

## Where's Your Passion?

"There is no passion to be found playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." ~ Nelson Mandela

We've all heard the saying that if you follow your passion in making a career choice, you'll never 'work' a day in your life, or as Oprah puts it, "follow your passion; it will lead you to your purpose."

The origin of the word 'passion' comes from the late Latin word '*passio*' and it means "to suffer." It was created by eleventh century religious scholars to describe the *willing suffering of Christ*. These days, passion is often used interchangeably with words such as pleasure or excitement. However, when we consider its original definition—*Christ's willing suffering for our good*—it significantly elevates the word and its meaning from our human desires.

Most Christians understand that our foundational calling is to imitate Christ and one of the things Jesus did on earth was to *meet needs*. We can do that as well; after all, our mantra at Grove is *meeting the needs of people*. Moreover, when we seek to meet needs as a body of Christ, we can experience a monumental move of God. First, however, we must find and *pursue our passion*.

This year, I want us to focus on the word PURSUE. I encourage everyone to *pursue your passion*. Pursue is a verb and verbs require action. This means that it's not enough to *say it*; we must find ways to *show it*. Each person is of value to the church and *pursuing your passion* in ministry suggests that we are also *willing to suffer* for the sake of ministry. This means that when we are tired, upset, or weak, we continue serving because we are *willing to suffer for the greater good*. When we feel unappreciated or fail to see the fruits of our labor, we continue anyhow! We don't give up so easily and we don't walk away from ministry so readily. On the other hand, when we enjoy what we're doing, there's a sense of joy, satisfaction, fulfillment and achievement. Every now and then we all become 'weary in our well-doing'; that just means that we should rest, not quit.

In ministry, if you have a heart to help, a talent or gift share something that you are passionate about, that's where you should be serving. With that in mind, this month, I challenge you to ask yourself: **where is your passion?** What gives you joy and fulfillment? If you enjoy cooking, consider joining the Hospitality & Food Ministry. If you are technologically savvy, explore opportunities within the Multi-Media & Technology Ministry, and if you love working with youth, pursue that passion by working with Xperience—Grove's youth ministries. Whatever you do, *pursue your passion* and it will not only be rewarding, it also translates into personal and spiritual fulfillment.

Grove is blessed to have members with a myriad of gifts and talents. We need you to share those gifts with others; that's why God gave them to you. Pray about it, and ask yourself, **where is your passion?**

Peace and power,

Pastor Marriner