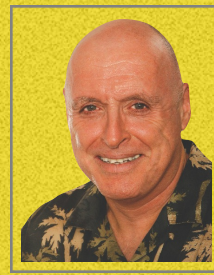


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1795 Should We Chase Passion, Purpose, or Something Else?

It began as advice to people who were in the throes of a mid-life change (also known as mid-life crisis); then college students and graduates; and now it has found its way into high school, even middle school. What I'm referring to is the advice that if you want to be truly happy, you have to follow your passion. Make it your life's work, or quest. If you follow what you're passionate about, it will lead to soul satisfying results like nothing else ever could. I'm Jerry Roberts, and we need to pop the hood on this conversation to look inside. We'll do that, next on The Extra Point.

In the book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, we catch up with Alice who is lost, after she had chased the white rabbit down a rabbit hole. Alice ran into the Cheshire Cat and asked for directions.

The cat asked where she wanted to go and Alice responded that it didn't much matter; to which the cat responded, in essence, that if you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there.

Now, substitute passion for the road. Most people have no idea what their passion is, nor their purpose. As a result, they are like Alice. There are tens of millions of Alices in America, tens of thousands of them here in Guam, and we graduate more each year.

Passion? Purpose? Hey, I need a job to pay bills. Lord, give me something where I can cover my expenses and maybe have a little more, and please can I have a boss who isn't a total jerk?

My guess is that a very small percentage of people identified their passion in their school years. Some people never do.

The idea is that when we discover our passion, it will eventually lead us to our true purpose in life. Sounds good, doesn't it?

Many people believe that following their passion — if they can identify it — will lead to lifetime

happiness. The harsh reality is that most people don't find their true calling, no matter how hard they search for it, and end up feeling like a failure — because society (and I'm talking to you social media) sets this unrealistic goal.

The pursuit of one's passion is the ultimate "me" project. My passion, my purpose, my happiness, my fulfillment — my life cannot be complete without these things. Do you believe this?

I don't know who first exposed me to the concept, but the idea was that we generally feel good about ourselves when we are helpful to others. We when do something to enrich the life of another person, it sets off a barrage of positive chemical reactions within us.

I've known people who had a good job and liked it, made a lot of money. but I can't recall them ever describing it as a passion.

Then, they volunteered to help special needs kids, and it was all they could talk about. A lot of people find purpose in helping others in ways a job never could.

Yet, a job can also have purpose. The obvious ones are first responders, teachers, farmers, and you can add to the list.

When I first went on the radio as J.Q. Fanihi, I had worked another job for several years and I knew the majority of people weren't excited about going to work every day. Too many hated their jobs.

Therefore, my purpose was two-fold. One, to give that listener something to laugh about and to brighten their day.

Second, it was to attract as many ears as possible to the radio station, so advertisers were happy to buy, and the owner made more money. There were three parts to my purpose. I was trying to be useful to three separate interests. Being useful is the key. (Con't.)

To move closer to connecting the dots on our purpose, we can look at our job and how it connects to people.

Ask yourself this question: If I don't do my job, who is affected by that? Whose day changes (and not for the better) if I don't show up? This tells us in which way we are useful.

In my opinion, the real conversation is about usefulness, which becomes purpose. That's something we can all do.

Another question. Can you be passionate about being useful to others? Can it make your day when something you do makes someone else's day?

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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