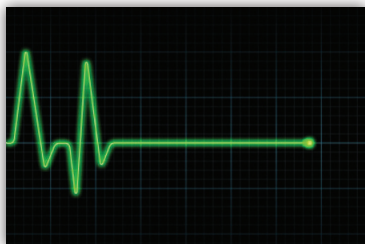


## What Makes Your Heart Beat?

Today's Reading  
Romans 9:1-5



Just as a heart monitor can play a vital role in the initial stages of a medical diagnosis, so too, understanding your "heart beat" can help to give you clear direction about ministry involvement. For what does your heart beat? What are you passionate about?

There is no question what it was that resonated in the deepest recesses of Paul's heart. He stated it clearly in Romans 10:1 "...my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved." He wanted to see other Jews come into a relationship with Christ. He was so passionate about their salvation that, according to Romans 9:3, he would have forfeited his own, if such a transaction had been possible. No wonder he describes his strategy as "...first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Rom. 1:16). Paul's heartbeat was that Jews would come to Jesus.

As you consider in our H.A.B.I.T.S. series your involvement/ministry in church life, you must consider your ministry "Heart." What is your heartbeat? What do you feel passionately about? Those are fairly broad questions. Let's consider two more specific areas that will likely help you to home in on a response.

You may feel strongly about serving a specific *type of people*. That type may be defined by age. Do you feel strongest about the needs of babies, children, students, adults, or seniors? You may find yourself most burdened for people from a certain socio-economic status, country, or language group. Just as Paul was burdened for the Jews, you may find yourself deeply concerned for a specific type of people.

You may feel most passionate about a specific *type of ministry*. Is it seeing people come to Christ? Grounding believers in their faith? Touching lives through compassion ministry? Is it sports or music ministry? What is it that you feel passionately about?

Once you have considered those questions, take a next step and find out what it takes to become involved in that area. Mark it on your communication card. Contact the person who oversees that ministry.