



I. INTRO

II. ZEAL REQUIRES DEVOTION

Zeal = The fervor or tireless devotion for a person, cause, or ideal and determination in its furtherance; diligent enthusiasm; powerful interest.

A. Devotion leads to action

"Zeal in Christianity is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way. It is a desire, which is not natural to men or women. It is a desire which the Spirit puts in the heart of every believer when they are converted to Christ... A zealous Savior ought to have zealous disciples." ~ J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

Romans 12:11 (AMPC) Never lag in zeal *and* in earnest endeavor; be aglow *and* burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord

Acts 18:24-25a (AMPC) Meanwhile, there was a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, who came to Ephesus. He was a cultured *and* eloquent man, well versed *and* mighty in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and burning with spiritual zeal...

B. Devotion flows from the heart

"No one keeps up his enthusiasm automatically. Enthusiasm must be nourished with new actions, new aspirations, new efforts, new vision. It is one's own fault if his enthusiasm is gone. He has failed to feed it." ~ Anonymous

III. REAL ZEAL WILL FACE ADVERSITY

A. Job...lost children, wealth, health, and his friends accused him of sinning

Job 13:15 (NIV) Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

B. Esther...exposed a plot to kill the Jews and saved the nation of Jews from being destroyed

Esther 7:3 (TLB) And at last Queen Esther replied, "If I have won your favor, O King, and if it please Your Majesty, save my life and the lives of my people."

C. Daniel...various hardships from slavery to being placed in a lion's den

Daniel 12:3 (AMP) Those who are [spiritually] wise will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead many to righteousness, [will shine] like the stars forever and ever.

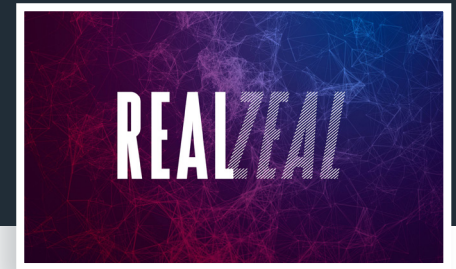
D. Deborah...courageous in the face of battle, willing to lead the people back to the Lord and bring peace to the nation for 40 years

Judges 5:3 (NASB) Hear, you kings; listen, you dignitaries! I myself—to the LORD, I myself will sing, I will sing praise to the LORD, the God of Israel!

E. Paul...beaten, imprisoned, shipwrecked, stoned, endured hunger and thirst and other types of lack, yet never refused to complete the God's plan for his life

2 Corinthians 12:10 (AMP) So I am well pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, and with difficulties, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak [in human strength], then I am strong [truly able, truly powerful, truly drawing from God's strength].

F. Silas...stripped, beaten with rods and imprisoned and continued to minister with Paul



Acts 16:25 (NLT) Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

IV. OUR ZEAL CAN BE QUENCHED

“If you never have sleepless hours, if you never have weeping eyes, if your hearts never swell as if they would burst, you need not anticipate that you will be called zealous. You do not know the beginning of true zeal, for the foundation of Christian zeal lies in the heart.” ~ C.H. Spurgeon

Matthew 26:31 (NIRV) Jesus told them, “This very night you will all turn away because of me. It is written that the Lord said, ‘I will strike the shepherd down. Then the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”

- A. The Lord understands our humanity and wants to help the zeal quenchers in our life
- B. Knocked down, but not out

Proverbs 24:16 (NLT) The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.

- C. Peter experienced the fall, but Jesus helped him up

Matthew 26:72-74a (NKJV) But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!” And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are *one* of them, for your speech betrays you.” Then he began to curse and swear, *saying*, “I do not know the Man!”

V. REAL ZEAL NEEDS A CAUSE

Psalm 69:9 (TLB) My zeal for God and his work burns hot within me. And because I advocate your cause, your enemies insult me even as they insult you.

- A. Taking the promised land

Joshua 1:9 (AMP) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

- B. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 1:3-4 (NIV) They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” ⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

- C. Ministering to others

Acts 9:17-18 (NLT) So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.

VI. REAL ZEAL HELPS BRING REVIVAL

“No nation is better than its church, and no church is better than its people. Only God-transformed personalities can change the moral fibre of the nation.” ~ Leonard Ravenhill