

# Conformed to the Image of Christ:

## Christ's Zeal

- **“For zeal for Your house has consumed me,** And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.” (Psalms 69:9)
- And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; <sup>16</sup> and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, **“ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.”** (John 2:15-17)

# I) What is “Zeal”?

- **Definition:** “Zeal is a form of power, motivating force, and a measure of energy with which a person does something. It is defined as eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of something, fervor.” **A synonym for zeal is passion.**
- **In Hebrew, QINAH** means ardor, zeal, jealousy, anger, envy, passion, and rivalry.
- **In Greek, ZELOS from ZEO** means primarily boil or hot, but also zeal, jealousy, fury, fervent mind, or ardor (eagerness).
- Others define it as eager rivalry, contentious rivalry, zealous imitation, emulation, a noble passion, fervor in spirit, defending anything or any person.

## II) God's Zeal!

- There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.** (Isaiah 9:7) Ref: (Isa. 9:6) "For a child will be born..."
- "He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing **And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.**" (Isaiah 59:17)

### III) Christ's zeal! (John 2:13-22)

- ☐ **Zeal to purify the Father's House for true worship!**
- ☐ **Zeal for all Nations to worship in His House!**
- ☐ **Zeal to make a way for all to worship!**
- ☐ **Zeal to defend God's honor and Name!**
- ☐ **Zeal to give His life as a ransom for many!**

## IV) Those with Christ's Zeal!

- **David!** “**My zeal has consumed me**, because my adversaries have forgotten Your words.” (Psalm 119:139)
- **Caleb!** Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years,... **I am eighty-five years old today... as my strength was then, so my strength is now...** Now then, **give me this hill country** about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps **the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken.**” (Joshua 14:10-12) **Ref:** “But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.” (Numbers 14:24)

- **Esther!** “Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup> “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; **and if I perish, I perish.**” (Esther 4:15-16)
  
- **Early church believers!** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42) Ref: (Acts 2:41-47)
  
- **Paul!** “But **I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry** which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.**” (Acts 20:24)
  
- **Apollo!** mighty in scripture, spoke boldly, refuted vigorously. (Acts 18:24-28)
  
- **Men of old who gained approval in Hebrews 11!** Abel, Enoch, Noah,

## V) Those without Christ's Zeal!

- **King Asa!** “For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support **those whose heart is completely His**. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)
- **Ananias and Sapphira!** “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” (Acts 5:4)
- **Demas!** “for Demas, **having loved this present world**, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.” (2 Timothy 4:10)

## VI) What can hinder the fire of Christ's Zeal?

- **Impure, Natural Zeal!** “When I kept silent about my sin, **my body wasted away** through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; **My vitality was drained away** as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.” (Psalm 32:3-4)
- **Mixed Zeal!** “You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, or all the produce of the seed which you have sown and the increase of the vineyard will become defiled. You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. **You shall not wear a material mixed of wool and linen together.**” (Deuteronomy 22:9-11)



- **Wrong Zeal!** “For I testify about them **that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.** <sup>3</sup> For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.” (Romans 10:2-3) Ex: **Saul of Tarsus!** “as to zeal, **a persecutor of the church;**” An example of zeal not according to knowledge. (Philippians 3:6)
- **Loveless Zeal!** “If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but do not have love, I am nothing.** <sup>3</sup> And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2-3)

## VI) What can kindle your Zeal?

- **Study the Bible with Jesus!** “They said to one another, “**Were not our hearts burning within us** while He was speaking to us on the road, **while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?**” (Luke 24:32)
- **Staying close and walking “with Him!”** “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and **began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.**” (Acts 4:13)
- **Praying, hoping, and waiting on God for the power of the Spirit!** “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city **until you are clothed with power from on high.**” (Luke 24:44-49) “And **when they had prayed**, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

- **Passing the test of following Christ and paying the cost of discipleship!** “As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, **but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**” <sup>59</sup> And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> But He said to him, **“Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”** <sup>61</sup> Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” <sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, **“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”** (Luke 9:57-62)
- **Rejoicing in my eternal hope and Life in Christ!** “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.**” (Luke 10:20)



- **Cleansing your hands and purifying your hearts of double mindedness!** “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8)
  
- **Remaining in Christ (to be pruned) and His love (obeying His commands)!**
  - **“Every branch in Me** that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, **He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.**” (John 15:2)
  - **“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”** (John 15:9-10)
  - Jesus \*said to them, **“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”** (John 4:34)