

# HEART or PASSION

## ("H" in S.H.A.P.E.)

We've explored our Abilities - the natural talents with which we were born or which developed at an early age. We've seen how important it is for these abilities to be developed into Strengths. Strengths are the result of maximized abilities; it is created when your most powerful talents and abilities are refined with practice and combined with acquired relevant skills and knowledge.

Now when those Strengths are used where your Heart lives, watch out – you are in the zone, in your 'sweet spot' and there anything is possible – even probable!

The term "heart" is used to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams, and affections we have.

Your heart represents the source of all your motivations—what you love to do and what you care about most. Even today we still use the word in this way when we say, "I love you with all my heart."

We speak of being whole-hearted about something, or half-hearted. Is your 'heart' really in this?

The Bible says, "As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person." Your heart reveals the real you—what you truly are, not what others think you are or what circumstances force you to be.

Your heart determines why you say the things you do, why you *feel* the way you do, and why you *act* the way you do.

In the same way, God has given each of us a unique emotional "heartbeat" that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things more than others, about some people more than others.

Another word for heart is *passion*.

Passions are desires or purposes that bring us joy.

What makes you say "Yes!?" What causes you to pump the air and say "I was made to do this"? What causes you to take your shoe off and pound it on the table? What stirs the emotion within you? What gets your heart pumping, your eyes blazing? What gets you excited?

There are certain subjects you feel passionate about and others you couldn't care less about. Some experiences turn you on and capture your attention, while others turn you off or bore you to tears. These reveal the nature of your heart. I love Football (both soccer and the American version!), but baseball bores me. What about you?

Consider these three ways in which your heart or passion is moved:

- ❖ a passion for a **role** (what you like to do);
- ❖ a passion for specific **people** (whom you like to help); and
- ❖ a passion for a **cause** (what you would like to see changed).

The answers to these provide clues as to where and how you should be investing your time and energy. It's rare, in my experience that someone loves to do something with or for certain people, yet they are not good at that. Almost always, as Max Lucado says (in "The Cure for the Common Life"), your 'sweet spot' is where *satisfaction* and *success* intersect; it's where you "do what you love, in the service of others who love what you do'.

This is what Max Lucado says about the Sweet Spot! *"Golfers know the term. If you've ever swung a gold club (not me!) or a tennis racquet, you know the oh-so-nice feel of the sweet spot. You know that the engineer who designed that equipment had a certain spot in mind where the ball is intended to make contact. And when you hit the sweet spot everything's right. The ball goes farther than you could ever have imagined. It flies straight and true. There's a strut to your step, your friends all love you, all your taxes are paid, you get bumped up to first class. Life is sweet in the sweet spot."*

But miss the sweet spot and everything hurts. The ball goes haywire, your arm tingles, customers cancel, people 'no show', you want to quit, you want to give up. When you miss the sweet spot you don't even want to be in the game anymore. Have you felt that way? We have!

How do you find your sweet spot? If God made you with a certain zone in which to live, how do you get into that sweet spot?

As we've already said, it's all about your uniqueness.

Davinci painted one Mona Lisa, Beethoven created one Fifth Symphony, and God made one version of you. You're it! You're the only you there is. And if we don't get *you*, we don't get *you*. You're the only shot we have at you. You can do something no one else can do in a way no one else can do it. You are more than a coincidence of chromosomes and heredity, more than just an assemblage of somebody else's lineage. You are uniquely made. But if you think that you are simply the result of your parents, then that gives birth to the line of thought that says "you can be anything that you want to be."

But *can* you be anything you want to be? If you are uniquely made—now stop and think about this—if you're uniquely made, can you really be anything you want to be? If you don't have a mind that takes care of numbers, can you be an accountant? If you don't have a love for the dirt, can you be a farmer? If you don't have an appreciation and a devotion to kids, can you really be a teacher? Well, you can be one—an unhappy one, an unsatisfied one. You can be one of the 87% of the workforce that doesn't like their work—one of the 80% of the people that says I don't use my talents on a daily basis. You can be a statistic. Maybe you are?!

Can you be anything you want to be? I don't think so. But can you be everything God wants you to be? Yes, you can! And you do become that by discovering your uniqueness, by finding your sweet spot, and living there, operating from there.

I'd encourage you to really work on discovering what aspects of this business, what parts of your DMO you most love and that you are best at. Then redesign your DMO and your Virtual Franchise to accommodate that, to exploit your uniqueness to great effect.

I sent you an email 2 weeks ago designed to help you with this. Many thanks to those of you who responded – it was fascinating, and I know several of you learned a lot from the exercise.

# MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT

**Instructions:** Check the items that best describe you. If none of the words on the list fit you, feel free to add your own on the "other" line at the bottom of the page.

**Check the following Roles you enjoy fulfilling**

## 1. My Passion for a Role: I love to...

**DESIGN/DEVELOP** - I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch

**PIONEER** - I love to test and try out new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure

**ORGANIZE** - I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing and/or administration of something that is already started

**OPERATE/MAINTAIN** - I love to efficiently maintain something that is already organized

**SERVE/HELP** - I love to assist others in their responsibilities. I enjoy helping others succeed

**ACQUIRE/POSSESS** - I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price

**EXCEL** - I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard

**INFLUENCE** - I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behavior of others

**PERFORM** - I love to be on stage, receiving the attention of others, being in the limelight

**IMPROVE** - I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it

**REPAIR** - I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date

**CHANGE** – I love to be an agent of change, introducing positive, refreshing new approaches

**LEAD/BE IN CHARGE** - I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done

**PERSEVERE** - I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting until it is finished

**FOLLOW THE RULES** - I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss

**PREVAIL** - I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice

**TEACH** - I love to teach, sharing knowledge with others and helping them learn

**COACH/MENTOR** – I love to encourage and help someone grow personally and spiritually

**OTHER** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check the following People on whom you feel you can make the greatest impact.**

**2. My Passion for People: I love to be or work with...**

Infants/Babies	Women
Toddlers	Men
Preschool Children	Singles
Elementary Children	Single Parents
Jr. High Students	Families
High School	Couples
College/Career	Older Adults 60+
Young Marrieds	Other _____

**Check the following Causes you feel led to champion!**

**3. My Passion for a Cause: I get excited about...**

Nutrition	
Health/Wellness	Sexuality and/or Gender Issues
Parenting	Outreach
Families/Marriage	Education
At-Risk Children	Fellowship/Hospitality
Abuse/Violence	Business and the Economy
Financial Management	Science and/or Technology
Divorce Recovery	Policy and/or Politics
Disabilities and/or Support	Race
Deafness	Relief Efforts
Blindness	Ethics
Law and/or Justice System	Environment
Sanctity of Life	International and Global Affairs
Homelessness	Regional, State or Federal Issues
Drug and Alcohol Recovery	Community/ Neighborhood Issues
Compulsive Behavior Recovery	Other _____
Illness and/or Injury Recovery	Other _____