



ADVICE TO THE YOUNG WHO HAVE A PASSION IN THIS LIFE

By Timothy S. Klugh

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If you are young and you have a passion inside you to do or be something, whether it is artistic, analytic, scientific, athletic or spiritual, then follow that dream no matter where it leads you, no matter what it makes you, and whether it will leave you rich or poor. It is my true belief that a God-given talent (one that you were born with that has been your love all your life) is not to be subject to other's expectations, judgment or advice. I am not referring to something you decided you like, something you see in someone else and wish you had, or something that is more just a hobby to you. A God-given talent is something in your soul, and you feel compelled to do it all the time because it is purely what you are. If you have a God-given talent, then you know all of your life it has haunted you... it is what you wanted all the time.

School came difficult to you because so much time was pulled away from your passion. The education was necessary because you needed the tools to make that talent reach its full potential. If you are at the beginning of college, choose a major that respects your talent, embraces your talent, and allows your talent to excel. If anyone, even those closest to you, attempt to direct you away from it, ignore them. I am serious. Ignore them. Some people think that they are helping you or saving you from a mistake by redirecting you toward a future that is safe and secure. These people mean well, but they are wrong... and if you follow their advice, you will find yourself as an adult in a career that is indeed safe, secure and probably very profitable... but in your heart you will be miserable. You will feel misled, cheated and resentful... and if anyone forced your path away from your passion, your resentment toward them will be sevenfold... Why? Because your life (forced away from your passion) is no better than being a prisoner in a jail cell.

The passions that God gave you, the ones that are part of your soul, are not given by mistake... and these talents are not to be subject to the scrutiny of others. No matter how much help those others may think they are doing you, if it goes against what God has blessed you with, if it makes small what God has given you, if it pulls you away from your God-given passion, then their help is wrong for you. A poor man who pursues his dream is happier than a wealthy man working a career that was not his dream. Example: I was unemployed when I wrote and produced my musical "Magick & Poison", and my depression (also in me) was not being medicated (not by choice), but despite the poor, the starving, the mental challenges of the depression, there was still a sense of purpose and joy in what I was doing. And, what I made, a beautiful musical, brought joy for others. And how did I manage to produce a musical and run it twice in one year without a job? The funds came. Can you believe that? God provided.

No amount of money can substitute for a lack of pursuing your passion, for your passion is what God has sent you here to do. It is your one true calling in life that is greater than any other calling you will have in this life. It is who you are, and to be restrained from that calling by the pursuit of safety, security and wealth will lead you to misery

and perhaps a premature ending. Understand that not everyone is given this passion, and those that do not have it will never truly comprehend your need to pursue it. Also understand that such passions come with costs and challenges. Nevertheless, do not be swayed away from your passion by those who do not comprehend it and do not fear those costs or challenges that come with it. Do not worry how you will manage if you follow your passion. If the passion has been given from God, then He will provide. As Jesus said, "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" [Matthew 6:26] If God has blessed you with a talent that is your lifelong passion, it is what He intended you to do or be. If you are young, plan the rest of your life around that passion.