

This New Year: God's Will for You  
...through your **Passion** or **His Command**?

There was a well watched video some years ago which many (over 30yrs of age) will remember in which there was a captivating proclamation by an older man to his trainee in a certain sport: "**Passion Overcomes Principle**".

A vital lesson to be taken seriously with no explanation needed!

However, "**passion**" has become a very acceptable buzzword used throughout the western Christian world meaning "gripping, inner, powerful desire" etc.

The insinuation is that IF one has a "passion" to do something, go somewhere etc., it is therefore acceptably interpreted as "this is the commission of God in my life to do or go in the direction of the driving impulse.

This is **not** necessarily the leading of the Holy Spirit. First of all, the Holy Spirit will lead in a Holy conviction of His Holy call or commission, no first through a driving "personal passion" but by His voice; by His Word.

One of the translations of the word "passion" means more "the diseased fleshly condition in which sin is conceived and from which sin springs"!

The **leading of God** is not according to *our personal interest*; *our strengths*; *our gifts*; *our knowledge or even academic or life experience* ...let alone our *strong inner desires* no matter how spiritual their clothing be!

One of the most common questions I hear being asked to those looking for direction in life is: "well, what is your **passion**?"

This is major misdirection! It firstly provides an entirely wrong hypothesis upon and from which the listener is going to base one's understanding of God's direction in the days ahead!

Think for a few scanning moments:

**MOSES** didn't glorify God through having a **passion** to obey and trust Him. When he did that, he murdered a man even though he had a good intention!

When Moses pleased God ...the record in Exodus says as a testimony of God's pleasure with him was "...according to all that the LORD his God commanded" him. It was not according to how passionate he was nor even what he thought was the best direction or means to an end!

**Joshua** was instructed in Joshua chapter 1 that he would have success and act wisely to bring the people to salvation IF he "talked about the Word of God incessantly" and "thought about God's Word obsessively" and "did God's Word comprehensively"! There's nothing in there to even remotely suggest that God was looking for Joshua's "passion" to get the job done!

**PAUL** the Apostle didn't have a **passion** to go where God sent him. When he was on the road to Damascus just after the stoning/killing of Stephen, he traveled with a burning heart of passion! It was "**passion**" in his heart





and mind that gave him the goal of imprisoning men and women who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ! He was accosted then by the Lord Jesus Himself and blinded to stop him in his tracks to be able to see and hear truly that God's work would be done by God's instructions ...then in "trusting obedience" God would be glorified!

There was no luster to **Paul's** travels in his following obedience to the Lord and in fact he got public defamation, tortures, imprisonments and even rejection of his own friends and folk he had disciplined (if we only look at the "apparent results from one perspective"!)

Back to *Genesis*: **Abraham** and **Sarah**, **Isaac** and **Rebekah** and **Jacob** and **Rachel** with **their children** didn't have a **passion** to live in wilderness areas where there was drought and famine all 'round. (read again the record in **Genesis** and **Hebrews 11**). Isaac was 60 years old when his twins **Jacob** and **Esau** were born. There was nothing particularly delightful about their lives in growing up to be both self-interested and greedy to get their father's inheritance ...tearing the family apart!

In fact it was by **passion** that **Esau** was driven to be married multiple times to women whom he knew would tear into his parents' hearts and go directly against God's holy ways! Esau, through **passion**, deliberately looked for women who were outside God's limitations of those to whom His people could be married. Then he married them!

It was in **passion** that he lived a "cursed" life the record tells us!

**Soloman** the *wisest* man, ends his life driven by his *passion*!

God in His Word never tells us to "follow our **passions**". Yet this is one of the most common statements used by those seeking to find God's will and direction in their lives.

What we need is a **surrendered heart**; available lives so that at all costs we will serve the Lord under and amongst those to whom He has led us and with whom He places us.

Have you considered that maybe you're **already in God's will** ...His **place and occupation**? Why look for a change? What has God said?

When your **passion** dictates your **destiny**, God is shut out no matter how "spiritual" the language and the constant desire to "be fulfilled"; to "find empowerment"; to "be productive"; to "follow your dreams"; to succeed in entrepreneurial enterprises often called "ministries".

Maybe there's still time for you to make that change and get back to the Lord Jesus Christ: back to the **way of surrender** and **trusting obedience**. Get back to **reading God's Word**. He will speak to you. **Read** enough; **think** enough and you'll be able to **act** enough on what He says. He will be **totally reliable** to you -to be *with you in all your ways* -as *your ways are then His ways*.

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