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I believe the most difficult thing for us all is identifying what our true passion is. We all love many things, but to be passionate about something is a lifelong quest – it requires constant nurturing, care, and we have to surrender ourselves fully to it. The ultimate reward for this effort is immeasurable, and even though this reward may come in small doses throughout life, it will naturally help us to continue following our passion and have us on the right path always.

Just because we are musicians – and artists, in a more general sense – doesn't always mean that our true passion is art. Sometimes art can be a way out of something else, and the person loves the art for what it brings to their life (or takes away). So the first real challenge is to discover what it is that we are truly passionate about. What can't we live without? What is it that occupies our thoughts and desires most of our time? Is there something we could be doing or feeling that puts all our troubles and problems to rest, and brings us complete happiness? Can we be fully happy some day – does that even exist?

I think that when we are passionate about something – well, in my case, music and drumming – we really don't think about future rewards or what it will add to our lives, we just do it because we need to, right? It is part of who we are.

I feel my love for music to be so strong that it takes over most of my focus and concentration everyday. Although I have other interests in life - and I make sure I give those some of my undivided attention too - Music wins over my day, everyday.

I also believe that when you truly love something, you just don't ask "why" too much. You go with what you are given, and try to be honest and true to this passion you have.

Here is something I found out recently that really helps me to keep me in a good place, and following my passion: I think it's very important for us that are passionate about something to surround ourselves with people that are passionate about the same thing. When you are around other people that love the same things you do, this will energize you so much that you will naturally nurture your passion, it will make you feel rewarded when sharing your experiences, and you will feel stimulated to keep moving forward in the right direction.

When bringing this to the music realm – some of the things that were mentioned are also important: practicing is extremely valuable, since it pushes you forward towards mastering your craft. The better you can express yourself and express your feelings and ideas, the closer you are from being honest to your passion. Watching other people play, and showcase their art, be it music, words, painting, anything really – will inspire you to perhaps go a different direction on your passion, and/or keep developing it to higher levels. Talk with other passionate people, and see what they do to keep moving forward and keep true to their passions in life – this article comes in very handy now! – and consequently try to apply that to your life. But the most important thing for anyone that has successfully identified his/her true passion is to follow it unconditionally, and believe in it. Follow your heart. Think of the major reward as being fully happy, and everything else will fall into place like magic.

*Eric Nemeyer's*  
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