

“ZEAL”

I want to make two statements before I go anywhere else today. They are; ‘*As Believers ...*’:

1. We need to be leaders, people of influence, in every sphere of life who will serve God, His House and our Community with passion, faithfulness and sincerity.
2. Remember what we do has a direct effect on the eternity of others.

Having made those three statements; I also want to encourage you today by asking you to encompass everything you are learning here to three zones of influence:

1. Personal (you own life)
2. Church (your Christian Family)
3. World (Those you associate with ‘outside’ of your Christian Family – non believing people)

If we are to be effective on a holistic scale we must think and operate with the Holy Spirit in all three of these zones of influence.

MATTHEW 5:13-14 (NKJV)

“You are the salt of the earth; ...You are the light of the world.

The thing is that Salt and Light were designed to be spread and not *overly* concentrated. Too much salt in one place will actually burn and eventually kill, too much light in one place will burn and eventually blind.

Today I want to ask THREE questions up your ZEAL towards the God we serve and love.

1. CAN YOU INTRODUCE JESUS?

Show video clip of Steve Harvey introducing the ‘Returning Jesus’.

The passion, the honour and the respect we have for someone will always show in our introduction.

As Leaders or People of Influence ... do you do this well? Do you introduce Jesus well? Do you introduce yourselves well? Do you introduce the Church to the non-believer well?

REMEMBER ... YOU ARE REPRESENTING SOMEONE OR SOMETHING!

When it comes to Jesus we have ‘Words of Life’ connected to a ‘Living God’! There is no mythology of philosophy here ... this is real! We actually have recorded words of testimony, of actual events!

We cannot allow circumstance, life and stuff to make God small in our eyes!

The story of Solomon wanting to build a House for God is a fantastic example of how to do this.

1 KINGS 3:3-14

Solomon 'loved God' and 'showed it' with zeal towards:

- ∞ God's statutes – (*he walked in them and KEPT them diligently*)
- ∞ Offerings and sacrifices
- ∞ God's People – (*He spoke honourably of them and prayed for them*)

1 KINGS 5:1-7

- ∞ If you have 'Godly Wisdom' you will 'want to build God's House'.
- ∞ Not just to build it but to:
 - Be in it
 - Dwell at it
 - Stay with it
 - Be refreshed in it

Vs.7: The King of Tyre of the Sidonians equated Solomon's desire to build God a House with GREAT WISDOM.

What has God called you to do? Do it in such a way that all who see it and are in some way involved with it, give God glory.

MATTHEW 5:16

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven,"

2. HOW DO OTHERS SEE YOU AS A CHRISTIAN?

Show video clip of Casting Crowns Song – '*Can Anyone Hear Her?*'

When it comes to being a Christian ...are we so wrapped up in our own world that we don't actually have time or even take notice of 'what or who' is going on around us?

3. WHAT DIRECTION IS YOUR ZEAL FOR GOD GOING?

We need to look closely on how and where we show our love to and our love for God.

Do we actually love in our private lives as well as our public/church life?

A Study put together and done by Bill Hybels asked this question:

"Why are the 'long-term' and 'mature' Christians, who tend to be 40+ years old, seem to be losing or even have lost their zeal for God?"

Q. WHY?

A. 'Not getting fed' and 'Not meeting my needs'

REASONS:

- ∞ Focus
- ∞ Connections (In the Church [*my salt and my light are superior to yours!*] and Outside the Church) (*not either-or but BOTH-AND*)
- ∞ Personal Lifestyles
 - Don't read the Bible
 - Don't Pray
 - Personal Relationship with God had lapsed
 - 'One Meal' a week (*church*) (THIS WILL NOT SUSTAIN US)

○They don't believe they are capable of going further or doing more.

(Show FACING THE GIANTS video clip)

THREE REASONS PEOPLE COME TO OR ARE IN CHURCH:

1. Redemptive Community
 - a. People see hope, purpose, healing, togetherness
2. Deployment of Spiritual Gifts
 - a. The aspect of life everyone looks for but rarely finds
3. Family

Remember you are a Person of Influence in some way and we replicate 'of us' what people 'see in us'

I cannot replicate passion, prayer, reading, giving, worship if:

- ∞ **I don't talk about it in my life**
- ∞ **Show it in my life**
- ∞ **Live it in my life**