

## PASSION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Grover Dobbins

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Early last Sunday I was reflecting about passion in the lives of believers. I looked back through my own life and realized that there was a passion that was evident even when I was a child, and that my life had been moved and directed by that passion. Some (maybe all) of the major decisions that I'd made in my life had been influenced by that passion. Sometimes the passion had led me into some really bad decisions, that resulted in relational and financial problems. Sometimes I was led into sound decisions that had good results. Sometimes good, sometimes bad, but always passionate.

Until I came to realize how this principle worked, I was at its mercy. My life was not my own, and I couldn't understand why. After I had begun to walk with God I started to understand what was going on. I learned that I could trust my heart, where the passion resided, but that some wisdom and constraint was needed to bring focus and stability to my chaotic life. I realized that part of this passion was God given and defined who He had made me to be. That was why it was so powerful.

Through the years, I've seen many people with passion, but few who seemed to understand what it was or how it affected their lives. This appears to be consistent even in Christian circles. Many folks are moved by their passion, but don't understand where it comes from or how to relate to it.

Sunday afternoon, as I sat together with a group of close friends, I asked the question, "what is the passion that moves your life?" I watched the faces of some who had probably never addressed that question. Others seemed comfortable with the concept and were able to verbalize their passion(s) easily.

As people grappled with this issue, it became evident that their passion related to the giftings and callings of God that were in them. It also brought a degree of sharing and intimacy among the body as people shared some of the things that were very close to their hearts. Things which defined them and brought some clarity as to how they fit together in His body.

We have often been taught that we can't trust our hearts. That is because we haven't known HOW to relate to our hearts. After all, the Spirit of God dwells IN OUR HEARTS. It's important that we learn how to relate to our own hearts and those of others in the body. Sunday morning, I felt that my Father wanted me to become more acquainted with my heart. I realized that I had lost touch with it and that it was time to have a fresh connection. Perhaps this is something for His body to consider. God wants us to know His heart and how it is manifested in our hearts. Please consider this prayerfully and let me know what's going on in this area with you. God bless, Grover