

LOVE
Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)
09 – Lazy vs. "Hot Spirit"

Romans 12:11:
Our Duty in All That We Do

Be the type of person who deserves praise!

Live a **PRAISEWORTHY** life!

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*!

Be **GOD-FOCUSED!**

TODAY: A focus on our ZEAL

← **DON'T** →
 Never be lacking in **zeal**, → **DO** →
 but keep your spiritual fervor, ...
 serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

- Our "ZEAL" – Our enthusiasm, motivation, eagerness for doing things; our willingness to "get-up-and-go."

[Next time, we plan to look at the phrase "serve the Lord."]

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!



WE NEED A
"FERVENT-SPIRITED"
ZEAL!



"Keep Your Spiritual Fervor"
 (Can also be translated "be fervent in spirit.")

"SPIRIT"

- **Depending on context**, this word can be translated as wind, breath, ghost or spirit.
- **Here, it refers to:** the human spirit that has been made alive by Jesus Christ.
 - A human spirit that is now controlled by the Holy Spirit!

Unsaved people have no power to obey this command.

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires...

... the sinful mind is *hostile* to God. It *does not submit* to God's law, *nor can it do so.*

Those controlled by the sinful nature **cannot please God.**

Romans 8:5a, 7-8 (NIV)

We can obey this command... IF we belong to Jesus!

- We can be "fervent in spirit" ... **but only if we are controlled by the Holy Spirit!**

... those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their *minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.)

Romans 8:5b, 9 (NLT)

"Keep Your Spiritual Fervor"
 (Can also be translated "be fervent in spirit.")

"FERVENT"

- **This means:** Hot or boiling.

What must your ZEAL (enthusiasm) be like?
 "Boiling over" with an eagerness to do good – to do everything in life as a service to God!

The Example of Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)

- When he learned the good news about Jesus, he was "boiling over" with a desire to tell others about it! *

And being *fervent in spirit*, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, ...

Act 18:25b (ESV)

* He was also *teachable*. There were some things he didn't understand, and he was willing to be taught by others. See verse 26.

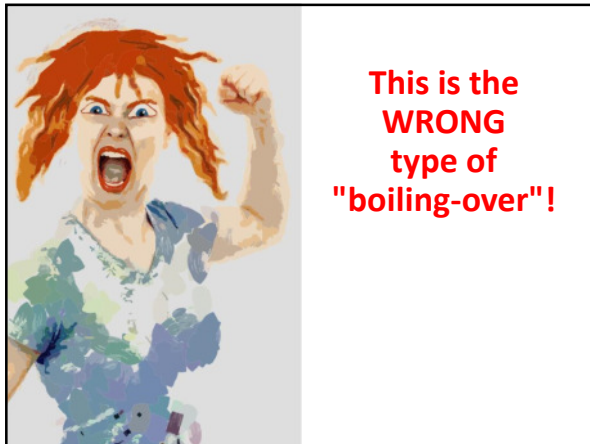
There are LIMITS to our FERVOR!

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

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

- When we "boil over" with ZEAL, it can only involve things that we can do for GOD!

❖ SIN IS NOT AN OPTION!



Other "TEMPERATURE WORDS"
Used by God to teach us

DON'T LET YOUR LOVE GROW "COLD"!

- As we approach the end times, more and more people will let their love grow **COLD**.
- By the time they discover they are **NOT** saved, it may be too late.

Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow **cold**.
But those who endure to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:12-13 (NLT)

BEWARE OF SPIRITUAL "LUKEWARMNESS"!

- If you are a church-goer who talks about following Jesus, without actually doing the "following" ... YOU ARE "LUKEWARM."
- If you don't change, Jesus will treat you like vomit. He rebukes you, but offers you salvation, IF you will repent (Revelation 3:17-22).

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot!
So because you are **lukewarm**, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth!"

Revelation 3:15-16 (NET)

[Both cold and hot water can be refreshing... but lukewarm water isn't!]



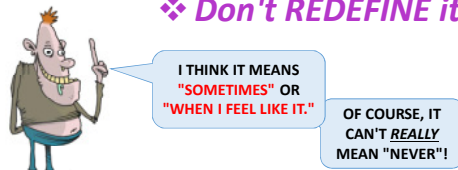
"Never Be Lacking"

↓

"NEVER"

- You know what it means!

❖ **Don't REDEFINE it!**



"Never Be Lacking"

↓

"LACKING"

- Shrinking back from something, hesitating, holding back, lacking ambition...
- Does this describe what your "zeal" or "motivation" is like?

If you are disobeying this command, (ask yourself) what is your excuse?

"It's too inconvenient."
 "I just don't feel motivated."
 "God can't really mean that!"
 "I feel depressed so I plan to lay around and do nothing."
 "It sounds too 'fanatic' for me!"
 "Tomorrow is soon enough."
 "I don't see anything wrong with 'taking it easy.'"

Or have you dreamed up a more creative excuse?

DREAMING UP EXCUSES

Excuses are "a dime a dozen." But Jesus "doesn't buy it."

- He sees the *real issue*.

"You evil and lazy servant!"
 Matthew 25:26b (GW)

THE SAME WORD, HERE TRANSLATED AS "LAZY"

DOES THIS MEAN WE'RE GOING TO BE "100% PERFECT" IN OBEYING THIS COMMAND?

OF COURSE NOT!

BUT THERE IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

- *Constant trying* and retrying when failure occurs.
- AND -
- *Lack of diligence* and (maybe) occasional trying.

❖ THE DIFFERENCES ARE "TITANIC" IN MAGNITUDE!

I WAS "**HIGHLY MOTIVATED**" TO GET ON A LIFE BOAT AND TO STAY ON IT!
 "FERVENT"

"LACKING"

I'M NOT "AGAINST" LIFE BOATS...
 I'LL GET AROUND TO IT, SOMEDAY!

Your Mission...

SAME AS LAST WEEK!

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

THERE IS ONLY ONE OPTION!

- Only God's people are willing to obey it.
- Fakes, atheists, followers of false religions, etc., won't obey it.

❖ WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Credits (1)

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