

SHAPE Online Academy-Lesson #3- HEART

“The core problem is not that we are too passionate about bad things, but that we are not passionate enough about good things.”

Larry Crabb, *Finding God*

“Passion is the fuel of life. It is the great source of energy and drive. It’s what makes us explore new vistas, develop new relationships, and seek solutions to perplexing problems.”

Bob Burford, *Halftime*

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24

HEART

The ultimate contribution God has for you to make aligns with the passions he has given you for his kingdom.

Our heart reflects our _____ and _____.

The key is to unlock the potential within our hearts so that they can beat fully for God.

*“Heart is where you are centered, where you desire to serve, the altar upon which you wish to place your talents. Giftedness is what you are. Heart is where you will most likely apply what you are. Heart refers to **empathy, attraction, or “draw” towards a group of people**, a field of expertise, or a particular type of service. Evaluating your heart helps you determine where you might best use your gifts, where you wish to serve, and whom you wish to serve.”*

Tom Paterson, *Living the Life You Were Meant to Live*

Letting Your Heart Beat for God

“God has given each of us a unique emotional ‘heartbeat’ that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These reveal the nature of your heart...[and] are clues to where you should be serving.”

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

Know _____ drives you.

Know _____ you care about.

Know the _____ you will meet.

Know the _____ you will help conquer.

Know your ultimate _____ for God’s kingdom.

What Drives You?

The key is to discover the cravings the Creator has put in you; often they lie deep within your spirit and you’ve never before taken the time or effort to identify them.

Ask Yourself:

- What do my dreams and desires drift toward?
- What do I really want to do for God?
- What motivates me to take action?
- What do I crave?
- What can I do to help you more?

What Do You Care About?

God has placed people in your life who he wants you to help him reach.

Who is God nudging you to help, and how can he use your particular gifts to reach them?

Examples- young children, elderly, married couples, the business world, teenagers, people facing marital conflict, the spiritually apathetic, people who don't know Jesus, etc.

Ask Yourself:

- Who do I feel I can most profoundly influence for God?
- What age range do I feel led to minister to?
- What affinity group do I feel led to serve?
- How could I impact them in a way that maximizes my gifts?

What Needs Will You Meet?

Once you define your target audience, you need to determine which needs you intend to meet in the lives of those individuals.

You can't meet every need within your target group.

Start by focusing on the needs that God and others have met in your life.

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

God can use our suffering, weaknesses, and failures—as well as our strength and passions—as part of his masterpiece he is creating.

There are many different kinds of needs. You may need to narrow your focus.

S _____ **Needs**

These focus on the spiritual condition of a person's life.

Meeting these needs means helping people meet Christ and come into a transforming relationship with him

Gifts associated: teaching, wisdom, evangelism, knowledge, prophecy

P_____ Needs

Practical expressions of love

Food, clothing, shelter, and other simple necessities.

Gifts associated: helps, healing, administration, hospitality, pastoring, mercy.

R_____ Needs

Helping people develop authentic, Christ-centered relationships with others.

Helping people connect with others and build satisfying relationships

Gifts associated: encouragement, wisdom, hospitality, mercy, discernment, pastoring

Em_____ Needs

Helping people who are hurting emotionally and needing reassurance of who they are in Christ

This can involve counseling, encouraging, and listening to others so that they can find Christ in their life situations.

Gifts associated: encouragement, wisdom, mercy, discernment, pastoring

Ed_____ Needs

Helping people learn, showing them how to live life to its fullest.

Using a variety of settings, teaching tools, and styles to stimulate growth.

Gifts associated: teaching, pastoring, knowledge, prophecy

V_____ Needs

Helping people maximize their personal or professional potential.

Training, coaching, and consulting with others to help them overcome barriers and reach goals

Gifts associated: wisdom, leadership, teaching, encouragement, discernment

Ask Yourself:

- What are the top two needs I love meeting?
- Why do I love meeting those needs?
- What lessons have I learned that I could pass on to others?

What Cause Will You Help Conquer?

Ask Yourself:

- What cause or issue makes my heart race?
- Where could I make the greatest impact for God?
- If time wasn't an issue, to what cause would I donate myself?

*"So, if you had permission to do what you really want to do, what would you do? Just start making a list of all the things you deeply desire to do with your life, great and small. And remember—Don't ask yourself, **How?** How? Is God's department. He is asking you **what?** What is written on your heart? What makes you come alive? If you could do what you've always wanted to do, what would it be?" -John Eldredge, *Wild at Heart—Field Manual**

What Dream Will You Fulfill?

Sometimes dreams get buried by jobs that are unfulfilling, situations that are unraveling, “to do” lists that are unending, and finances that are overwhelming.

When our attention is on all of the “stuff” in life, our dreams get stifled.

WARNING!!!

Not every dream that dances in your head reflects God’s will for you.

Our _____ still clings to us.

“I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. But I can’t help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things.”

Romans 5:15-17 (NLT)

Sometimes a desire for personal comfort, success, and glory displaces a passion for God’s glory.

But remember:

“For the power of the live-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death.” –Romans 8:2 (NLT)

Simil Justus Et Peccator!

Ask Yourself:

- What pursuit would release the passion in my life for God?
- What God-centered dreams can I identify that have been buried by life?
- What would I attempt to do for God with the rest of my life?

HEART

Connecting with your God-given passions transforms your everyday life

Passions make work seem like play

Our gifts and passions ignite like spiritual rocket fuel, propelling us to new heights of service, when we mix them with our natural abilities....but that is next week

Assignment

This is not an easy assignment.

Take your time.

Let the questions simmer for a while.

Allow yourself to dream big!