

P.E.O.P.L.E.
PASSION
Psalm 45:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matthew Paris, Journalist
2. Prayer, Explanation, Optimism, Passion
3. We must be passionate as we minister to people.
4. Misconceptions – mother of 4 boys
5. Passion is not:
 - A. **Impulsive** – not doing what you want when you want to do it. “Has to be done now.”
 - B. **Emotionalism** – working people into a frenzy.
 - C. **Irrational** – No thought or planning. No strategy.
 - D. **Activity** – Looking like we’re doing something when we’re only busy.
6. Passion is a matter of the heart.

I. CONVICTION TO DO GOD’S WILL

- A. Psalm 45:1, “My heart is moved by a noble theme.”
- B. “moved” – “stirred”, conviction by the Holy Spirit.
- C. Who is “moving” you? Self, family, others or God.
- D. Moses was led by the Spirit of God.

- E. Jesus was led by the Spirit of God. Wilderness, temptation.
- F. Paul was led by the Spirit.
- G. “Noble theme” – Psalmist was “moved” to write Holy Scripture.
- H. God has a noble theme for your life.
- I. Ask God today to move your heart: to give you a passion for His noble theme.

II. PURE MOTIVE

A. Psalm 51:10, “God, create a clean heart for me.”

B. Why am I doing this ministry?

1. To impress others.
2. To gain approval by God.
3. To fill a void.
4. To compensate for lost time.
5. To manipulate others. To get something in return.
6. To escape reality. Don’t want to stop and deal with the pain or problems of my life.

C. Or, is my motive to please God?

D. How do I know my motive is pure?

E. Psalm 51:17, “The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit, God, You will not despise a broken and humbled heart.”

III. FOCUS

- A. Psalm 86:11, "Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."
- B. Love, Serve, Seek Him will **all** your heart.
- C. Satan can make us passionate about many things.
- D. Many of those are good things.
- E. We can also become passionate about the wrong things.
- F. A good verse to keep us in check is Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- G. "All your heart" also means to finish the job. We start this and start that, but we don't finish anything.

IV. WORKING IN HIS POWER

- A. Colossians 1:29, "I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me."
- B. It is easy to burn out in ministry.
- C. Our energy can become depleted.
- D. Burn out often results from working in our own strength.
- E. We don't have the capacity to do God's work in our own strength. We are not designed for that.
- F. That's because it's spiritual in nature, and we need God's Spirit operating in and through us.
- G. This verse says we should be passionate - "labor, striving."
- H. "Labor" – wearisome effort, to work to exhaustion.

- I. "Striving" – to exert effort. Athletic picture. This word emphasizes Paul missionary work with all its painful effort, tireless exertion, its struggles against all kinds of setbacks and opposition.
- J. God's work will demand much from us. It will be a struggle.
- K. **BUT**, for the Christian who relies on God's power, we can accomplish God's purpose with great passion regardless of what it cost us.

L. Isaiah 40:29-31

V. TRUST GOD

A. Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding."

B. This is important when the fire starts to die out.

C. How does the fire die out?

1. Satan attacks through uncontrollable circumstances. Bad things happen to good people.
2. People don't meet our expectations.
3. People fail to believe in God's vision.

D. At that point, all we can do is trust God.

E. The temptation is to try to understand it.

F. God's Word says not to rely on our own understanding.

G. Trust Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. 2 Timothy 1:6-12

2. Matthew Paris, "I would drop my job, sell my house, throw away all my possessions, leave my acquaintances and set out into the world burning with desire to know more, and when I had found more, to act upon it and tell others."