

# DOING YOUR BEST FOR CHRIST: 1. BEING ZEALOUS

## Christian Character in Action: Lesson 31

23 September 2022

**Zeal:** Passionate ardour (enthusiasm) in the pursuit of anything. Eagerness of desire to accomplish or obtain some object.

**Fervent:** Ardent (enthusiastic), very warm. Earnest, excited, animated, glowing, as fervent zeal or fervent piety.

**Diligent:** Steady in application of business, constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken, assiduous (tireless), attentive, industrious, not idle or negligent.

**Earnest:** With fixed attention, eagerness, zealousness.

The contrast of all these is *slothfulness* or *idleness*.

**Ecclesiastes 9:10**      “**Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...**” Give it all you’ve got, not halfheartedly, not reluctantly.

“**...in the grave, whither thou goest.**” This reminder that we don’t know when we may die, reveals an urgency to get things done while we still can.

### 1. ZEAL FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD (Psalm 69:9)

- a. Jesus Christ came to this world with many abilities to work miracles, teach the nations, and preach the word of God. It was His zeal and dedication for the house of God that put those strengths and abilities into action.
  - i. Jesus did not simply try to blend in. His actions for God brought the reproach of men.
  - ii. Jesus didn’t hide His light under a bushel or under a bed (Mark 4:21). As a result, men opposed and persecuted and hated Him.
- b. God gave every saved person a desire for church, a desire to sing God’s praises, and a desire to do something for the Lord.
  - i. Most saved people walk away from that desire instead of letting it consume them. They have an interest in the house of God, but no zeal for the house of God.
  - ii. During the pandemic, what bothered you more:
    1. That you couldn’t go to restaurants, go to shopping malls, or watch sports.
    2. That you couldn’t go to the church house and worship the Lord?
      - a. Do you only go to church when it’s convenient.
      - b. Would you sacrifice or delay another activity so you could be in church?

### 2. ZEAL TO DO GOOD WORKS FOR GOD (Titus 2:11-14)

- a. The Lord saved us so that we can be zealous of good works.
  - i. We used to be zealous of worldly, vain activities.
  - ii. Now the Lord wants us to be equally zealous for telling people about the Savior.
    1. Aim to do more for God than you are currently doing.

### 3. ZEAL FOR OTHER PEOPLE (Colossians 4:12-13)

- a. Don’t expect the church, the pastor, or the brethren to meet your needs.
- b. Be someone who is always looking for opportunities to meet the needs of others.

#### **4. ZEALOUSLY OPPOSED TO SIN AND WICKEDNESS (Numbers 25:7-13)**

- a. The sin of fornication brought God's judgment upon Israel. 24,000 people died in a plague.
  - b. Phinehas turned God's wrath away from the people because he was zealous for God's sake (vs 11) and took action against the sins that brought God's wrath.
    - i. When you take a stand for God against sin, you will enjoy God's blessing (vss 12-13).
    - ii. Don't tolerate any sin in your private life. Agree with God about sin and drive it out with zeal.
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#### **5. ZEALOUS TO GIVE MONEY TO THE WORK OF GOD (2 Corinthians 9:1-2)**

- a. Concerning giving, they were not slow, not half-hearted, not slack, but excited to give to the work of God.
  - b. People don't mind spending money on things that are important to them. It blessed the hearts of these Christians to give to God.
  - c. When you invest in your church and its ministries, you'll be more zealous about the house of God, and you'll want to participate in the work.
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#### **6. ZEALOUS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 Corinthians 14:12)**

- a. If you truly want something, you will go after it. You'll do what you have to do to get it.
  - b. If you want a spiritual gift or ability so you can serve God better, get zealous and go after it. Pray and ask God for whatever it is that you need to be able to serve Him.
    - i. Pray for God to open doors for ministry, give you a talent, give you a particular character trait, boldness, or a strength that you don't have.
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#### **7. ZEALOUSLY AFFECTED BY BIBLE TEACHING AND PREACHING (Galatians 4:17-18)**

- a. How long do you remain convicted by the sermons you hear?
    - i. Do you quickly go back to your carnal life after you leave the church?
    - ii. Bible preaching is supposed to have an effect upon us.
    - iii. You may have an interest in the Bible and a desire to learn from it, but you're not zealous in your willingness to be affected by the Bible.
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#### **8. ZEAL TO REPENT (Revelation 3:14-19)**

- a. Most Christians are lukewarm in their response when the preacher preaches against their sins.
  - b. God wants us to "**Be zealous...and repent**" (vs 19).
  - c. We need to get serious about wanting the Lord to make a change in our life.
  - d. God wants us to be as zealous to repent and improve now as we were when we first got saved.
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