

You are SHAPED for ministry



Part 5: Heart
“Discovering my true passion”



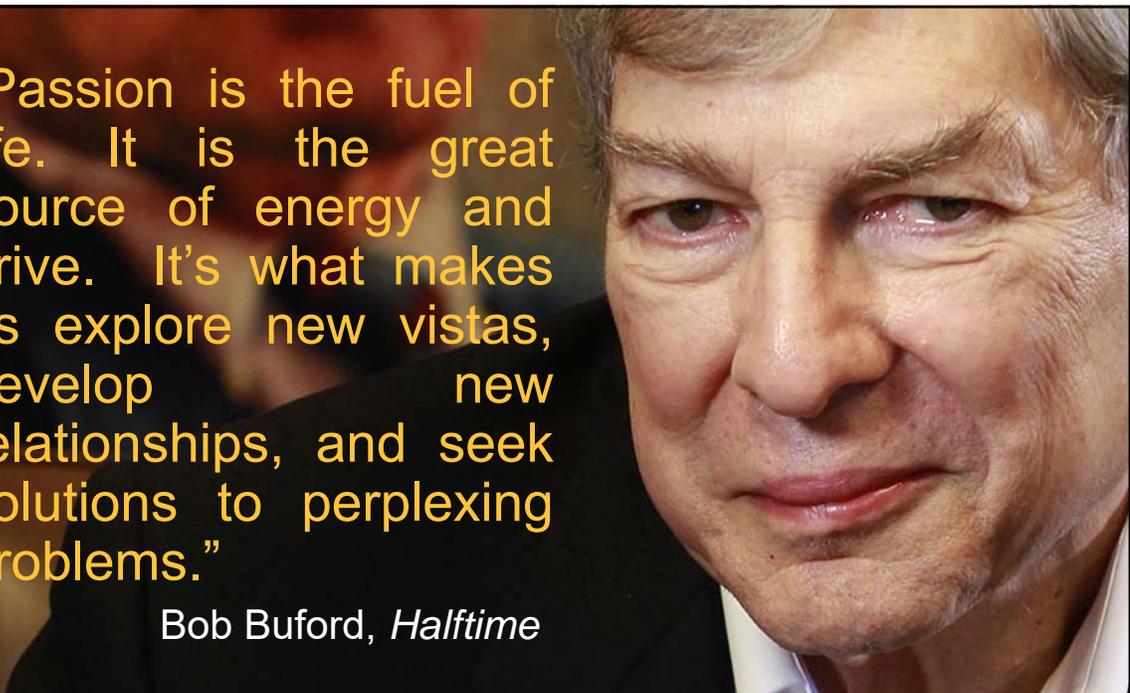
“The core problem is not that we are too passionate about bad things, but that we are not passionate enough about good things.”

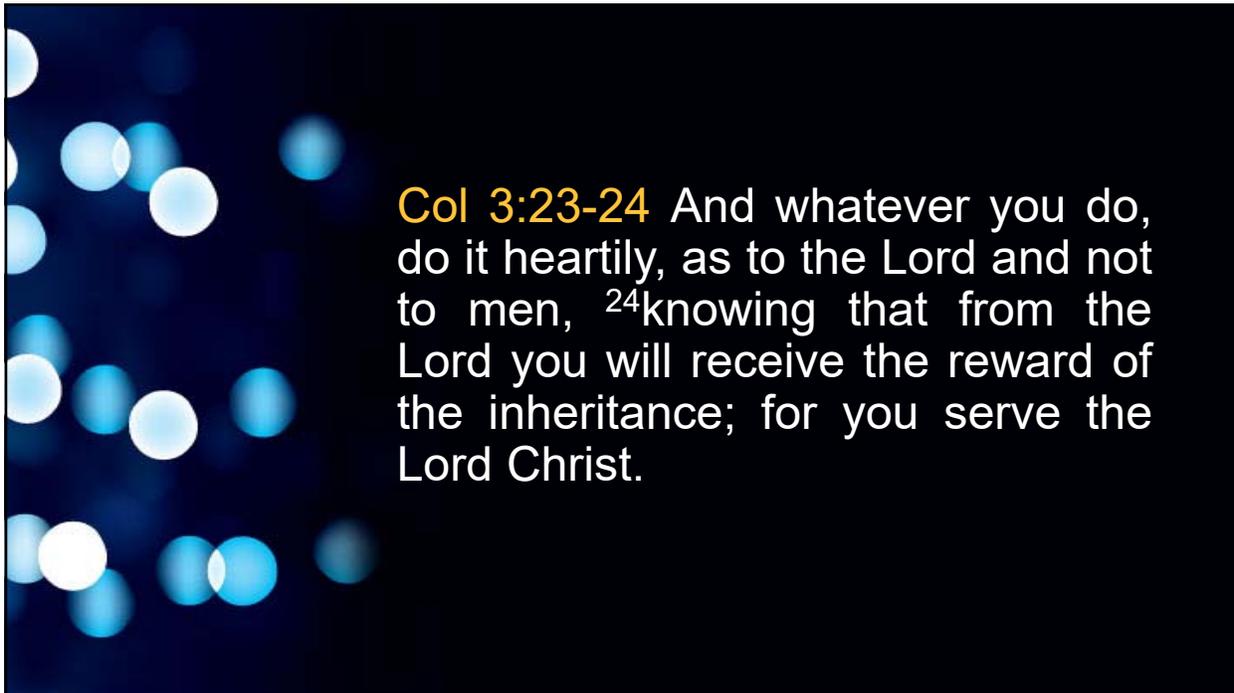
Larry Crabb, *Finding God*



“Passion is the fuel of life. It is the great source of energy and drive. It’s what makes us explore new vistas, develop new relationships, and seek solutions to perplexing problems.”

Bob Buford, *Halftime*

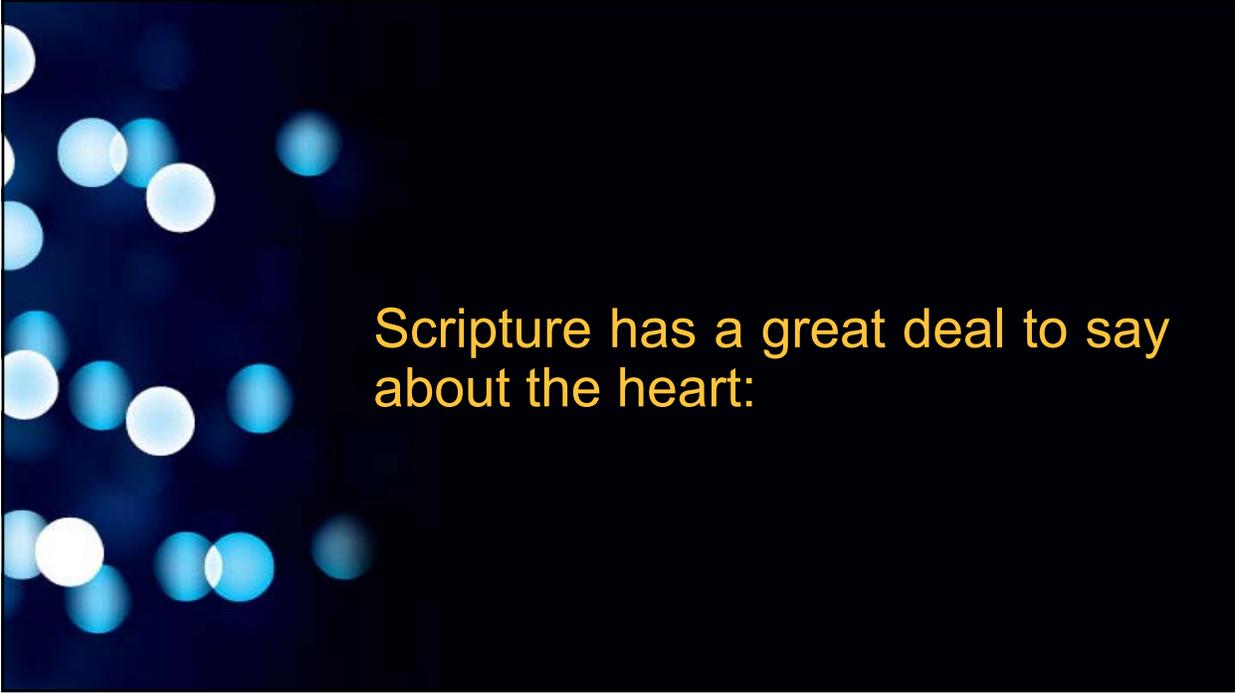




LIVING THE
LIFE
YOU
WERE MEANT
TO LIVE

TOM PATERSON
CREATOR OF THE PROVEN LIFEPLANNING PROCESS
FOREWORD BY RICK WAKKEN

“Heart is where you are centered, where you desire to serve, the altar upon which you wish to place your talents. Giftedness is what you are. Heart is where you will most likely apply what you are. Heart refers to empathy, attraction, or “draw” towards a group of people, a field of expertise, or a particular type of service. Evaluating your heart helps you determine where you might best use gifts, where you wish to serve, and whom you wish to serve.”



Scripture has a great deal to say
about the heart:

Prov 4:23 Keep your heart with all
diligence, for out of it spring the issues
of life.

27:19 So a man's heart reveals the man.

Mt 12:34 For out of the abundance of the
heart the mouth speaks.



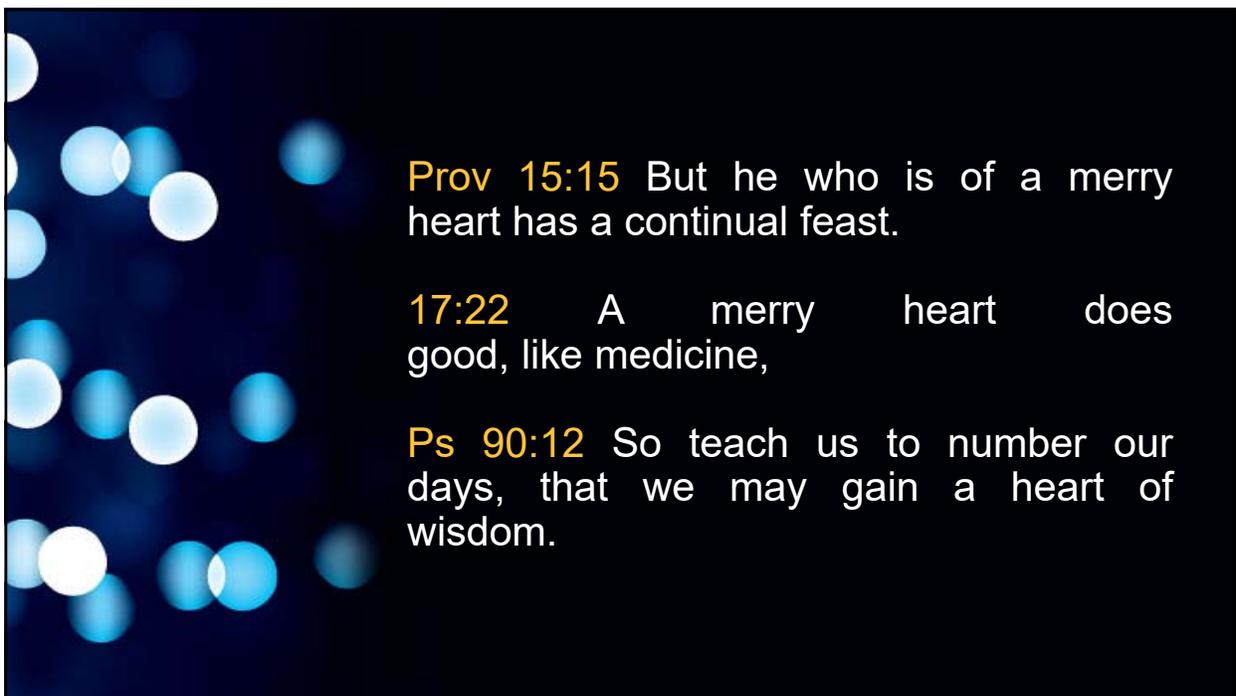
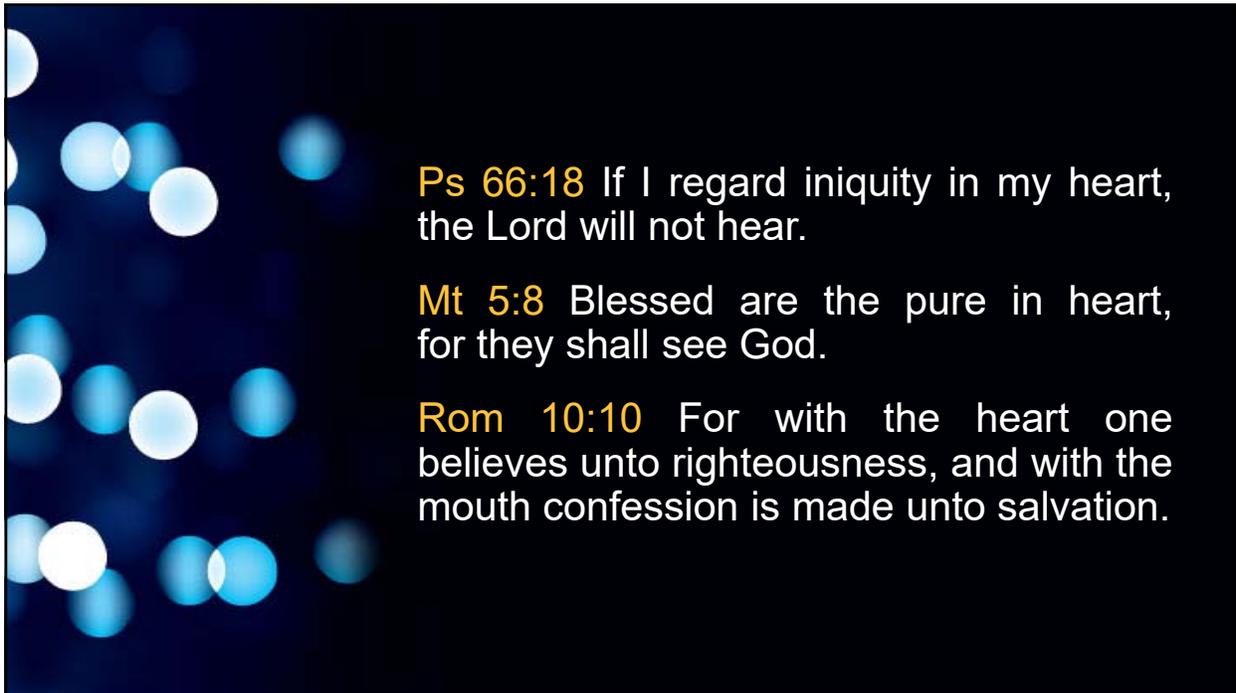
Mt 15:18-19 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

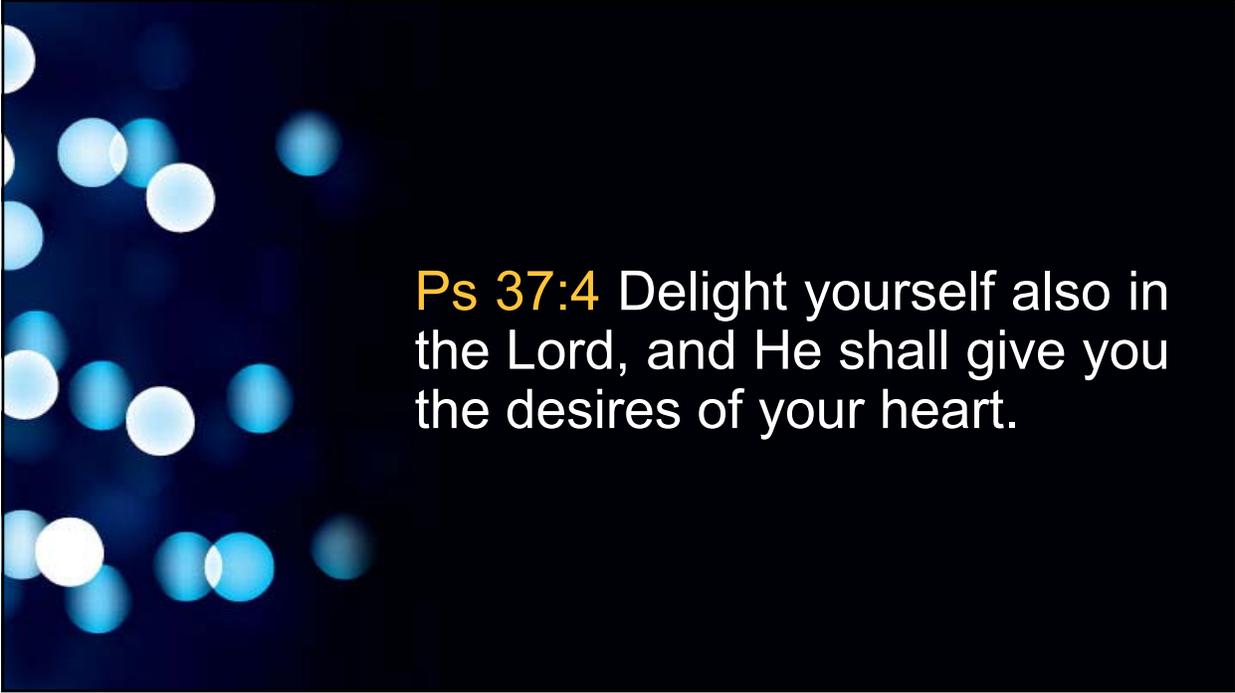
Ps 19:4 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.



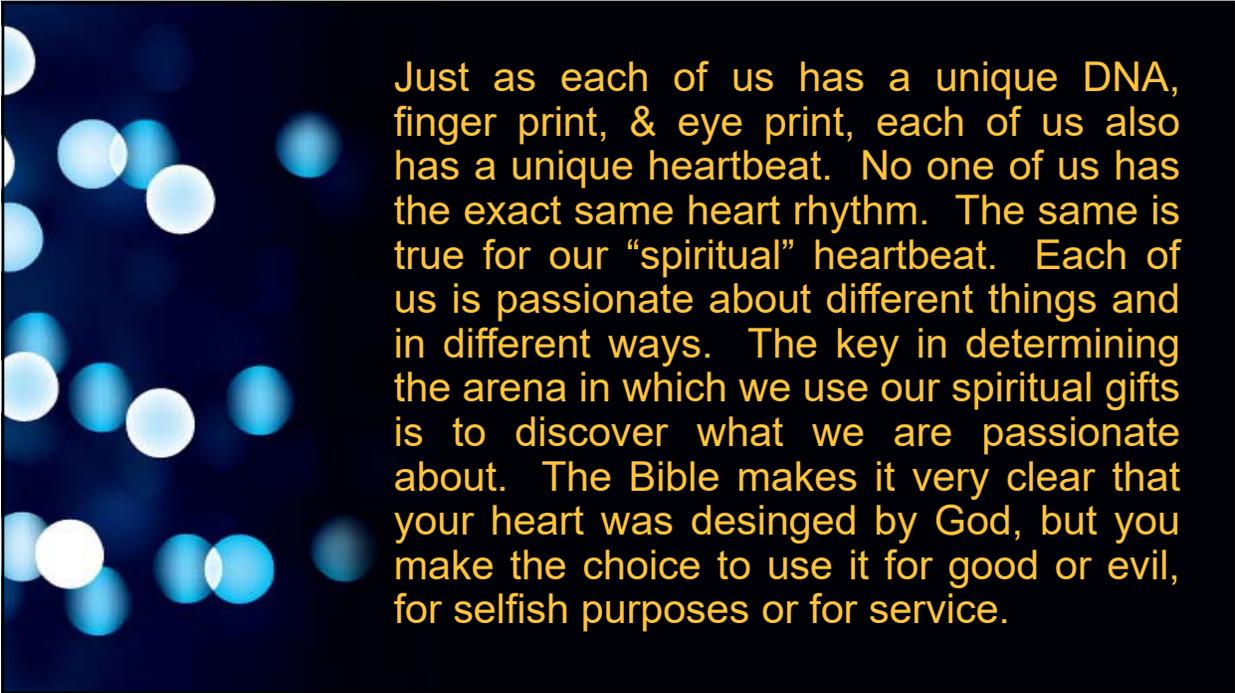
Ps 119:2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!

119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

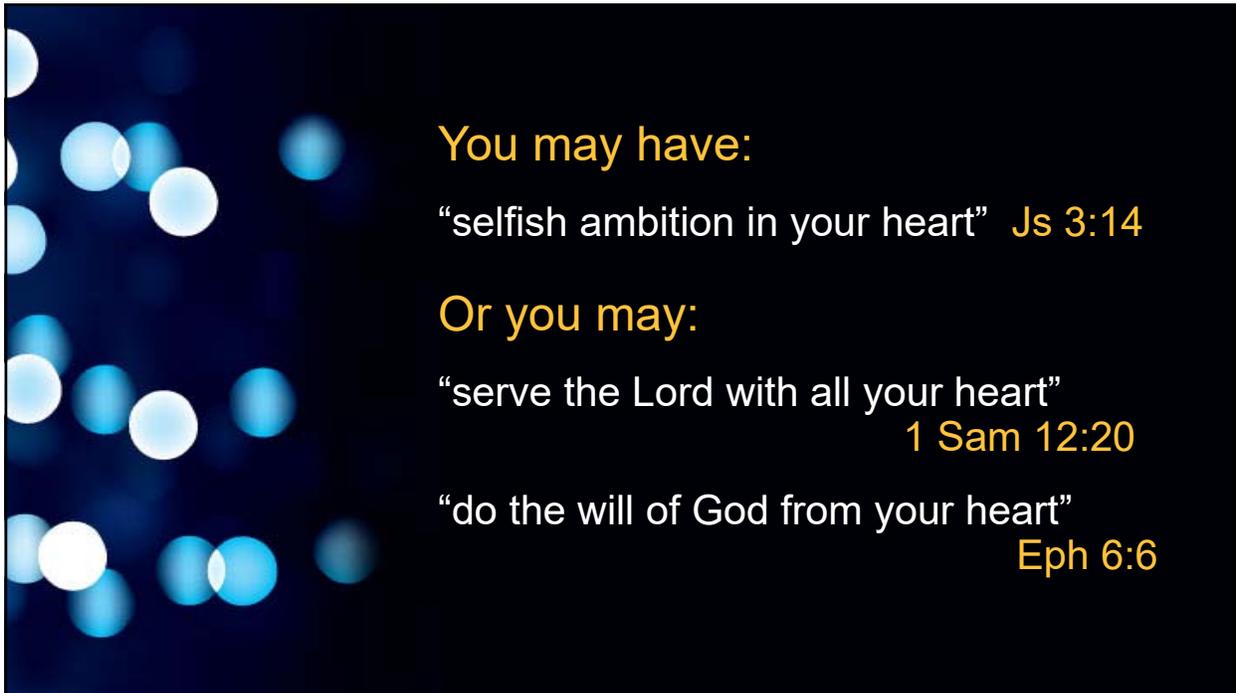




Ps 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.



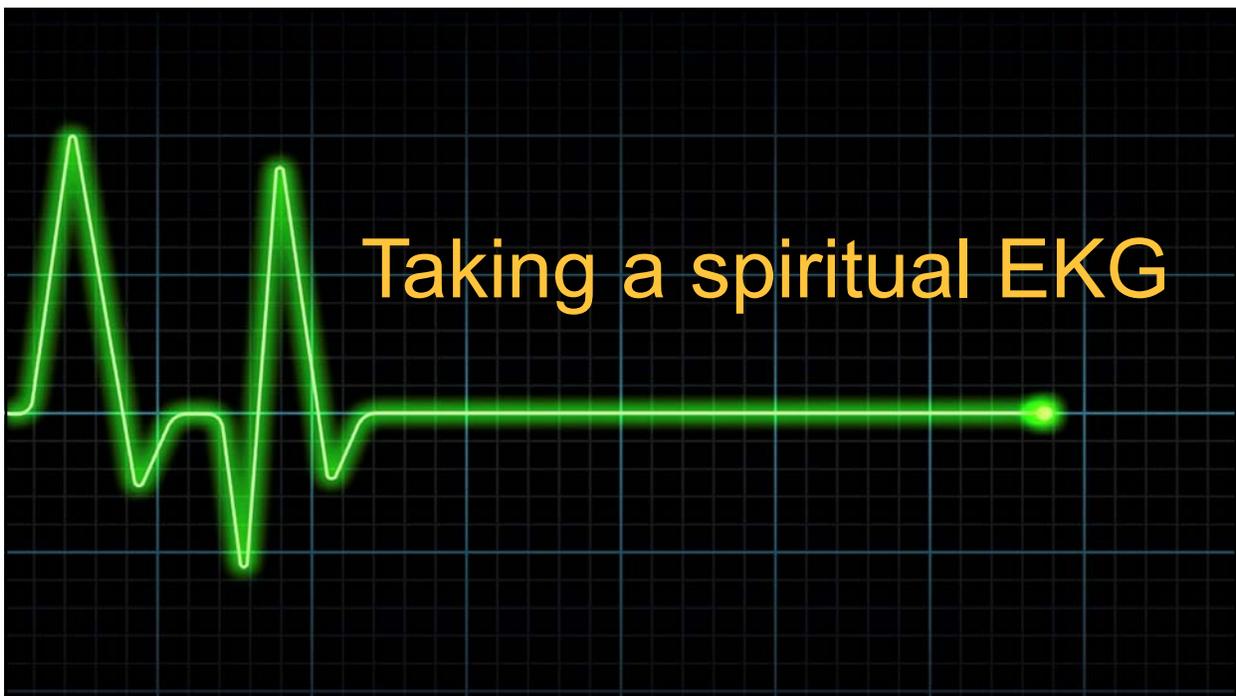
Just as each of us has a unique DNA, finger print, & eye print, each of us also has a unique heartbeat. No one of us has the exact same heart rhythm. The same is true for our “spiritual” heartbeat. Each of us is passionate about different things and in different ways. The key in determining the arena in which we use our spiritual gifts is to discover what we are passionate about. The Bible makes it very clear that your heart was designed by God, but you make the choice to use it for good or evil, for selfish purposes or for service.



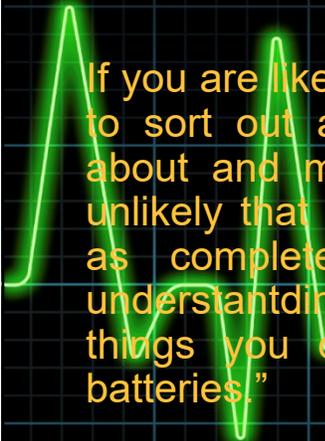
You may have:
“selfish ambition in your heart” **Js 3:14**

Or you may:
“serve the Lord with all your heart”
1 Sam 12:20

“do the will of God from your heart”
Eph 6:6



Taking a spiritual EKG



If you are like most people, you have never taken the time to sort out and identify the things you are passionate about and motivated to accomplish. As a result, it is unlikely that you are consciously aware of these desires as completely as you should be. The key to understanding your “spiritual” heartbeat is to look at the things you do that “charge” and drain your “spiritual batteries.”

Ways to identify personal passions:

1. Know what drives you.

Ask yourself:

- What do my dreams & desires drift toward?
- What do I really want to do for God?
- What motivates me to take action?
- What do I crave?

2. Know who you care about.

Ask yourself:

- Who do I feel I can most profoundly influence for God?
- What age range do I feel led to minister to?
- What affinity group do I feel led to serve?
- How could I impact them in a way that maximizes my gifts?

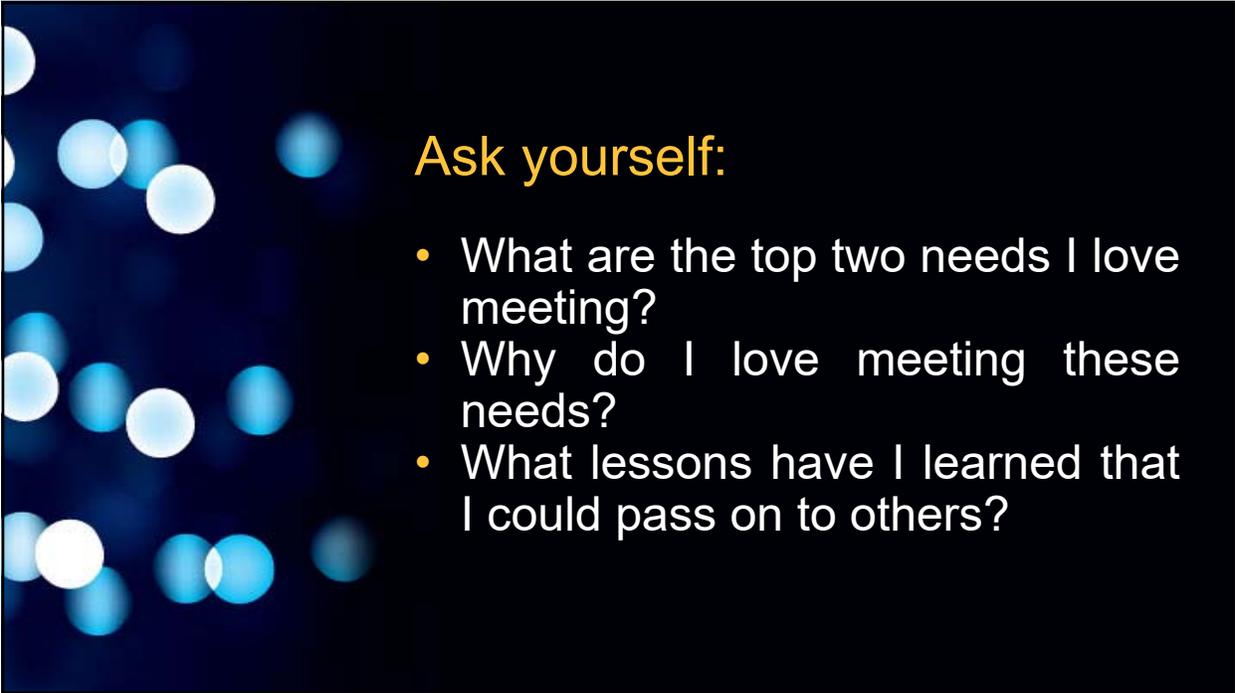
3. Know the needs you will meet.

2 Cor 1:4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.



Primary needs categories:

- Spiritual needs
- Physical needs
- Relational needs
- Emotional needs
- Educational needs
- Vocational needs



Ask yourself:

- What are the top two needs I love meeting?
- Why do I love meeting these needs?
- What lessons have I learned that I could pass on to others?

4. Know the cause you will help conquer.

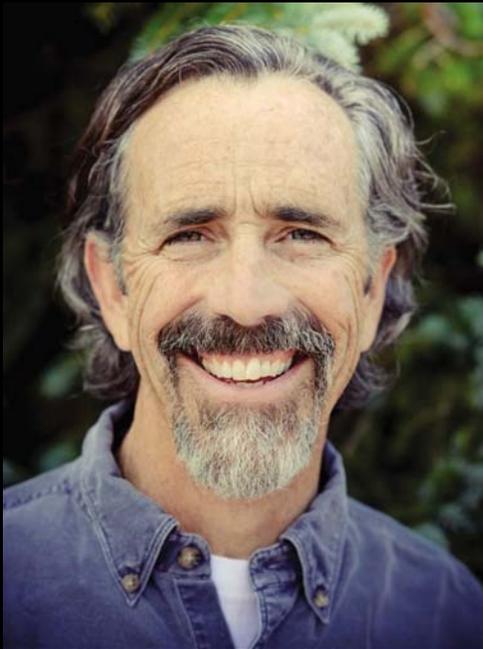
Causes some have sought to conquer: abortion, abuse/violence, alcoholism, at-risk children, Christ-centered parenting, compulsive behavior issues, physical disabilities, divorce/recovery, drug abuse/recovery, educational issues, environment, ethics, financial stewardship, health/fitness, AIDS, homelessness, law/justice system, marriage/family, politics, poverty, sanctity of life, sexuality/gender issues

Ask yourself:

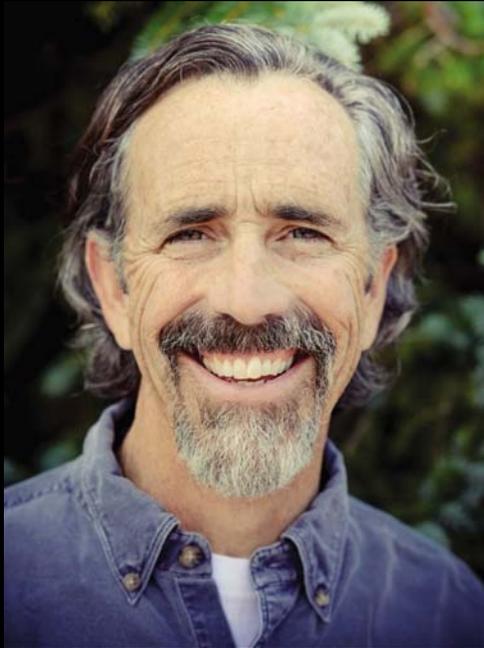
- What cause or issue makes my heart race?
- Where could I make the greatest impact for God?
- If time wasn't an issue, to what cause would I donate myself



5. Know your ultimate dream for God's kingdom.



“Our goal here is to recover that adventure God wrote on your heart when He made you. Your deepest desires reveal your deepest calling, the adventure God has for you. You must decide whether or not you’ll exchange a life of control born out of fear for a life of risk born out of faith. ... So, if you had permission to do what you really want to do, what would you do?”

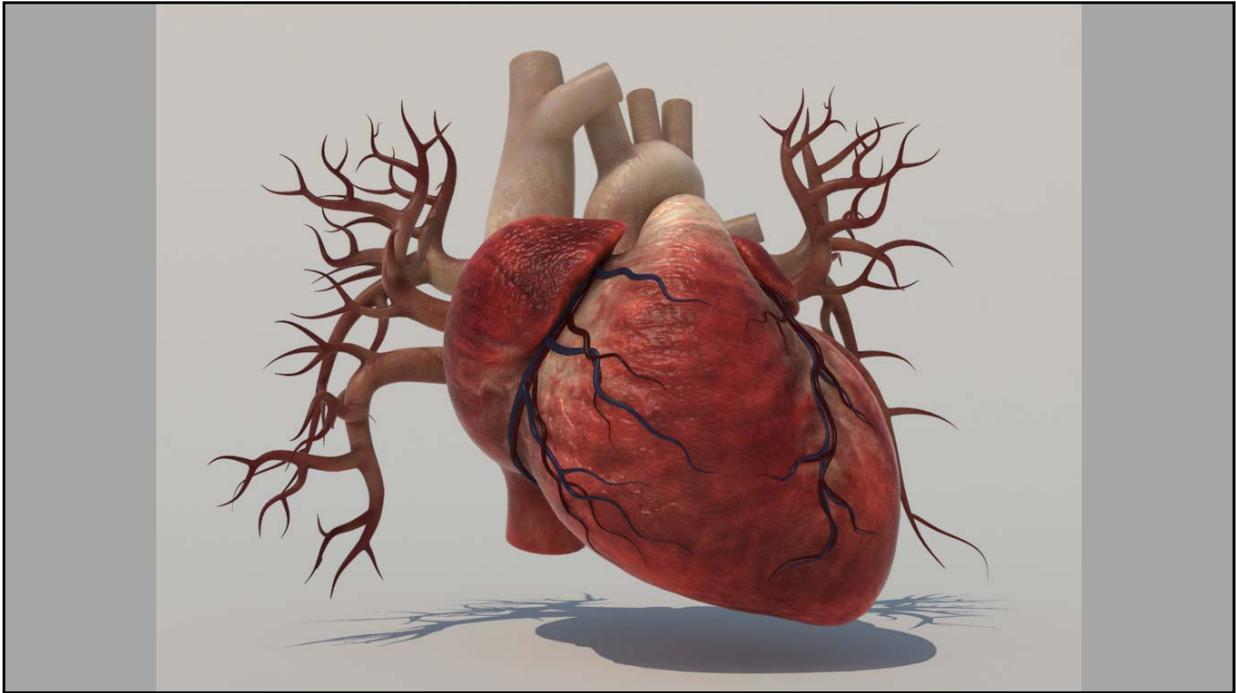


Just start making a list of all the things you deeply desire to do with your life, great and small. And remember – ‘*Don’t ask yourself, How?*’ *How?* is never the right question; *how?* is a faithless question. *How?* is God’s department. He is asking you *what?* What is written on your heart? What makes you come alive? If you could do what you’ve always wanted to do, what would it be?”

John Eldredge, *Wild at Heart*

Ask yourself:

- What pursuit would release the passion in my life for God?
- What God-centered dreams can I identify that have been buried by life?
- What would I attempt to do for God if I knew I could not fail?



Mk 7:6 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

1 Jn 3:20-21 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

Ps 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me