




How Do I Relight the Fire of My Christian Faith?

John 2:17: (NASB) *His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for your house will consume me.*



When we think of Christian faith we often think of those heroes, past and present, whose lives reflect the courage and fortitude needed to stand up for Christ in the face of an opposite world. We recall their drive, experiences and actions and we feel inspired. Then we look at our own lives, and it is at this point we may get totally depressed! Where is the passion, the conviction and the heroic stand of MY faith? How is it that life seems to keep getting in MY way, and I do not always feel or act in accordance with the living faith I see in others? Is there something wrong with me? Is my faith genuine? If so, what do I have to do to put it in its rightful place regarding my daily life experiences? Is it possible for me to become a "hero of faith," even in a small way?

First, we need to know what it is we want to "relight." Is it faith or is it a feeling?

A biblical definition of faith:

Hebrews 11:1: (NIV) *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

Faith: Strong's #4102 persuasion, credence, conviction. Reliance, constancy

Faith is always from the same Greek word throughout the New Testament.

Faith is NOT credulity.

Merriam Webster:

Credulity: noun - readiness or willingness to believe especially on slight or uncertain evidence (gullibility)

Christian faith is much stronger than credulity. When we look at the Bible we see clarity, context, a plan, science verified, mathematics and prophecies fulfilled. That is not being gullible.

Faith is foundation. Feelings (which are credulity-based) are small pieces of what is necessary to build a strong Christian life. It is dangerous to try to build your faith on how you feel.

It is faith we are after. How is faith lit up?

James 2:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸*But someone may well say, You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*

Faith is not just believing that God is there. *The demons also believe.*

Faith needs action to be vital. Sometimes this action is outward and obvious, and sometimes it is inward and private. In both cases it is work/actions that set us apart from the world.



Defining motivation, *Motivation, Instincts, Drives, Incentives*, Mrs. Bailey's AP Psychology

- *Motivation: Our textbook definition refers to a need or a desire that energizes behavior and directs it towards a goal. These are two really important key terms to understand here. Energizing: When you say you are energizing a behavior, it means you are getting somebody to do something. They're getting up; they're moving; they're doing; they're acting, and it directs it. The behavior also is going to have a direction. Now, notice that there's no positive or negative here, it's all just about the actual getting a human being to do something in a directed kind of focus towards a goal.*

We suggest that true faith is the motivation that promotes spiritual zeal - **Glorifying God in action!**

The act of praying earnestly is a zealous act.

True faith cannot exist without zeal: **Glorifying God in action!**

Zeal: Strong's #2205; *zelos*; heat, i.e. (figuratively) "zeal" (in a favorable sense, ardor; in an unfavorable one, jealousy, as of a husband [figuratively, of God], or an enemy, malice)

Zeal is more than emotion.

John 2:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵And he made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and he poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; ¹⁶and to those who were selling the doves he said, Take these things away; stop making my Father's house a place of business. ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, **zeal <2205>** (the heat or passion) for your house will consume me.

Our Father's house should not be one of business, gain or profit.

But zeal can be easily applied to the wrong things:

James 3:16: (NASB) For where **jealousy <2205>** and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

We should not be jealous and act in this manner, but when we are attacked by others it hurts, especially by those close to us who cause so much pain with their jealousy and selfish motives. We need to rise above it and not be stumbled or knocked off course. As the hymn says, "My goal is Christ and Christ alone."

Zeal and jealousy are the same Greek word. It is the fire to protect which can be in a positive or negative way. Jealousy is the fire to protect your ego.

We need our faith to have our fire reignited.





**It is amazingly easy to
misfire with our
Zeal
and feed those things that
actually take us away from
true faith in God.**

Remember, zeal is glorifying God in action!

**How can we be sure the zeal - the heat we are seeking is godly
and not a human passion that will consume us?**

This is one of the most difficult areas of our lives to manage because it deals with the core of our emotional being. To begin to put it all straight, we will look at some of the reasons we may feel that our faith is losing its vitality, find a biblical example, and then follow the biblical answer. In so doing we avoid the "make up the remedy as you go" approach.

While Simon Sinek is focusing on the "millennial" generation, the principles he speaks apply to all of us.

 **Facebook Gen no clue, *This is Why You Don't Succeed, Simon Sinek***

- You have an entire generation that's growing up with lower self-esteem than previous generations. The other problem to compound it is, we're growing up in a Facebook/Instagram world. In other words, we're good at putting filters on things. We're good at showing people that life is amazing even though I'm depressed. Right? Everybody sounds tough, and everybody sounds like they've got it all figured out, and the reality is there's very little toughness and most people don't have it figured out. And so, when the more senior people say what should we do, they sound like, "This is what you've got to do!" And they have no clue. Right?*

Our world has programmed toughness out of us since it is not politically correct to take a hard stand because you might make other people feel bad. As a Christian, our zeal requires us to take a hard stand.



**ZEAL CHALLENGE: DISCOURAGEMENT -
THINGS DO NOT GO THE WAY WE HAD EXPECTED.**



Satan's goal is to confuse us in our Christian walk:

Three days after Jesus' crucifixion, two disciples are dejectedly walking on the road to Emmaus.

Jesus catches up with them, though they do not recognize him and asks them what they're talking about:

Luke 24:17-21,30-34: (NASB) ¹⁷...And they stood still, looking sad (they were discouraged). ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to him, Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days? ¹⁹And he said to them, What things? And they said to him, The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to the sentence of death, and crucified him. ²¹But we were hoping that it was he who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

They were shocked that he was the only one in Jerusalem who did not know about what had happened to Jesus. Jesus was reading their hearts and absorbing their discouragement. Everything they hoped for was suddenly dashed. Their fire had gone out.



Jesus taught them about the necessity for Christ's suffering as spoken by the prophets. As a result, they were blessed to see the fulfillment of the prophecies just spoken.

³⁰When he had reclined at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, he began giving it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to one another, Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us on the road, while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?

Jesus fed them prophecies. Their heads were being filled with truth, so their hearts were reignited as a result. To get your life back on track, you must reignite your head first. If it is just emotion, it is all heart.

What happened when their zeal for their faith was reignited? They acted:

³³And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, ³⁴saying, The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.



They went all the way back walking those seven miles again.

What if discouragement lingers and we just do not feel like walking those seven miles?

This sounds like laziness. Something that may help us would be to put up notes reminding us to focus. Have an attitude of thankfulness. Remember to count your many blessings. Go to God's word and read His precious promises and personalize them with your name. An example: "Rick, He will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6. Feed your head first and then feed your heart. Prayer is our lifeline to God. We need to improve our prayer life if we start to feel that laziness. Seek fellowship, attend Bible studies as often as we can, even if we do not feel like it.



Zeal needs help: Just because we are called and blessed, it does not mean we are self-sufficient.

Quora Randall: Refrain from focusing on yourself and instead focus on the needs of others. Volunteer and donate your time to the needy. It's great to help out at the homeless shelters but go further and get to know them and help them. The need in the world is so great — the ill, the isolated, the elderly, the poor, the disabled, the mentally infirmed. Go out and find these people in your community. They might be attached to your church, or maybe not. Whatever. The point is to help out where you can. Live your faith instead of talking about it. You'll find enormous rewards.

Even the Apostle Paul suffered from serious discouragement and challenge:

2 Corinthians 1:8-11: (NASB) ⁸For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; ⁹indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; ¹⁰who delivered us from so great a peril of death... (This could be an experience Paul had that we do not see in the Scriptures.) ¹¹you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.

Paul felt the experience was to keep him from trusting in himself.



While discouragement can bring feelings of hopelessness, God's remedy can be applied through three things -
*Bible truth,
 spiritual understanding and
 the prayers of others*

Remember, zeal is glorifying God in action!



Discouragement is one thing. What about when we are challenged to the point of feeling crushed?

Sometimes our experiences have the ability to dismantle our zeal. When we are in a place in life that requires us to bend our energies towards just surviving, it seems like zeal becomes a distant memory. These experiences do require much by way of remedy and the Bible gives us answers.



ZEAL CHALLENGE: DEPRESSION – HAVING BEEN OVERRUN BY THE WEIGHT OF HARD EXPERIENCES.



Satan's goal is to paralyze the followers of Christ.

Depression is a very serious matter and we absolutely believe in getting appropriate medical help! It is not a lack of faith or zeal to seek help.



Tech and Dopamine, *This is Why You Don't Succeed*, Simon Sinek

- *Now, let's add in technology. We know that engagement with social media and our cell phones releases a chemical called dopamine. That's why when you get a text, it feels good. We've all had it where you're feeling a little bit down and so you send out ten texts to ten friends: "Hi! Hi! Hi! Hi!" Because it feels good when you get a response. Right? It's why we count the "likes"; it's why we go back ten times to see if my Instagram is growing slower, did I do something wrong? Do they not like me anymore? The trauma for young kids to be "unfriended." Right? Because we know when you get it, you get a hit of dopamine. It feels good, it's why we like it, it's why we keep going back to it. Dopamine is the exact same chemical that makes us feel good when we smoke, when we drink, and when we gamble. In other words, it's highly, highly addictive.*

We need to be careful, especially with our kids.



The prophet Elijah accomplished a miraculous, faith-filled victory over Baal. It was an amazing victory for godliness in Israel. What happens after he wins this incredible battle?

The prophet Elijah suffered depression:

1 Kings 19:1-4: (NASB) ¹Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. ³And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life... ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.

O LORD take my life, for I am not better than my fathers. Elijah felt he tried very hard but failed and let God down. Sometimes our victories are disguised in the dark clouds of dashed expectations.



1 Kings 19:5-10: (NASB) ⁵He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, Arise, eat. ⁶...So he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you. ⁸So he arose and ate and drank and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

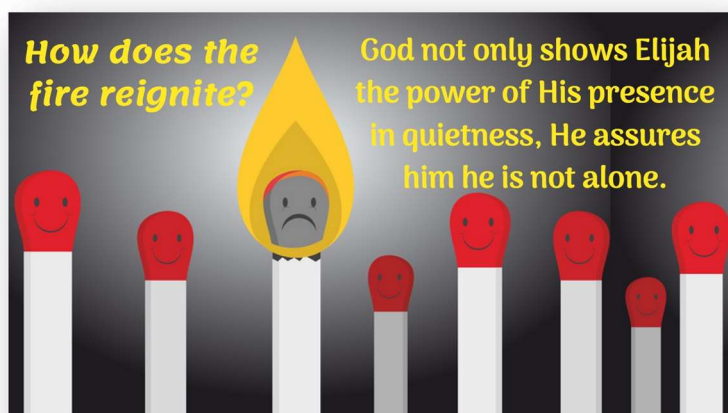
When in depression, sleep is an escape.

The angel told him to eat. This is a spiritual lesson for us. When we are at our lowest point, we need to eat spiritual food. Elijah was reignited because he was fed spiritual food by an angel. An angel is a messenger. In our lives we are not going to get a visitation from an actual angel from heaven, but we may get a visitation from an angel (messenger) of God in someone God sends to help.

Depression is hard to manage. Even after being strengthened, Elijah still struggled:

⁹Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, What are you doing here, Elijah? ¹⁰He said, I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. (Elijah is still discouraged.)

Elijah was with 7,000 others. 1 Kings 19:11-18



We need to find God's presence in the quietness and we need to acknowledge and embrace the fact that we are NOT alone.

Elijah was successful, but he did not see it. Sometimes with our depression there are successes we are just not able to see.

For more on Elijah, please see our three-part podcast starting on January 23, 2017, CQ Episode #954: "Elijah, The Power of Courage!"



What are some practical ways we can help others rekindle their depressed zeal?

Remind them of the value they bring to the body of Christ. Ask them how the Lord called them to follow Christ. Ask what miracles God has done in their lives. We are all forgetful and need reminders. Also, focus on all Jesus suffered for us. Our trials and experiences cannot compare to his.

Remember to feed your head so your heart can respond.



Zeal needs help: Just because we may have done wonderful works does not mean we are limitless!

Quora Cole: Sometimes we have lots to give, and we should: our time, our encouragement, our resources, our "light." Other times, we are hurt or sad, or our faith is weak, and during those times we need to "receive"; to embrace the love from others, to accept others' offers of solace, and so forth. That's what church is for - not just the chapel on Sundays but the church at large. We need our brothers and sisters sometimes more than they need us; that's okay.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11: (NASB) ⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; (Zeal is not always shown in victory; it is shown in not falling in defeat) ¹⁰always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.



While depression can bring us to utter hopelessness and a feeling of resignation, being fed inspiration with the word, finding and believing in God's presence and embracing true fellowship can begin to rekindle our zeal.

Remember, zeal is glorifying God in action!

Discouragement and depression are huge challenges for our zeal. What about when we simply fail?

Facing defeat is in many ways different than facing more heart-based challenges. When we lose a battle, we have been engaged, we have been putting forth effort and zeal and we simply come up short. The doubts that can come from these experiences can and will test us in powerful ways.



Drives and incentives, Motivation, Instincts, Drives, Incentives, Mrs. Bailey's AP Psychology

- Incentives tend to be external things that appeal to our needs, or they trigger our adverse feelings, but they can be used to pull us in. For instance, you're not hungry but you drive by an In-N-Out Burger and you smell it - that external smell of the yummy, delicious french fries and hamburgers. They're going to pull you in. It's that unconscious, like all of a sudden, you're driving to In-N-Out Burger, even though you're not necessarily hungry. Drives push; incentives pull. Drives are internal; incentives are external, and then there's the push and pull kind of dynamic.*

Drives and incentives must be carefully monitored and challenged as they are often not zeal-driven.



**ZEAL CHALLENGE: DEFEAT -
HAVING PUT IN STRONG SPIRITUAL EFFORT WE ALL FAIL,
OR WE DO NOT SEE CLEARLY ENOUGH
THE TANGIBLE RESULTS.**



Sometimes our biggest failures become our greatest spiritual victories and the birth of true zeal.



Satan's goal is to knock us off course.

We can knock ourselves off course if we allow satanic influences in our lives.

The Apostle Peter was a classic example of a follower whose strength was also a weakness:

Matthew 26:31-35: (NASB) ³¹Then Jesus said to them, You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered. ³²But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee. ³³But Peter said to him, Even though all may fall away because of you, I will never fall away. (We admire Peter's desire to stand for Christ.) ³⁴Jesus said to him, Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny me three times. ³⁵Peter said to him, Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you. All the disciples said the same thing too.

Defeat is bad enough. Here, there was a specific warning, and it was even based on Old Testament prophecy - *I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered*. Peter ignored the prophecy because he wanted to be strong. His faith here was not based on *faith*, it was based on *credulity*.

Two denials later:

Luke 22:59-62: (NASB) ⁵⁹After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, Certainly this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean too. ⁶⁰But Peter said, Man, I do not know what you are talking about. Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had told him, Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times. ⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.



Even though Peter denied Jesus, he did not leave. His heart was in the right place, but his heart was not acting on his true zeal of faith. His zeal was misplaced and based on the credulity and gullibility of believing in himself.



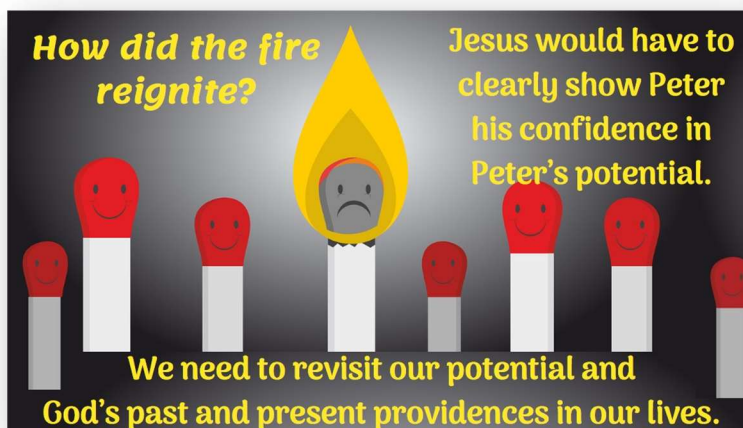
How do we cope with such a crash-and-burn experience?



Proverbs 24:16-17: (KJV) *For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. Do not rejoice when your enemy falls.*

Why would we glory in the failure of another? Who has not failed?

1 Corinthians 1:29: (NASB) *So that no man may boast before God. Pride will be the enemy if we do not humble ourselves. Get back up and stand up for Jesus. Pride could have kept Peter from asking for forgiveness.*



Jesus reinstates Peter with loving clarity and focus:

John 21:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵*So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Tend my lambs. ¹⁶He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Shepherd my sheep. ¹⁷He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, Do you love me? And he said to him, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Tend my sheep.*

The lesson WAS beginning to be learned, and Peter needed assurance that his heart and his potential were bigger than his failure. We think the first two times Jesus asked - *Peter do you love me more than these?* - were meant for Peter's head. The third time he asked Peter the question, Peter said *Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you* - that is when it sunk into his heart. Feed your head with the words of Jesus so they can get into your heart.



Zeal needs help: Zeal is consistent while emotion is not, and the two need internal separation.

Quora Karen: We can relight the fire through prayer. Jesus said when we ask the Father in my name it will be granted and always remember that God's time and our time are different and that even the most historic figures of the Bible all went through periods of strife and struggle. Many felt at times that God had turned His back on them, even Jesus himself.



Peter learned to separate zeal and emotion:

1 Peter 1:22-25: (NASB) ²²Since you have in obedience to the truth (reigniting your head before the heart) purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, (Peter taught others what Jesus taught him and fulfilled Jesus' request for Peter to feed his sheep) ²³for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For, all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, ²⁵but the word of the lord endures forever.



**Defeat can be a tool
of definition as it helps us see
the clarity of our purpose,
the flaws in our emotions
and the needed strength
of our zeal.**

Remember, zeal is glorifying God in action!

**Discouragement, depression and defeat are all dramatic reasons
for losing our fire - what about plain old lethargy?**

When all is said and done, and when we have had to face these clearly defined challenges, there is another challenge that is more creeping and insidious we need to watch for. It is lethargy - simply disengaging our zeal because we are comfortable or generally tired or we are regrouping after a hard experience.



Tech and the bottle, *This is Why You Don't Succeed*, Simon Sinek

- We have age restrictions on smoking, gambling, and alcohol, and we have no age restrictions on social media and cell phones which is the equivalent of opening up the liquor cabinet and saying to our teenagers, "Hey, by the way this adolescence thing, if it gets you down..." That's basically what's happening. You have an entire generation that has access to an addictive, numbing chemical called dopamine through social media and cell phones as they're going through the high stress of adolescence. Some people quite by accident discover alcohol and numbing effects of dopamine to help them cope with the stresses and anxieties of adolescence. Unfortunately, that becomes hardwired in their brains, and for the rest of their lives when they suffer significant stress they will not turn to a person, they will turn to the bottle. Social stress, financial stress, career stress, that's pretty much the primary reasons why "an alcoholic" drinks. What's happening is because we are allowing unfettered access to these dopamine producing devices and media, basically it is becoming hardwired, and what we're seeing as they grow older too many kids don't know how to form deep meaningful relationships.

Social media can disengage us from life.



ZEAL CHALLENGE: DISENGAGING – BEING TOO BUSY, TOO COMFORTABLE OR HAVING QUIETLY SETTLED FOR LUKEWARM SPIRITUALITY WHICH IS NEGLECTING OUR SPIRITUAL FEEDING.



When we follow spiritual feelings, we end up neglecting feeding.

Satan's goal is to have us give up – to disengage.

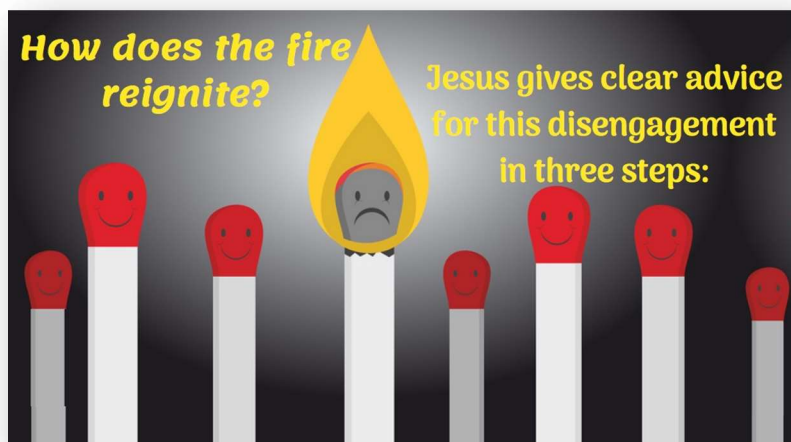
The seventh stage of the church of Revelation was guilty of disengaging. We look at the interpretation of the churches of Revelation as stages of the church throughout the entire age of the gospel. We believe we are now living in that time of the seventh stage of the church.

The message that goes to that seventh stage particularly applies to us:

Revelation 3:14-17: (NASB) ¹⁴To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, says this: ¹⁵I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing, and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Several issues arise out of the potential comfort of wealth. If we are too comfortable, we are disengaging and are not wealthy as Christians.

If you are living Christianity on Sunday at church or when you are with your family, but when you go back to work you are not - that is disengaging. Christianity is 24/7.



FIRST, fix the purpose of your life:

Revelation 3:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, (In your present state you are NOT rich, just comfortable.)

Refined gold - submit to the testing necessary for complete faithfulness to the divine call.

SECOND, fix the process of your life:

and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; (Your present comfort is not recognizable as a Christian. We can be lulled into complacency.)

White garments - clothe yourself with Jesus' righteousness to cover your sinfulness.



THIRD, fix the perceptions of your life:

and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

Eye salve - heal your distorted vision of Scripture and life to clearly see what is required of you. The last stage of the church is lukewarm in their zeal.

Why? Because Jesus wants us to have genuine zeal for him and his cause:

¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore, be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me.

if anyone hears my voice - that is reigniting your head with intellectual recognition. It opens the door and that is reigniting our hearts.



Zeal needs help: It is easily hijacked! Consistently test the direction of your zeal against your truest objective. It is too easy to think you have arrived.

Philippians 3:12-16: (NASB) *¹²Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (When the head engages, the heart can follow.) ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.*



Zeal is the action
*that expresses our gratitude for
God's grace and power directing
our lives for the purpose of our
faithfulness to the call.*

**Are you thankful?
Show it!**

Remember, zeal is glorifying God in action!

We must be action oriented, even if that action is internal, quiet and no one else sees. Zeal is sometimes expressed in waiting or just holding on in the depth of trial. God looks at these expressions of zeal because they glorify Him when we are not letting go. Remember zeal is not how you feel. It is the action that glorifies God and is based on true Christian faith. Zeal is a choice. Get your head straight and let your heart follow.

*So, how do I relight the fire of my faith?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on August 13, 2018:
 Ep. #1034: Did Jesus REALLY Die for Everyone?

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing Christianity cannot be is moderately important. — C.S Lewis

Proverbs 24:16: (NASB) *For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of calamity.*

Sometimes it is not our place to see results but to just do the work before us:

1 Peter 1:13-16: (NASB) ¹³*Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.*

The comparison between faith and feelings cannot be overlooked. We need to clearly understand that faith and therefore zeal is not feelings based. Feelings come and go, but faith and its corresponding zeal live steadfastly on.

Feelings can get lost in everyday moments, because these moments do not feed them. On the contrary, rather than feeding them, these moments can disturb and unsettle our feelings and spread seeds of discouragement and discontent.

1 Timothy 6:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. (Create a base of instruction) ¹⁸Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (Then teach them practically.)*

Faith and its corresponding zeal can thrive in everyday moments, for it is at these times when we are engaged in the sometimes-monotonous tasks of life that faith and zeal can give them perspective and meaning. Faith turns our minds upward in thanks and praise even when we are of necessity focused downward on worldly responsibilities, and zeal turns our actions forward.

2 Timothy 2:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*



A living and zealous faith requires action!

Hebrews 11:6: (KJV) *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Colossians 1:23: (KJV) *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*

1 Timothy 1:18-19: (KJV) ¹⁸*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;* ¹⁹*Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.*

James 2:14-18: (KJV) ¹⁴*What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?* ¹⁵*If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,* ¹⁶*And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?* ¹⁷*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.* ¹⁸*Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.*

James 2:24-26: (KJV) ²⁴*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.* ²⁵*Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?* ²⁶*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

Jude 1:3: (KJV) *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

1 Peter 5:7-9: (KJV) ⁷*Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you.* ⁸*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:* ⁹*whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

James 1:22-24: (NIV) ²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

