Passion

Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion. *(Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel)*

**I’ve learned that I can’t get anything done until I get obsessed with it. *(Alan Alda, actor)***

**What the public wants is not passion but the appearance of passion. *(Roland Barthes)***

**There are some people whom you have in life who have the capacity for real, passionate commitment to something, and sometimes you may be passionately committed to the same thing. You have to treasure these relationships, and if at times a relationship runs into rocky shoals, you have to treat yourselves as small Eastern European countries and exchange ambassadors. You have to keep that capacity for commitment alive. *(Warren Beatty)***

**If there is no passion in your life, then have you really lived? Find your passion, whatever it may be. Become it, and let it become you and you will find great things happen FOR you, TO you and BECAUSE of you. *(T. Alan Armstrong)***

**The man whose boat became the final hiding place for the suspected Boston Marathon bomber in April has bought a new vessel with donations from generous strangers. David Henneberry's 22-footer was shot up by federal authorities after Dzhokhar Tsarnaev hid in it at the climax of the post-bombing manhunt. The FBI took away the bullet-riddled boat soon after, but an online campaign organized by strangers raised $50,000 to buy Henneberry a used "fixer-upper" to replace it. "The bad guy didn't win," he said. "That's the way we're looking at it. He didn't take our passion." (*The Week magazine, October 18, 2013)***

**Passion, not pedigree, will win in the end. *(Jon Bon Jovi)***

**Your brain on love: The craving for romantic love is a distinct biological urge, separate from sexual arousal, says a new study. Researchers scanned the brains of college students who described themselves as deeply infatuated, and found that the neural pathways that were lighting up were similar to those that drive thirst, hunger, and drug addiction. The most passionately “in love” had intense levels of activity in their caudate nucleus, a region of the brain activated by anticipation of a reward. Anthropologist Helen Fisher tells The New York Times that people freshly in love become lost in their cravings, with each exhilarating encounter with their love object functioning like a bit of cocaine to an addict. “When you’re in the throes,” Fisher said, “it’s overwhelming. You’re out of control, you’re irrational. This drive for romantic love can be stronger than the will to live.” When love is suddenly withdrawn by a breakup, cravings actually intensify for a time – explaining why lovers go through an agonizing period of withdrawal similar to going “cold turkey” from drugs. *(The Week magazine, June 17, 2005)***

**Passion is a young man's game. Young people can be passionate. Older people gotta be more wise. Don't try to act like you're young. You could really hurt yourself. *(Bob Dylan)***

**This month, commencement speakers across the country are exhorting graduates not to settle. They are urged instead to find their passion – to “do what you love.” But it’s unwise to build a career on the notion that we should all be paid for our passions. Does the doctor love going into the hospital to see a patient in the middle of the night? Does the teacher love trying to control a classroom full of disrespectful children? Not likely. But the work is performed with a sense of purpose that “love” doesn’t capture. Commencement speakers would send more young people into the world likelier to be happy in their jobs if they talked about love as a consequence of meaningful work instead of as the motivation for it. *(Carl McCoy, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Passion is an amazing flotation device. *(Lizz Winstead, comedian)***

**Follow your passion, and success will follow you. *(Arthur Buddhold)***

**School janitor Brad Keene proved his devotion to Jordan High’s Beetdiggers football team in Sandy, Utah, when he sold his car, dug into his savings, and spent $6,000 on 20 new top-of-the-line helmets. “When you have a passion for something, you just feel it through your whole body and you want to be a part of it,” Keene said. Keene played football when he was in high school, and said he understands the importance of good head protection. Keene’s gift will “hopefully reduce some chances for concussions,” said the team’s coach, Eric Kjar. *(The Week magazine, August 5, 2011)***

**If passion drives, let reason hold the reins. *(Benjamin Franklin)***

**When you have a passion for fun you have fun with your passion. *(Todd Siler, in Truizms)***

**Making a garden is not a gentle hobby for the elderly, to be picked up and laid down like a game of solitaire. It is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole, and once it has done so he will have to accept that his life is going to be radically changed. There are seasons when he will hesitate to travel, and if he does travel, his mind will be distracted by the thousand and one children he has left behind, children who are always in peril of one sort or another. However sober he may have been before, he will soon become an inveterate gambler who cuts his losses and begins again; he may think he intends to pare down on spending energy and money, but that is an illusion, and he soon learns that a garden is an ever-expanding venture. Whatever he had considered to be his profession has become an avocation. His vocation is his garden. (*May Sarton, in Plant Dreaming Deep)***

**Passion can seem intimidatingly out of reach at times. But curiosity is available to everyone. *(Elizabeth Gilbert, writer)***

**Passions unguided are for the most part mere madness. *(Thomas Hobbes)***

**Absolute passion cannot be understood by a third party. *(Soren Kierkegaard)***

**If you are having trouble pursuing your passion, you can still find real happiness by putting passion into your current pursuits. Each of us can find our calling where we are, right now, if we only begin to see the higher purpose to our task. If your days are spent polishing floors, think of the lives that benefit from the cleanliness and order you are providing. The builder gives shelter. The office worker offers assistance and solves problems for customers and fellow workers. The list is endless. Each of us, in our own way, has a high and unique calling in our own way, has a high calling in our lives, if our ears can only be opened to hear it. The Book of Ecclesiastes advises us, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” Writer Carolyn Huffman puts it another way: “Bloom where you are.” Wherever it comes from, it’s sound counsel. Approach each day of your life with dedication, as if you were an ambassador of a better world, and even the most mundane tasks can be transformed into inspiring sources of joy. (Thomas Kinkade, in Lightposts for Living: The Art of Choosing a Joyful Life)**

**Something in our human nature longs for that experience of complete emotional absorption, that magical moment when we are swept away. It is passion that entertains us. When a book is written without passion, you lose interest. When a team plays without passion, the game becomes boring. “These guys are asleep,” a fan complains. To feed this appetite, we reward those who can stir our emotions to the greatest heights – actors, athletes and rock musicians make millions because they know how to turn on our passion. *(Barbara De Angelis, in Passion)***

**There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living. *(Nelson Mandela)***

**The passion for setting people right is in itself an afflictive disease. *(Marianne Moore, poet)***

**People have problems with religious faith, not from an urge to disbelieve but from a passionate need to believe. People want to make sense out of life. To believe is as essential for a person as air and water. Believing, with its past anchors and future referents, is not an easy task nor is it one that is ever completely finished. What is important to recognize is the essential humanity of this quest for at least partial answers to life’s problems, for some light as we make our way along its all too often dark passageways. *(Eugene Kennedy, in Believing, p. 16-17)***

**If you don't find your passion in your paycheck, go find it somewhere else. *(Sara Haines. TV host)***

**Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. (Bertrand Russell)**

**I hope you will teach being a leader isn’t always easy and isn’t always fun. I hope you teach that it’s OK to dare to care, to be emotional, to feel your leadership, to cry, to be passionate. *(Retired Gen. H. Norman Schwartzkopf, at the University of Richmond’s Jepson School of Leadership Studies)***

**When two people are under the influence of the most violent, the most insane, the most delusive, and the most transient of passions, they’re required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting condition continuously ‘til death do them part. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**Don’t ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive. *(Howard Thurman)***

**The best lack all conviction, while the worst are filled with passionate intensity. *(W. B. Yeats)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***