spiritual needs, best met by those who long to help others discover a personal relationship with Christ.
6. Vocational needs, best met by those with the expertise to train or coach others to reach professional goals.

As you reflect, ask yourself what needs you most love to meet, why you love to meet them and what life lessons you could pass on to someone else. The most important question to ask is, where can my life make the biggest impact for God?

Father, I long to know what you made me to do. There are so many possibilities! Help me to know through your divine reassurance that the direction I am heading in is the right one and that whether or not I am currently in a position that is geared toward fulfilling your design, you will use it as another building block in my life_ taking me to that place you've already picked out for me. As I review this material, and seek to understand what needs you want me to meet, help me to be open to your surprises and to let your spirit guide me in the way that I should go. In Jesus' name. Amen