

HOW TO REMAIN ON FIRE FOR GOD

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Every Christian is expected to be zealously on fire for his or her Savior, serving with all his or her heart to the best of his or her ability. God did not save us to be lukewarm about our salvation and new life. He wants us to be fervent in our service and in our witness of our faith in Him.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rom 12:1-2 NIV)

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” (Rom 12:11 NIV)

The believer is expected by God to respond to His great love in sacrificing His only begotten Son by giving himself to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. God wants every believer as long as they live, to live a sacrificial life to God. He wants us to be sold out to him and his cause. We are to live for His glory and honor. We are not to live anymore for ourselves or for any other person no matter how close the person may be to us. My life is to be lived for the glory of God. I should seek the glory and praise of God in all that I say and do. The believer therefore is to be on fire for God and His kingdom.

To be on fire is to burn with zeal for God. To burn with fire is to live for God with one's heart and entire life. To burn with fire is to be up and doing as far as our life with God is concerned. To burn with fire is to be greatly committed to the wellbeing and expansion of the Church of Jesus Christ. To burn with fire is to zealously pursue the evangelization and discipleship of the nations of the earth. To burn with fire is to spend and be spent for the kingdom of God.

“For zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.” (Ps 69:9 NIV)

“After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days. When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”” (John 2:12-18 NIV)

The zeal of the house of the Lord consumed the Lord Jesus Christ. It was this zeal that enabled him take all the insults he got from men that he created without destroying them. It was

this zeal that moved him to do all the miracles that he did. It was this zeal that made him take a whip and drove out all the money changers and traders from the temple. Without zeal, no one succeeds in life or in any pursuit. It takes zeal to win. So, if you want to win this heavenly race, you must be and remain zealous for God all the days of your life.

“My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore your words.” (Ps 119:139 NIV)

“For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.” (2 Cor 9:1-2 KJV)

Zeal gives energy to work towards the actualization of a goal or a vision. Zeal makes one to be greatly concerned about a thing or a matter. Zeal makes one not to rest until the assignment is done. Zeal makes one to give what he has according to his ability and even beyond his ability to support what he believes in like the Corinthian Church did.

Your zeal must be based on knowledge.

“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.” (Rom 10:2 KJV)

THE DEVIL DOESN'T WANT YOU ON FIRE FOR GOD

The devil will do everything within his power to weaken you and destroy your zeal and make you lukewarm and if possible make you backslide completely.

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Rev 3:14-22 NKJV)

To put out the fire in us the devil uses some of the following:

a. “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing”.

Success is a killer of zeal. That does not mean that success is evil or does not come from God. Success, most of the time is not handled well. When it enters into a man's head, he will become lukewarm and backslide. When a man becomes successful, there is the tendency not to depend on God as before, become self-dependent, arrogant and proud, and treat the word of God with contempt. Many after a little opening or breakthrough begin to neglect their relationship

with God and focus more on money making and career. This is the tool of the devil in killing the fire of God in the heart of man. This does not mean that success is of the devil. Success comes from God. But don't let success enter into your head.

b. Lack of knowledge of who we are, and what God is expecting from us.

When a man is ignorant of whom he is or what he has as an inheritance in Christ, the devil will continue to take advantage of that person's ignorance and oppress him. The scripture teaches us that our acknowledging of those things that are in us in Christ will help us to be effectual and productive in our Christian life.

"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." (Philem 6 KJV)

c. Disobedience to the commands of God.

Sin enslaves. When one begins to disobey the commands of the lord, he will begin to get hardened towards sin; soon, his conscience will become hardened and feel no more guilt when sin is committed.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom 6:16 KJV)

d. Lack of interest in the things of God

When a man is continuously losing interest in the things of God, his fire or zeal for God is dying. Loss of interest quenches the fire. It is a tool in the hands of the enemy.

e. Care for the things of the world

"Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop-a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."'" (Matt 13:3-9 NIV)

"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful." (Matt 13:22-23 NIV)

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Rom 12:1-2 NIV)

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-comes not from the Father but from the world. The

world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:15-17 NIV)

- f. Negative thought pattern towards the word of God, Pastors, and the Church, God and the whole concept of Christianity and her basic beliefs.**
- g. Troubles of life**
- h. Hardship**
- i. Persecution**
- j. Famine**
- k. Nakedness (inability to clothe oneself properly)**
- l. Danger**
- m. Sword**

Someone’s death that is close to you can cause a serious shaking making you angry with God for taking the person’s life. The devil makes many to think of God as the one who killed the fellow that died. Jesus said the devil is the one who kills and destroys. Never see the Lord as the killer, for the devil is. Never quarrel with God for permitting it. Do not allow the rumor or threat of death to scare you from the work you are doing for the Lord. Keep your zeal for God no matter what.

“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 8:31-39 NIV)

HOW TO REMAIN ON FIRE DESPITE THE ATTACKS ON YOUR FAITH AND ZEAL

- 1. Make up your mind to remain on fire for Jesus.**
- 2. Resist the devil by refusing to entertain any negative thought capable of quenching your zeal.**

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7 NIV)

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.” (Prov 23:7 KJV)

Resisting the devil starts in the mind. If you lose in your mind to the devil, you will definitely lose in the physical realm. Close your mind to all that are evil in the sight of God and you will always win.

3. When you notice, you are getting weak, take a day or more of fasting and prayers for yourself. During this period you are to study the word of God and pray for revival in your life (Lk.5:16).

“And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.” (Luke 5:16 KJV)

4. Determine to maintain a steady, daily prayer life and Bible study.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17 KJV)

5. Read Christian books, and listen to audio and video teaching tapes.

6. Be regular in church services and activities

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Heb 10:25 KJV)

7. Preach the gospel at every opportunity God gives you.