



## Retirement Can Bring Out A Passion For A New Undertaking

(By Michael Collie, from Mountain Maturity, July 2005)

The countdown is over. You have left the grindstone job and have started living a life of leisure. After a few months of working “honey-do” lists and catching up on those things around the house you’ve put off for years, you begin to get bored and think about all of the things you used to accomplish in a day. That fishin’ hole is dried up and you realize that, sadly, practice really won’t help your golf game ever get any better. All of this must mean it’s time to get back to work...yuck!

Is it possible that this new work could be exciting and invigorating? Could it be filled with joy, passion and fulfillment? Could it, in fact, not even really feel like “work” at all? Consider these ideas when you decide that retirement isn’t for you and you’re ready for “reirement”.

**What are you passionate about?** Do you recall ever thinking, “I would love to do that whenever I can find the time?” What could you see yourself doing all day long and never getting tired of? Maybe you really love traveling and seeing the world. Possibly you are really driven by helping children in some way. Some people have a weak spot in their heart for certain disadvantaged groups of people. Whatever it is that really fuels your purpose for life is where your deepest and truest passions lie.

**What is your experience?** It is far too common for people to start out a new career and totally ditch their previous work experiences. If you’ve spent many years developing a skill or trade, maybe managing groups of people, crunching numbers for the company’s bookkeeping, or building things, these work experiences can be tremendously valuable and rewarding if applied to a cause you are passionate about.

**What are your unique gifts?** We are all uniquely gifted in certain areas. We may be great at counseling friends with their problems. Maybe you are very social and ‘never meet a stranger’. Do people just seem to follow your lead without you even trying? Can you take complex ideas and concepts and get them into a communicable format? We all were created with our own unique gifts for a reason. We are to use them to carry out our life’s purpose.

**Where do I find the right match?** The sweet spot we are seeking is where these three areas (passions, experiences, and gifts) intertwine and overlap. Now that you know what you’re looking for, we need to find the right opportunity. Start by considering whether you want or need to earn income from this position. If you don’t need an income, there are endless volunteer opportunities available. If you would like to earn an income from your new endeavors, get creative. Talk to industry leaders within the areas you are now targeting. Where do the needs lie? How can you uniquely fill those needs? Be confident. Remember, you were uniquely gifted for this, you have the experience to ensure likely success, and you have the passion to motivate you day in and day out. This means that there is no one in the world more qualified to do what you’re setting out to do, particularly when and where you’re going to do it.

All of these concepts apply to anyone at any stage of life. However, those in or near retirement are often well positioned to make this type of change, given their years of tremendously valuable life and work experience. Often they have achieved a greater status of financial health which affords them the ability to make some necessary short term monetary sacrifices as well. Some exceptional books that can further guide you in this process are Halftime, by Bob Buford, and The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?, by Rick Warren. Start living the kind of fulfilled and purposeful life you were created to live today!

---

*Michael Collie is a Certified Financial Planner™ and President of Collie Financial Planning, Inc., a Fee-Only financial planning and investment advisory firm located at One Town Square Blvd, Suite 346, in Asheville, NC. He is a Certified Member of the Christian Financial Professionals Network (CFPN) and is a member of the Financial Planning Association (FPA). He can be reached at [mcollie@colliefp.com](mailto:mcollie@colliefp.com) or at (828) 654-8830.*