

**LOVE**  
**Without Hypocrisy**  
 (in the book of Romans)

**08 – Zeal, eagerness**

**OUR DUTY TOWARD OTHERS:**  
 To recognize their value  
 and to treat them appropriately.

**Honor one another above yourselves.**  
Romans 12:10b (NIV)

I RECOGNIZE YOUR VALUE, AND I WANT OTHERS TO ALSO RECOGNIZE IT!

**This is an expression of "love for neighbor."**

**OUR DUTY TOWARD OURSELVES:**  
 What it *isn't*: It's NOT to demand that others recognize our value!


HEY, PEOPLE, LOOK AT ME!

**NOT!!**

I DEMAND THAT YOU RECOGNIZE MY VALUE, AND TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT!

**This would be an expression of "love for self."  
 (It's NOT "love for neighbor"!)**

So, you're probably wondering...



IF I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DEMAND RECOGNITION, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

**That's today's theme!**

**OUR DUTY TOWARD OURSELVES:**

The answer is found in the next verse!

Never be lacking in zeal,  
 but keep your spiritual fervor,  
 serving the Lord.  
Romans 12:11 (NIV)

I WANT TO LIVE WORTHY OF ANY HONOR THAT OTHERS MAY GIVE ME!

**This is an expression of "love for neighbor" (and for God).**

**There are TWO parts to this verse**

**1a** → Never be lacking in zeal,

**1b** → but keep your spiritual fervor,

**2** → serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

- **PART 1 (a & b): "WHAT"**  
 –The attitude we must have: the "negative" and "positive" outlook on how we do things.
- **PART 2: "WHO"**  
 –The one we are to do it for.  
(This also gives us the reason for not focusing on "getting other people's praise"!)

**Part 1a & 1b pivot around the word "zeal."**

Never be lacking in **zeal**, but keep your spiritual fervor, ... serving the Lord.  
Romans 12:11 (NIV)

- This "zeal" has to do with our willingness or eagerness to do something, our motivation, our "get-up-and-go."
- In most passages, this word is translated as: eagerness, diligence, earnest desire (to do something), etc. (In this passage, "zeal" is a good translation.)

(A different word, more often translated as "zeal," focuses on our commitment or loyalty to something or someone.)

**PART 1a – "Don't"**

Never be lacking in **zeal**, ... Romans 12:11 (NIV)  
 Not slothful in **business**; ... Romans 12:11 (KJV)  
 ... not lagging behind in **diligence**, ... Romans 12:11 (NASB)  
 Do **not lag** in **zeal**, ... Romans 12:11 (NET)  
 Do **not be slothful** in **zeal**, ... Romans 12:11 (ESV)

**KEY CONCEPT** Regarding your **eagerness or willingness to do things... DON'T BE LAZY!**

**PART 1b – "Do"**

... but keep your **spiritual fervor**, ... Romans 12:11 (NIV)  
 ... **fervent in spirit**; ... Romans 12:11 (KJV)  
 ... **fervent in spirit**, ... Romans 12:11 (NASB)  
 ... be **enthusiastic in spirit**, ... Romans 12:11 (NET)  
 ... be **fervent in spirit**, ... Romans 12:11 (ESV)

**KEY CONCEPT** Instead... **HAVE AN ENERGETIC SPIRIT!**

**This refers to our motivation**  
 – our attitude and how it affects our actions –

- THIS SAME OBLIGATION IS STATED ELSEWHERE:**  
 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, ...\*  
 Eccles. 9:10a (NIV)
- BUT OUR VERSE INCLUDES ONE ADDITIONAL DETAIL:**  
 We are to do it all for the Lord!

\* (The rest of the Eccles. 9:10 warns us: Once we die, we will not get another opportunity.)

**Your "ZEAL"**

Your *enthusiasm, motivation, eagerness* for doing things...

**WHAT IS IT LIKE?**

**IS IT LIKE THIS?**

"Lacking, slothful, lagging behind"

I ... JUST ... CAN'T ... SEEM ... TO ... GET ... MOTIVATED!

# OR LIKE THIS?

"Fervent/enthusiastic in spirit"

I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO!

## PART 2 – "For Whom"

... <b>serving the Lord.</b>	Romans 12:11 (NIV)
... <b>serving the Lord;</b> ...	Romans 12:11 (KJV)
... <b>serving the Lord;</b> ...	Romans 12:11 (NASB)
... <b>serve the Lord.</b>	Romans 12:11 (NET)
... <b>serve the Lord.</b>	Romans 12:11 (ESV)

**KEY CONCEPT**  
 Remember **who you're doing it for...**  
**GOD, NOT PEOPLE!**

# LIKE THIS!!

"Fervent/enthusiastic in spirit"

I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO!

I'M DOING IT FOR JESUS!

## SIN is

# NOT an option!

You can't "SERVE THE LORD" with sin!

ONLY things that are expressions of **LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR** can fulfil this obligation!

### More Scripture passages that illustrate the theme of our verse:

**NEHEMIAH AND THE JEWS (EAGER TO REBUILD THE WALL):**

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.  
Neh. 4:6 (NIV)

**JESUS ("THRIVED" ON DOING THE WORK HE WAS SENT TO DO):**

Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work."  
John 4:34 (NLT); more important than food – Matthew 4:4

**PAUL (EAGER TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO THE GENTILES):**

... I have fully presented the Good News of Christ all the way from Jerusalem clear over into Illyricum. My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.  
Romans 15:19b-20 (NLT)

For I have worked harder than all the other apostles, yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.  
1 Cor. 15:10b (NLT)

**VARIOUS COMMANDS (APPLICABLE TO ALL THAT WE DO):**

*Make the most of every opportunity* for doing good in these evil days.  
Ephes. 5:16 (NLT)

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? *Run in such a way that you may win.*  
1 Cor. 9:24 (NASB)

Whatever you do, *work at it with all your heart*, as working for the Lord, not for men, ...  
Col. 3:23 (NIV)

**Note the similarity between our theme verse and the command in Colossians:**  
(2 ways of saying the same thing)

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor,	Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
serving the Lord.	as working for the Lord, not for men, ...

Romans 12:11 (NIV) | Col. 3:23 (NIV)

**REMEMBER OUR QUESTION?**

IF I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DEMAND RECOGNITION, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

Here's the answer!

**"What should I do?"**

Be the type of person who deserves praise!

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.  
Romans 12:11 (NIV)

But don't worry about getting praise from people!

**IF you do these things (and do them for God)...**

- You'll be **guaranteed** praise from the only source that is important!

At that time each will receive his praise from God.  
1 Cor. 4:5b (NIV)

**Your Mission...**

WHATEVER YOU DO... DO IT WELL  
AND  
DO IT FOR GOD!

**It's a COMMAND!**

- Obedying it is like saying "I love you" to both God and neighbor!"
- It's also proof that you do love God and neighbor!

## Credits (1)

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" - Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. ([www.newlivingtranslation.com](http://www.newlivingtranslation.com))
- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. ([www.zondervanbibles.com](http://www.zondervanbibles.com))
- Scriptures marked "ESV" - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ([www.gnpcb.org](http://www.gnpcb.org))
- Scriptures marked "NASB" - Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. ([www.lockman.org](http://www.lockman.org))
- Scriptures marked "NET" - Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "KJV" - King James Version (public domain).

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Man scratching his head - By johnny\_automatic (Public domain), via [openclipart.org: https://openclipart.org/detail/168137/head-scratcher](https://openclipart.org/detail/168137/head-scratcher)
- Key - By Various (Scan from the original work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Die\\_Gaefterlaube\\_\(1887\)\\_p.\\_705\\_2.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Die_Gaefterlaube_(1887)_p._705_2.jpg) (background removed)

## Credits (2)

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Snail - By Martouf (Public domain), via [openclipart.org: https://openclipart.org/detail/166284/snailscanzodcrossance](https://openclipart.org/detail/166284/snailscanzodcrossance)
- Cheetah - By ha1flosse (Public domain), via [openclipart.org: https://openclipart.org/detail/27704/feoparkcheetah](https://openclipart.org/detail/27704/feoparkcheetah)
- Presentation - Dennis Hirks © 2016.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree, some might not.

# Your Mission...

**"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."**

**Romans 12:11**

**"ZEAL"** - Here, a focus on *motivation* - eagerness, enthusiasm, diligence; having an earnest desire to do something; eager and ready. (Most other passages with the word "zeal" are translated from a word that refers to one's *commitment* or *loyalty* to something. Examples - John 2:17; Romans 10:2.)

**THIS CONCEPT APPLIES TO *EVERYTHING WE DO!***

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ... (Col. 3:23)*

*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might ... (Eccles. 9:10a)*

## Eagerness, Zeal: Selected Scripture Passages about This Eagerness

- Eagerness, diligence in serving God (required by us all) - Rom. 12:11; and in leading others (if that is your gift) - Rom. 12:8.
- Eagerness, diligence, making effort to grow (increase) in the manifestation of godly character traits - 2 Peter 1:5-7 (see also v. 10-11); and in love toward others - Hebrews 6:11 (v. 9-12).
- An earnest desire to deal with sin and to live a godly life - 2 Corinthians 7:11-12.

## Scripture Passages with a Similar Theme

### "Never be lacking"

- Don't become weary of doing what is good - Gal. 6:9; 2 Thes. 3:13.
- If you *do* become weary, consider Jesus and what he endured for us - Hebrews 12:2-3.

### "Keep your spiritual fervor"

- Whatever you do, do it with all your might (your opportunity will end when you die) - Eccl. 9:10a.
- Do good to all people, especially *God's* people, every time you have the opportunity - Gal. 6:10.
- Make the most of every opportunity, and do it *wisely* - Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5.
- This is the purpose for which God saves people! - Titus 2:14.

### "Serving the Lord"

- Whole-heartedly, for the Lord - Col 3:23.
- Glorifying God in everything you do - 1 Corinthians 10:31.

### What is your "zeal" characterized by - your motivation or eagerness for doing things?

- **"ENERGY"** - Fervent and "hot" - guided by a *spirit* that has been made *alive* in Christ; motivated by love for others?
- **"A YAWN"** - Lacking, lazy, slothful - guided by feelings and impulses of the *flesh*, de-motivated by lack of love?

**If God has made you alive, then live as one who is alive!**