

## Heated Up And Boiling Over

By: Dan Jenkins

The words of Paul so vividly describe heaven's view of how we should respond after we have given our lives to God. He talks about the fact that Christ "...gave Himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous of good works" (**Tit. 2:14**). We are special to Him, and our response is that we should work for it with zeal.

The Greek word for zeal is used to describe water that is being heated and then reaches the point where it begins boiling vigorously. It might have at one time been cold, then it became lukewarm but the end result is so obvious to all. It has been heated up but now it is boiling over. Paul uses this word to describe his devotion to Judaism and then repeatedly used it to describe his service to God.

There is no story in the Bible which shows the application of this message better than the events which happened early in the public life of Jesus. At His first miracle performed in the wedding in Cana He said to His mother, "My hour has not yet come" (**John 2:4**), but because of her insistence He began displaying His power. Shortly thereafter He was in Jerusalem where He manifested exactly who He was and why He came. He had obviously come to do what His Father wanted.

Before He came into the world, He knew that He was to be given the body of a man, and He knew how He should use that body in serving God. He said, "A body You have prepared for Me...behold I come to do your will" (**Heb. 2:5-**

**9**). Jesus was in Jerusalem and look at how fervently He used His body.

He came into the temple and saw what was happening. He looked around Him and saw the oxen, sheep, doves and the tables of the money changers. What followed had to startle those who saw it. Jesus took a whip and drove those thieves who had turned a house of prayer into a den of thieves. His own disciples did not understand what He was doing and why He was doing it. It was only later that they remember that prophecy about Jesus, "The zeal for Your house has eaten me up" (**John 2:14-17**). He was consumed by what He saw. His "spiritual temperature" began to rise, and it then boiled over, leaving behind empty "stores" and overturned tables.

Now as you look at Him who has left us the example we should follow, look at yourself. What is your "spiritual temperature" of service? As you use the body God has prepared for you, what is your level of devotion? Think about Jesus and how He responded. I am not advocating turning over tables, but I urge you to let your devotion become more and more fervent as you become like Him. What is your "temperature"?

# Never Be Lacking In Zeal

By: Selected

*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*  
– Romans 12:11 [NIV].

From the front of the auditorium if you slowly pan across the room and look at the faces of those who will soon be worshipping God together, there is a passion in the expressions of believers who are grateful to be here. No words are necessary. You can see it in their eyes. There is a brightness about them.

The Bible calls it zeal; that ardent desire to achieve the favor of God. The anticipation that our unified worship is going to accomplish goodness beyond what a band of common people could do on their own. We are told to “never be lacking in zeal.” Zeal should go with us everywhere, all the time.

Romans 12:11 says you are to have this quality and to never be without it. Then it says next to “keep your spiritual fervor.” *Spoudē* is the Greek word which is taken from the word for “speed.” It implies discontent with the lack of motion. Spiritual fervor

says, “Let’s go. Let’s get things moving. Let’s serve the Lord.”

If your heart is prepared for worship today, that is exactly how you feel right now. You want to see God honored. Your heart is anxious to sing to Him, to give to Him, to pray to Him.

I don’t see any age restriction in Romans 12:11. Do you? It doesn’t matter how young you are or how old you are. You should be charged right now with zeal, with spiritual fervor. And that fevered pitch should be with you through every inch of today’s worship service and stay with you right out the door until it comes back with you for our next service to be recharged.

Never! Never! Never be lacking in zeal. Perhaps there is someone near you right now who appears to be lacking zeal. Maybe you can help. Would you mind going and sharing some of your spiritual fervor with them?

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## Satan’s Big Three

By: Selected

As you read Luke’s version of the temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13), you’ll see that Satan tempted the Lord in three ways. Every conceivable sin can have its roots within these three earthly enticements. In 1 John 2:15-16, we have our own warning to resist the same temptations faced by Jesus. Note the following comparison:

### The Lust of the Flesh

- After many days in the wilderness Jesus was hungry. Satan challenged Him to make the stones bread which would satisfy His physical desire. (Lk. 4:3-4)
- We are to resist loving and seeking to appease the “lust of the flesh” or physical temptations.

### The Lust of the Eyes

- In a moment of time, Satan showed Jesus all the world’s kingdoms and offered their control to Him. All He had to do was worship before Satan.
- It has been said that the eyes are windows to the

soul. With them we can see all manner of things which peak our desires and pollute our thoughts. “Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.”

### The Pride of Life

- Satan challenged Jesus to jump from a high place to show off the heavenly protection afforded Him and not be harmed. Pride could have caused Jesus to show just how powerful He was, but He resisted.
- Pride is the opposite of humility, which God desires from His people. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.

Jesus resisted all of the temptation that we could ever face. Thus, the Hebrew writer says, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

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Upcoming Events

Sun. May 7: Family and Friends Day. We will have a potluck luncheon after the morning service with a 1:00 pm afternoon service. Please bring a dish/dessert to share.

Sun. May 14: Youth Devo after evening worship services. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ashley Price who is recovering from knee surgery.

Phillip and Nicolette Garcia and Family—on the passing of Phillip’s grandfather, Juan Garcia.

Patty Benitez, sister in law of Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil. Patty had a heart attack last week.

Alan and Virginia McDaniel, their son John passed away recently. He is a friend of Virginia Escojido.

Hank Copeland, cousin of Candice Starling.

Family of Marty Trujillo. Marty recently passed away.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Evangelism Table

Another important item on our evangelism table is the *Evangelism Simplified* workbook by Rob Whitacre. This workbook includes important principles of evangelism, charts and illustrations, and advice on how to practically set up the evangelism method. It also includes many informative and encouraging articles. The charts and illustrations are designed to be used as visual aids as you work through the *Back to the Bible* and *Believe the Bible* studies.

Service Roster

Week of April 23, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ken Dorries  
Song Leader .....Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobs  
Closing Prayer.....Mike Atkinson

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Bryant Siegel  
Cup..... Dan Fielder  
Offering..... Clifton Rutherford  
Assist..... Blake Jacobs  
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs  
Assist..... Jack Jobs

Sunday Evening

Song Leader ..... Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Ron White  
Closing Prayer..... Doug Jobs

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Clifton Rutherford/  
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class ..... Brandon Starling  
Song Leader .....Rick Bass  
Devotional ..... Ken Dorries

Other

Prepare Communion.....Dolan

Congregational News

Birthdays

Jack Fielder.....May 4  
Allen Clifton.....May 4

Anniversaries

Clifton & Jackie Rutherford.....May 1  
Steve & Letty Randle.....May 5

Food Helpers for the month of Apr. - Team B.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

## Weekly Reading

“To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, I  
trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my  
enemies triumph over me.”  
Psalm 25:1-2

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of April 16, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....72  
A.M. Worship.....99  
P.M. Worship.....71  
Wednesday Bible Class.....60

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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