

PASSION: THE SECRET INGREDIENT

Traditional thinking has convinced us that numbers, qualifications, degrees, and outward appearances do not lie. We believe in the numbers, grade point averages, outward appearances. But there are some unexplained factors with this type of thinking:

- Over 50 percent of all the CEO's of "Fortune 500" companies had C or C- averages in college.
- 65 percent of all U.S. Senators come from the bottom half of their school classes.
- 75 percent of U.S. Presidents were in the "Lower Half Club" in school.
- Over 50 percent of millionaire entrepreneurs never finished college.

Gen. Colin Powell didn't finish college, neither did NBC's Bryant Gumbel. Irving Wallace a distinguished author whose books sold over 120 million copies was a college drop out. Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak founder of Apple Computers had no college degrees. Why did they succeed? What was the key ingredient?

In describing NBA Hall of Famer, Willis Reed, it was said, "No one ever outthrustled Willis at practice, during a game, or even at a kid's clinic. What did it for him was desire. As a player and a man he was always on fire."

Robert Kriegel, author of several books on successful people interviewed over 500 top performers from all areas of work, the arts, and sports. "No two were alike," he said, "but the one quality they had in common was passion. It was their drive, their enthusiasm, their desire that distinguished them. They were passionate and excited about what they were doing."

Harvard Business School professor Dr. Abraham Zelenik says, "Leaders who get excited about their work by contagion stimulate their subordinates. Such excitement builds strong relationships and high morale throughout an organization. Inspired leaders move a business beyond problems into opportunities."

We are never to downplay education, skills, or training. Everyone needs to be competent at work, home, school, or ministry. But these areas such as degrees or outward appearances cannot make you successful in life. The difference between good and excellent is passion.

If passion is truly the key ingredient between success or brilliance then what does all this mean for church leaders?

Philippians 3: 13-14 are key verses that put passion in perspective for the Christian:

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Passion "par excellence." Passion is necessary in the performance of the Christian faith. When Athanasius, the early church father was told by his judge that the whole world was against him, Athanasius responded passionately, "Then is Athanasius against the whole world!" Jim Elliot was clearly in the grip of passion when he and his mission team set their tiny plane down in a jungle area renowned for murderous Aucas. Willard Hichkiss, a pioneer missionary after serving in Africa, looked back over a long life of service and wrote:

"I have dwelt forty years practically alone in Africa. I have been 39 times stricken with fever, three times attacked by lions, and several times by rhinoceri; but let me say to you, I would gladly go through the whole thing again, if I could have the joy of again bringing that word "Savior" and flashing it into the darkness that envelopes another tribe in Central Africa.

Now that's PASSION!!

Here are some conclusions I have reached regarding leadership:

1. People are _____ more by _____ and _____ for ministry than by buildings, budgets, or traditions.
2. Evangelism and excitement for ministry are more _____ than _____.
3. Holy Spirit inspired and empowered enthusiasm is _____ not worked up.
4. People who have passion in ministry are those _____ to their spiritual gifts and "natural talents."
5. We must give close attention to leadership by _____ and _____ rather than just instruction. Instruction is important, however, for building consistency and confidence.
6. _____ ministry motivates people to seek a church or class, and motivates those within the church or class to respond in ministry .However, the key to it all is passionate leadership. The step that goes beyond seeing needs to _____ needs and pursuing goals is PASSION!!

P ASSION: THE KEY INGREDIENT

WHERE DOES THIS PASSION COME FROM?

I. _____ -John 15

- a. Worship -i. Personal ii. Corporately
- b. Witness -i. Lifestyle ii. Confrontational
- c. Willingness- i. To obey ii To change
- d. Work -i. A servants heart ii. A spirit of excellence

II. _____

- a. Phillipians 1 :12-18 describes confidence in being in God's will.
- b. 1 Corinthians 12:1,7,11,18 details God's place of people in ministry by spiritual gifts.
- c.

III. - _____ - _____

- a. People not programs
- b. Where are the people God has entrusted to me spiritually, maritally, emotionally, biblically?

IV. _____ - _____

Matthew 28:18-20

- a. Can you state the goal of our church in one sentence?
- b. Can those under you state the goal of our church in one sentence?
- c. Does your class know the direction they are headed numerically and spiritually?
- d. Does your class know where they fit in?
- e. Do they know that they are supposed to fit in somewhere?