

PASSION

By God's Design
February 2, 2020

Introduction: Do you know someone you would describe as a passionate person? These individuals come with intensity and tenacity. It seems to be hard-wired into their DNA. Passion is often described as a bad thing in the Bible. We are supposed to get rid of our passions and desires (Galatians 5:24). But our passion is redeemed when one's strong desire, for an activity, object, concept, or course, dovetails with God's greater purpose. Where does your passion lie?

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:4-9

I. The Purpose of Your Pursuit

A. Fleshly Pursuit

⁴ *...If anyone else thinks he has reason for **confidence in the flesh**, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless (Philippians 3:4–6).*

B. Spiritual Pursuit

⁷ *But whatever gain I had, I **counted as loss for the sake of Christ**. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I **may gain Christ** ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (Philippians 3:7–9).*

Passion – The 'One Thing' for which your willing to suffer.

²⁴ *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh** with its **passions and desires**.*

²⁵ *If we **live by the Spirit**, let us also **keep in step with the Spirit** (Galatians 5:24–25).*

II. Your Passion Helper

¹⁵ *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will **give you another Helper**, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for **he dwells with you and will be in you** (John 14:15–17).*

III. Life, Lies and Truths

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God actually say**, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1).*

NOTE: The root of Satan's temptations is to establish our identity in something other than God – to place doubt in our hearts.

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, **"If you are the Son of God..."** (Matthew 4:1–3).

IV. Life Drifts – What or Who is the 'One Thing' for which we are willing to suffer?

A. Our desire for appetite.

³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"**" (Matthew 4:3–4). (Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

³⁵ Jesus said to them, **"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."** ⁵⁴ **"Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day"** (John 6:35,54).

B. Our desire for ambition.

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, **"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone"**" (Matthew 4:5–6).

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways
(Psalm 91:11).

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test'"
(Matthew 4:7).

"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test..." (Deuteronomy 6:16).

C. Our desire for approval.

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, **if you will fall down and worship me.**" ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, **"You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve"**" (Matthew 4:8–10).

⁸ **"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"** (Matthew 15:8–9).

V. What is the One Thing for Which We are Willing to Suffer?

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1–2).

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Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:4-6

I. The Purpose of Your Pursuit

A. _____ Pursuit (*Philippians 3:4-6*)

B. _____ Pursuit (*Philippians 3:7-9*)

Passion – The ' _____ ' for which
you willing to _____. (*Galatians 5:24-25*).

II. Your Passion Helper (*John 14:15-17*)

III. Life, Lies and Truths (*Genesis 3:1*)

NOTE: The root of Satan's temptations is to establish our _____ in something
other than _____ – to place _____ in our _____. (*Matthew 4:1-3*)

IV. Life Drifts

A. Our desire for _____.
(*Matthew 4:3-4*) (*Deuteronomy 8:1-3*) (*John 6:35,54*)

B. Our desire for _____.
(*Matthew 4:5-6*) (*Psalms 91:11*) (*Matthew 4:7*) (*Deuteronomy 6:16*)

C. Our desire for _____. (*Matthew 4:8-10*) (*Matthew 15:8-9*)

V. What is the One Thing for Which We are Willing to Suffer? (*Hebrews 12:1-2*)