

DOING YOUR BEST FOR CHRIST: 4. BEING FERVENT

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 34

14 October 2022

Fervent: Ardent, very warm, earnest, animated, glowing, as fervent zeal.

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION

2 Peter 3:10 “The day of the Lord will come...and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.” The word fervent is associated with great heat.

- The Lord calls upon us to not be lukewarm (Rev. 3:16), but to be hot.
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Romans 12:11 God calls upon us to be “**Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the LORD.**”

- Everything we do is supposed to be service to God, not just the things we do in church or with the brethren during outreach efforts.
 - Business should not be separate from serving the Lord. It is part of serving the Lord to do your very best on your job.
 - Don’t ruin your Christian testimony by witnessing when you should be working.
 - A Christian should always excel a non-Christian. (Bob Jones Sr.)
 - Your boss ought to notice that you work harder than most of his other employees.
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Ephesians 6:5-7 The Lord wants us to be obedient to the person or company that employs us.

- We are to do our job as though we are working directly for Jesus Christ. “**As unto Christ**” (vs 5), “**As the servants of Christ**” (vs 6), “**As to the LORD, and not to men**” (vs 7).
 - “**Not with eyeservice.**” That is someone who only does their job when the boss can see them.
 - “**Not...as menpleasers.**” That is someone who only works hard when they’re trying to impress the boss.
 - If you do your best for your employer because you’re doing it for the Lord, God will make sure your pay (large or small) covers all your needs (vs 7). Your pay will go farther than you thought it could.
 - **Haggai 1:4-6** — If you don’t honor God, your pay won’t be enough no matter how much you make.
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THE SPIRITUAL APPLICATION

1 Peter 4:8 God wants us to have **fervent charity** among the brethren.

- **Charity shall cover the multitude of sins.** Whatever sins you have committed, they are covered by charity. The brethren won't hold your sins against you because they love you.
 - Fervent charity can burn up all the harsh feelings that may arise against the brethren.
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James 5:16-17 Fervent prayers are effectual. Fervent prayers get God's attention. Fervent prayers are beneficial (availeth much).

Proverbs 6:6-8 Consider the ant. They do what needs to be done without anybody making them do it. They may be a lesser creature, but God says we can learn something from them.
