

“Living Your Heart’s Desire”

Text: Job 10:8 and selected

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Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church (www.pbpc.org)

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Rev. Chris Gelini

We’re in a series I’m calling “You Are Shaped for Significance”. The theme verse is Job 10:8, “*God’s hands formed me and shaped me.*”

- God made you unique.
- You’re a unique combination of numerous factors that make you, you. I’ve put it into an acrostic S-H-A-P-E.
- God has given you [S] Spiritual gifts.
- God has given you a [H] Heart, things that you love to do.
- God has given you [A, P, E] Abilities, Personality and Experiences.
- All five of these make up who you are.

Today, I want us to look at the second one – the Heart that God has given you. Living Your Heart’s Desire.

PRAY!

I. UNDERSTAND YOUR HEART

- A. You need to understand your heart. The Bible uses the word “heart” to describe the bundle of motivations that you have – your desires, your hopes, your longings, your dreams, your ambitions, your affections, the things you care about, the things you love to do. All these are composed in your heart.
- B. Every human being physiologically has a unique heartbeat. There’s a slight variation in the pattern of every heartbeat. That is true emotionally. Would you agree that there are some things you care very deeply about and there are other things you couldn’t care less about? Would you agree that those of you who are married, married someone who is very different and often the opposite? God gives you a unique heartbeat.
- C. The Bible says in Proverbs 27:19 (Good News), “*It is your own self that you see in your heart.*” Your heart makes you, you! And God made you so that your emotional heartbeat races when you’re interested in certain things; and when you encounter other things, it doesn’t race at all. That’s intentional. The interests that you have were put in you by God for a purpose. The Bible says that my heart determines why I say the things I do, the way I think and feel, and the way I act.
- D. This being so, my heart is the internal guidance system that God has placed in me and in you for a purpose. It’s not by accident. You are SHAPed for significance.

II. THE RESULTS OF LIVING YOUR HEART'S DESIRE

A. There are some results of living your heart's desire, living based on what God made you interested in. The Bible says, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."* We are always to work from our heart. We're always to work from the inborn motivations He put within us. Three characteristics of living to your heart's desire:

1. Enthusiasm. When you do what you love to do you enjoy it - when you do what your gifted and shaped to do. When your job fits your heart you don't have to be motivated or need someone to supervise you. You do it simply because you love to do it. There's enthusiasm.

- Ecclesiastes 2:10, *"My heart took delight in all my work."* Do you delight in your work? If you don't, that is a spiritual problem and you are likely in the wrong job. God doesn't want you just to endure life; he wants you to enjoy life. He wants it to be a delight.
- Emerson once said, "Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm."

2. Effectiveness. When you do what you love to do, what you're gifted and have a heart for, you're good at it. The key to productivity in your life is to do what you love to do. Another word for heart that is used commonly today is the word "passion". Passion is the motivation to give yourself to an idea, a cause, a person. Passion is neutral. It can be used for good or bad. Passion can be used selfishly or to serve others. Passionate people get results. They get things done.

- Moses had a passion to release the slaves out of Egypt which hadn't been done for 400 years.
- David had a passion to build a temple.
- Nehemiah had a passion to build a wall around Jerusalem.
- Paul had a passion to share the good news everywhere he went.

Passionate people, the people who've changed the world, were not the smartest, the most educated, or the wealthiest, or even the most gifted, but they had heart.

3. Excellence. When you have a heart for something, you give it your best shot. You don't do it for the income or the limelight. Can you imagine saying to Mother Teresa, "Why have you spent your entire life in the slums of Calcutta helping the poorest of the poor and people with leprosy? Why?" Can you imagine her saying, "I was hoping someday to win a Nobel Peace Prize." She didn't even think about that. The Nobel Prize was

immaterial. She had a heart for helping hurting people. That's her heart.

- Does everybody have a God-implanted passion, a basic God-implanted desire, dream, ambition? Yes. Everybody does. But hurts and fears and doubts often bury it so you can't find it.

III. HOW TO START LIVING YOUR HEART'S DESIRE.

A. The second century Church father, Irenaus said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Let me give you four essentials in how to start living your hearts' desire, how to find your niche, to be fully alive. These are steps on how to find a job you can love.

1. I commit all my life to Christ.

- a. Why is this the first step? Because who do you think gave you those interests, desires, dreams, passions, ambitions? God gave you that heart. He shaped it. But unless you place it under His control it will be misused, perverted, and wasted. We see that all the time. Look at the economic crisis. You can use interests for the wrong motives. You can use them selfishly.
- b. Psalm 37:4-5 (Good News), "*Seek your happiness in the Lord and He will give you your heart's desire.*" Isn't this an amazing promise? "*Give yourself to the Lord, trust in Him and He will help you.*" This is a reciprocal promise. When you give your life to the Lord you instantly start to become a more passionate person.
- c. Some people say, "I don't feel passionate about anything! There's nothing that really turns me on. There's nothing that really thrills me in the morning so that I get up and say 'This is a new day!' I just don't have any passion." My answer: "You're not spending enough time with the Lord. The closer you get to the Lord, the more passionate you're going to become about life, the more fully alive you become."

2. I examine what I enjoy doing.

- a. This means you need to go back and review your personal history. You need to sit down and maybe even write it out. Make some notes. What were the things I've enjoyed doing in my life up to this point. I did them well and I enjoyed doing them. Look particularly at your accomplishments. What gave you a sense of satisfaction, enjoyment? Consider these questions:
 1. What fascinates me? When you're doing the work of your heart, you don't get bored.
 2. What do I really love to do?
 3. I really feel good when... When were the times you felt most fully alive? Making a craft, planning a project, doing that event, making that sale, or doing that speech, or writing. Whatever. God put that interest in your heart.

4. I was the most successful at ...
- b. Galatians 6:4, *“Each of you should test (or examine) your own actions. Then you can take pride in yourself, without comparing yourself to somebody else,”*

3. I explore my options.

- a. I suggest you expose yourself to all different types of work, all different types of ministry. Don't lock yourself in. Try many and you will find the one that fits.
- b. Explore the options. Proverbs 23:23 *“Get the facts at any price...”* How do you do that?
- Read widely and find out what appeals to you.
 - Interview people from different kinds of work. When you meet someone who has the same heart as you, you instantly like them. It clicks.
 - Link up with people who are successful and effective in an area you love to do.

4. I step out in faith.

- a. You commit your life to Christ, you examine what you enjoyed doing in the past, you look at all the options - and then you go for it! This is what God made me to be!
- Safeway & Pat
- b. The greatest dream stopper that we all face is fear; fear of ridicule, fear of failure and fear of the unknown. The antidote to these fears is faith. You expect God to help you fulfill the dream He's placed in your life. If God's given you the dream He's going to help you fulfill it. The answer is you must go against your fears. Keep moving against your fears. Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is moving ahead in spite of your fears. You don't base your life on fears. You base your life on what God has told you to do.
- c. Joshua 1:9, *“Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord is with you wherever you go.”*
- Denny and evangelism.
- d. So go for it, and take the leap of faith!

I can summarize this message in a single sentence – the secret of a fulfilled life: Find out what you love to do that God made you to do and do it for His glory! Take the advice of Psalm 37, *“Seek your happiness in the Lord. He will give you your heart's desires. Give yourself to the Lord. Trust in Him and He will help you!”*

If you've never given your life to Christ, that's the first step. You need to do that. If you've already done that, you need to be baptized. It's a public statement saying “I'm not ashamed to say I'm a Christian.” After you've been baptized, you need to find a church family. We welcome you at PBPC.

PRAY!

Heavenly Father, I don't want to waste my life and I know that there are many here who don't want to waste theirs. This message has struck a chord in some lives. They've always had a dream and a desire and they've wondered where it came from. Help them to see that You gave it to them. That passion can be used for good or for bad, for selfish or for serving purposes. Help us to use it for Your good. Help us to commit all of our lives to You, to examine what we enjoy doing, to explore the options and then to step out in faith, that our lives might be testimonies of what You made us to be. In Jesus' name. Amen.