Day 1 - Tapping Into Your Passion

When I say passion, I want you to think in terms of **WHO or WHAT** you are deeply concerned about. God places in our hearts deep concerns about particular **PEOPLE or ISSUES**. These deep concerns (your compassionate interests) can and should be a driving force in your life.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Consider Peter and Paul in the Bible. Paul wrote in the letter to the Galatians:

"For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles."

Peter and Paul were two men passionately concerned about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but God gave them each a passionate concern for a different audience.

IDENTIFYING YOUR PASSIONS

Who do you worry about? Who are people that you want to see helped? These people might be specific individuals. For example, you may have a friend going through a troubling time or medical crisis.

Or, you may be concerned about people with a particular need: the homeless, elderly, children, hungry, those who are illiterate, people suffering from a particular disease, people who want to play an instrument you know how to play, etc.

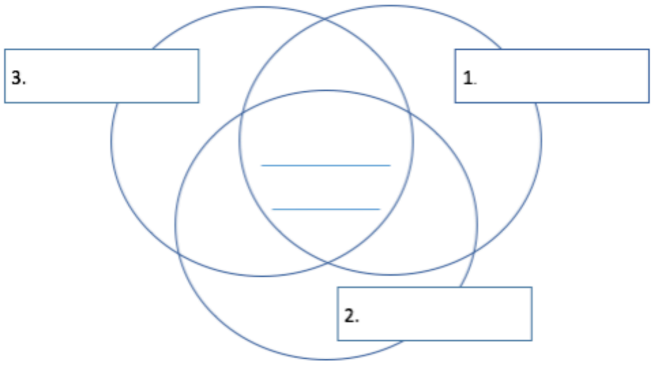
You may also have passionate concerns about particular issues, for example, the environment, education, church growth, community development, etc.

What we are talking about is the "RECIPIENT" of your purpose. In other words WHO or WHAT will be the focus of your purpose. Identifying your recipient is critical. Now you might be curious why knowing your recipient is critical. I'll be covering that during our LIVE session. So, don't miss that at 1pm CDT.

TODAY'S EXERCISE

Today's exercise is very easy. All you have to do is make three lists. I have provided a simple worksheet that you can print out, or recreate by hand to help you with this. (Click here to get the worksheet).

ACTION STEP 1: At the top of that worksheet you will see three overlapping circles that looks like this:



Next to the number 1 in the upper right circle write the word "Recipient." Don't worry about circles two and three yet. We'll get to them on Tuesday and Wednesday.

ACTION STEP #2: Below the diagram make three lists, but pray first.

- Specific people
- Groups of people
- Issues that concern you.

WHAT TO PRAY

Don't over think this. Take a few deep breaths and pray - "God you gave me gifts to make an impact in the world. There are people and issues you would love to see me touch. Make clear to me who they are."

Then pause. Don't so much think about who this is, but in a spirit of openness and expectation, observe what comes to mind. Jot down your observations.

Don’t limit yourself to the space provided. My lists look something like this:

- **Specific people I am concerned for:** my family, my congregation, and I have a list of specific friends and acquaintances. Out of respect for their privacy I won't list them here.
- **Groups of people I am concerned for:** I'm really concerned right now about anyone who is feel a lack of peace and purpose. Also kids and young adults concern me. I feel like they are living in a very divided and confusing world. I want them to understand how much they are loved by God.
- **Issues that concern me:** I love nature, so I want to be good with what I have. Even if it is as simple as caretaking my yard or the church garden courtyard to create a little peace of beauty and habitat. I'm also really concerned at how polarized people seem and a loss of civility. I want to spread kindness.

ACTION STEP #3: Pick ONE recipient and within the next 24 hours take a passion step.

You don't have to do something big and flash. Just invest a few minutes in someone or something you love or have deep concern for. These little moments add up to big meaning.

For example,I 'm going to shoot for two things: Caretaking nature - I received a bird feeder for Christmas and I want to get it set up in my yard to provide for the birds near me. Kindness - I'm going to look for an opportunity while I am running errands today to help someone feel good about themselves.

BONUS ACTION STEP: Post what you do in the facebook group to inspire others.

That’s it, Day 1 is in the books and you’ve now found your RECIPIENT(S) which will allow you to tap into the fire of your passions.

>>>Click Here to Visit Today’s Post on Facebook<<<

If you’re not a Facebook user, no worries - After the live session, I'll download the video and post it to a resource page. I'll send you that link just as soon as the video is ready later today. Have an awesome day.
Blessings, John Arnold