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## Heart and Soul ... A Weekly Meditation

July 13, 2014

Enthusiasm for God

*“Don’t hesitate to be enthusiastic – be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord!”*  
Romans 12:11 (Common English Bible)

We are to be spiritually passionate. The Apostle Paul calls us to cultivate an enthusiasm of faith that pervades and possesses the entire life. Not a partial enthusiasm – an enthusiasm that occupies one room of our life but not another. Moving from one room of our homes to another and experiencing a startling change of temperature is unacceptable. A variation of temperature from one room to another indicates a malfunction of the central air system. Similarly, an experience of enthusiasm of faith here but not there indicates a break in our communion with God. Comfort in our homes requires a uniform temperature. Vitality of faith demands a devotion which fills the entire life.

Such enthusiasm develops from an intimate companionship with God. This is companionship that is kindled and burns in regular meditation on God’s Word; in the contemplation of God’s active presence in our lives. It is an enthusiasm that blesses and transforms even the most common of daily routines and encounters. This is an enthusiasm of faith that produces in our lives a most radiant home of our God. Such communion with God imparts a sacred glow and vigor to every aspect of character and conduct. It is then that our lives provide an incredible witness to our Lord even before words are formed and spoken.

It has been suggested that no virtue is safe until it becomes fueled by uncommon enthusiasm. Passionate faith, an enthusiastic experience of God in each day of life carries immunity from the forces that would extinguish it. Evil intruders and dark powers find easy prey in the lukewarm. Enthusiasm does experience struggle on the occasion. Yet, only when the fires of faith have been permitted to become dim does enthusiasm experience defeat.

When we humbly but persistently seek the intimacy of God as revealed in the Bible, it is inevitable that we shall receive a baptism of enthusiasm and joy. And when that enthusiasm is nurtured in the communion of devout prayer we shall be seized in the mighty forces of the eternal God. We are inextricably possessed by God. More, we will once again discover that we love because God first loved us.

*Lord, throughout this day You remain near to me. Open my heart and mind to perceive Your presence and stir within me such a power of enthusiasm for You that no difficulty, no challenge may defeat me. In Christ Name I ask. Amen.*

Doug Hood