

top of the world

x Video

Tennis had become my passion. At the time, I had no idea what a passion was. Now I do and I understand its importance. Life without a passion is dull, boring, and without much purpose.

What is passion?

According to Webster – a man of many words – a passion is defined as "something that one greatly likes or desires."

A passion is an intense affection that you develop for something to which you are introduced. That's *something*, not *someone*. Your passion might be music, reading, or travel. It might be the homeless, the environment, or even world poverty. Your passion might change as you get older. In fact, it probably will and that's okay.

In case you're wondering what your passion might be, think of something you do that makes you forget everything else. Is there something you do that turns a bad day into a good one? What is the first thing you want to do if you have some free time? Maybe there's something you do that helps you forget your problems for a while. As long as it's legal it just might be your passion. Don't let me confuse you...sleeping cannot be your passion!

top of the world 13

"The most important things in life aren't things."

Anonymous

Speaking of passion, I'll never forget the day I met Erik Weihenmeyer. Maybe you have never heard of Erik Weihenmeyer, but I bet you will never forget

his story after you read this. Erik and I became acquainted a few years ago when we were both giving speeches at a conference in Canada. After having dinner with Erik one night I decided that his story just might be the best example of passion I have ever seen in my life. Here's a guy who, as a kid, was active in a multitude of sports. As he got older, though, he began to focus primarily on just one sport. That sport is mountain climbing. Now, that's how Erik spends most of his time. He and his fellow climbers climb mountains all over the world. I had an opportunity recently to see Erik present a slide show on one of his most amazing mountain climbing expeditions. He and his fellow climbers had just completed a successful climb to the top of a mountain with which you are probably familiar. Erik Weihenmeyer and his fellow climbers actually climbed to the top of Mt. Everest. You know, the tallest mountain in the world at 29,029 feet!

You can probably imagine the obstacles that Erik and his team faced along the way...hurricane-force winds, sub-zero temperatures, and lack of oxygen...just to name a few. I'm sure it took a great deal of strength to climb Mt. Everest, but from where do you think that strength might have come? Climbing mountains is Erik Weihenmeyer's passion and, as a result of that passion, he was able to accomplish incredible things as a climber. Passion enables you to do things you normally would not be able to do. Passion is what gives you that extra strength to overcome obstacles along the way as you pursue your dreams and goals. Without passion, I feel sure that Erik would not have accomplished his incredible goal of climbing the tallest mountain in the world.

The truth is, most people who try to climb Mt. Everest quit and turn around before they even get halfway up the mountain. As you may know, several people have actually died trying to get to the top of Mt. Everest, so climbing to the 'top of the world' is indeed an amazing accomplishment for anyone. How do people accomplish such incredible feats? The answer is 'passion'.

Can you imagine what the view must be like from the top of Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain in the world? Don't ask Erik Weihenmeyer about the view because he can't answer that question. You probably want to know why Erik can't answer that question if he really climbed to the top of Mt. Everest? Good question. Simple answer. Erik Weihenmeyer can't tell you about the view from the top of Mt. Everest because Erik is one hundred percent, totally, completely BLIND! That's right, as in 'no can see'. He is the only blind person in the entire world who has reached the top of Mt. Everest. It's never been done before and probably will never be done again. Having a hard time believing this story? No problem, just go to www.touchthetop.com.

Now do you understand the power of passion? By the way, what is *your* passion?