

The Passion Driven Life

The “Break Through” Series – Part 01

Connect: If you knew you couldn't fail and money was no object, what would you like to do in 2017?

Hook: In our youth, we may have dreamed of what we would become or what we would do. We did so with little concept of what it would take to live out such a life. Then, as we grew older we found that life events and reality began to direct or redirect our paths. Today, we might look back and wonder what happened to that kid or to those dreams.

A poet, Thomas S. Jones, Jr., once put it like this:

ACROSS the fields of yesterday
He sometimes comes to me,
A little lad just back from play—
The lad I used to be.

And yet he smiles so wistfully
Once he has crept within,
I wonder if he hopes to see
The man I might have been.

Take just a moment and discuss the meaning of this poem. How does the imagery make you feel? If you could pick up where the poet left off, what lines would you write next?

Book: Phil 3:5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. 7. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9. and become one with Him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with Himself depends on faith. 10. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead. I want to suffer with Him, sharing in His death, 11. so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! -Philippians 3:5-11 NLT

Look:

Like the proverbial question, “Which came first...the chicken or the egg?”, how would you reason and answer this question: “Which came first...our passions or our values?”

Based on Paul's statement, how would you list and describe his values and passion during his early adulthood? What was right and what was wrong about his values? How did his passion direct his life?

What life event redirected his values and passion?

Paul states that in his new relationship with Christ, his passion has changed. In what ways?

Reflecting on your own life story, what events have changed your passions over the years?

If you are a Christ follower, can you give testimony that your values and passions have changed? In what ways?

Took:

What missed opportunities have there been in your life to pursue your passion?

What new directions or actions do you need to take to be truly "passion driven"?

How can your Grace Group members help you in this endeavor?