

## KNOW YOUR PURPOSE, THEN PURSUE WITH PASSION

As I listened to the speech of Renato "Ato" Vergel de Dios, President of BDO Life, during their Sales Convention last week, I realized something crucial in our continuous dilemma as to what we should really pursue in life -- should it be our passion or our purpose? It dawned on me that you cannot choose one and neglect the other.

Passion without purpose is dangerous because if you choose the wrong one, you may end up disheartened -- having wasted so much time, energy and money. On the other hand, purpose without passion is of little value because you will never get to achieve anything significant. I realized that it is best to first determine your purpose and then pursue this with passion.

But how do we get to know our purpose? Genesis 1:28 tells us that God created man to become fruitful. And before He even gave this command, the verse says, God first blessed him. With what? Genesis 1:29 enumerates these. But the Parable of the Talent explains this better. It says that God has entrusted us with His possessions according to our abilities. Because of these, I believe that what we have is a clue to what God wants us to do. This defines our purpose! Unfortunately, many people have lost their way having pursued a passion that disregarded the resources in their hands.

When my son was young, his dream was to pursue multimedia arts. So one day, we had a talk and I told him, "Daniel, if you do not want the farm, I will sell it or give it to your sister, should she marry someone who wants it. However, most people dream of owning a farm when they retire. Pero ikaw, you already have one and your father is taking care of it for you. All you have to do is to want it." I told him too that I believe life is not about pursuing what you want but about being a good steward of the things God has given you. Being obedient, he agreed to take up engineering in Iloilo in preparation to taking over the farm someday.

Daniel's purpose is not to become a farmer. His purpose is to steward the possession God has entrusted to our family. He needs to prepare himself to take good care of the farm with passion, so that someday he can become what God wants him to be - to be fruitful and be a blessing to the world!