



WOMEN WHO PRIZE
BEING FOUND IN CHRIST

Passion, Purpose, Progress

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As a young kid, I remember sitting at the edge of my mom's bed pondering the big idea of growing up. I would ask her why all the kids in my class seemed to have a perfect plan for when they get "big," and how they knew exactly what they wanted to be. Of course, she would reassure me that none of my classmates had it all figured out, and if they wanted to be a doctor today, they might want to be a professional football player next week. But still, this thought flooded my brain and was always on my mind. Fast forward to 2019, and this recurring thought still lingers.

In today's world, there is a common theme of self-help books, quick inspirational reads, and goal embedded planners, all to help us reach our "full potential." **What we often fail to notice is that without passion, it's hard to find purpose. That without progress, your purpose is paused.**

- PERCEIVE YOUR PASSION

Many of us have passions, goals, and ideal lives we would like to someday live out. To perceive is to identify and for some people that is the easy part. For me, it's always been music, and ever since falling in love with worship, I have been able to gear this passion for kingdom business and provide it a purpose. For you finding your God-given passion may seem like a dead end or like you don't have one, but when you are unsure of your calling turn to the one who called you in the first place.

God has planted your specific overall passion and desires in your soul that will grow as you pursue His people, His plan, and His heart.

- PROVIDE A PURPOSE FOR YOUR PASSION

Exodus 9:16 *But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*

This verse tells us that God's purpose for our passions is **that we would be able to use them in a way that glorifies Him**. If you're anything like me, you've probably been tempted to take what *seems* like an easier path or a path that is more attractive to the world in order to give our passion purpose, but we need to be very careful about where we aim our passion because where our passion grows will determine whether or not God will be glorified.

Colossians 2:7 *Let your roots grow down into Him and let your lives be built on Him.*

- PRESS IN FOR PROGRESS

Many times we feel like our passion and its purpose have been paused. Sometimes it's because God is maturing us and helping us develop patience and endurance. Other times it's because we haven't given God access to the remote control of our life. We let our past, our friends, our experience, our age hit pause on the purpose-filled passionate life God has planned for us. So how do we hand over the remote and allow him to un-pause this vital part of our soul and continue to progress to the point that we daily prove that his plans for us are good, perfect, and pleasing?

Many reach a comfort zone where they choose to maintain instead of press in and while giving God total control is not easy, in order to un-pause we must be willing to hand Him the remote and allow ourselves to be a spectator. Although this task may fill you with fear, discomfort, or hesitation, what His word promises should encourage you to give up our plan for his process.

He will always be by your side (Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, **for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**")

He is consistent and will always show up (Hebrews 13:8 "the same yesterday and today and forever")

Your troubles don't take Him by surprise (Psalm 139 "O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; **you are familiar with all my ways.**")

When you begin to give God total control, naturally you will start to sink roots and grow on His foundation. In **John 15:5** God shows us that the fruit our lives bear depend on our reliance on Him. When you give up control and rely less on yourself and press in to God your roots thicken and grow in strength. When you choose to press in, your personal standards created by comparing to others will become inadequate and you will seek to build His passion and purpose rather than your plan.

To truly press in for progression of our God-given passion and purpose, we must remain IN HIM.

What does it look like practically to remain in him?

As you look inward take the time to evaluate what your passions are, what their purpose is, and what you are doing to grow them, I hope that you would begin seeing God in your goals and dreams and ask Him for a kingdom purpose regarding these desires of your heart.

When we team up with God and curate the passions He has designed us with for a purpose in His plan; we being to prosper in these aspects of our lives and reach a new potential that we had never imagined possible.

conversation starters

1. What is your passion? How do you plan on giving this dream a purpose? How can you partner with God on your passion?
2. Do you know where your passion is growing? Is the environment you are fostering your purpose/passion healthy?
3. How can you incorporate your passion into your unique life and schedule? Do you need to change anything in your personal life to watch this passion grow? What things come to mind?
4. What are your feelings towards growing your passion and purpose? Do you feel excitement, fear, or hesitation? Do you have people in your life who know about these feelings?

ACT

Set aside time to take inventory on your passion, purpose, and the progress of getting there. Talk with someone close in your life, and get your passions out into the sunlight! If there are things in your life that need adjusting for your passion to flourish, make a list of these and pray for them fervently.

prayer needs

Write down the prayer requests of your group members, and pray fervently for them! Let your group members know when you are praying for them, if you have any scriptures or encouraging words for them, etc.