

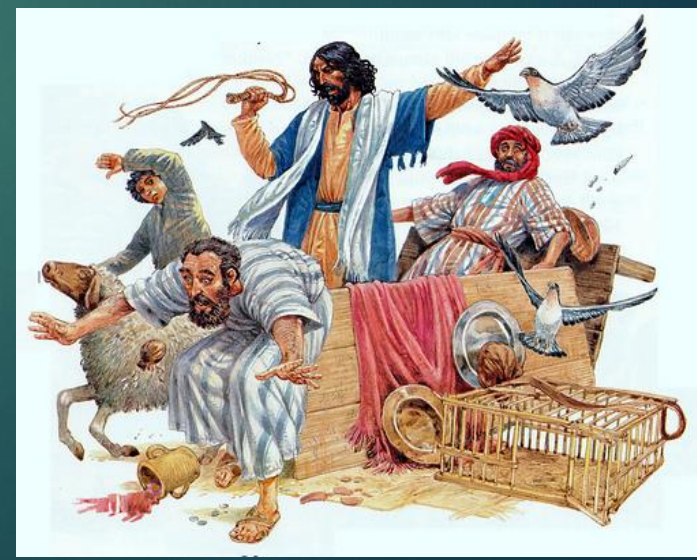
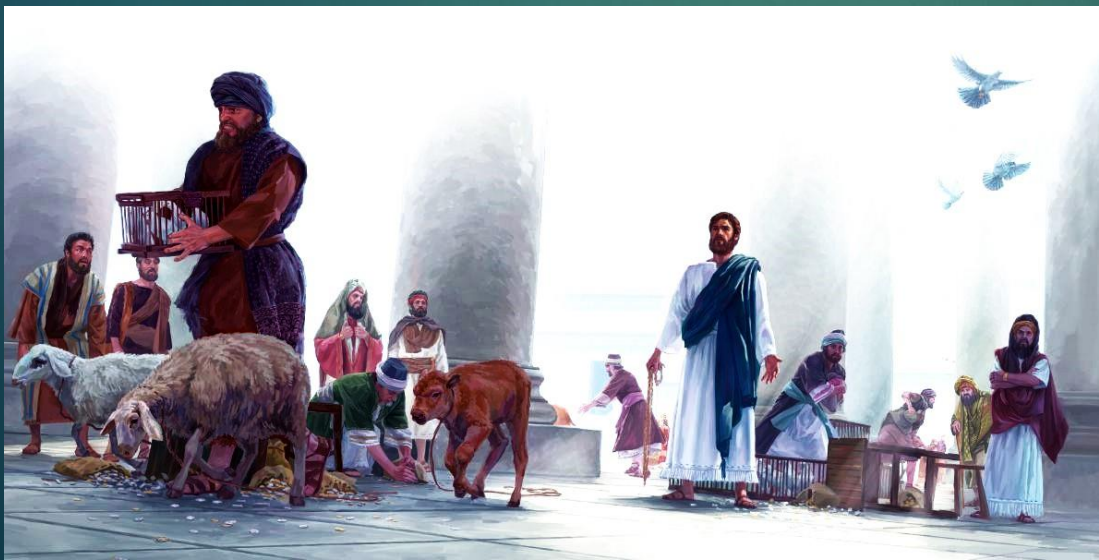


**ZEAL**

**OF THE LORD**

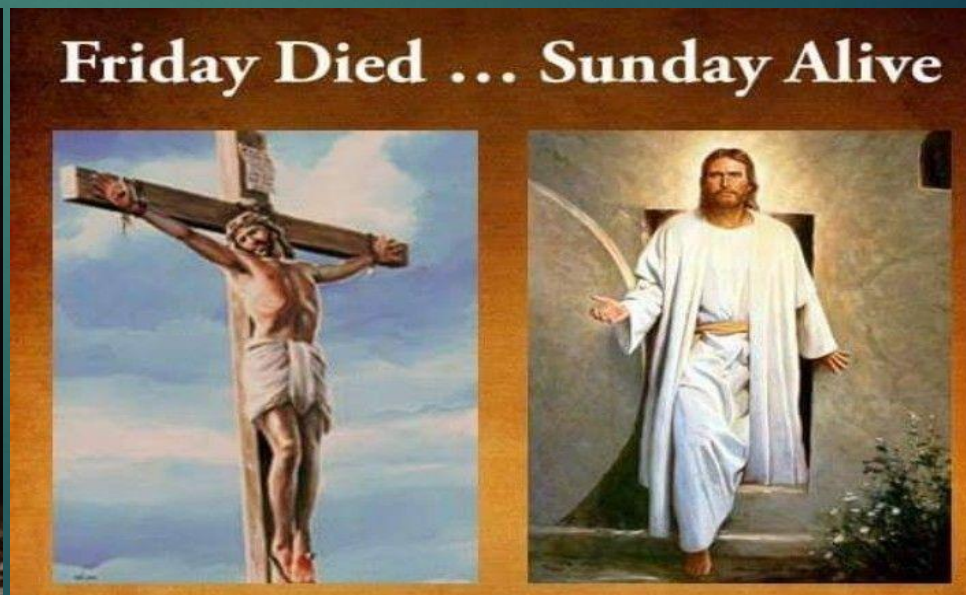
# 1. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD

▶ **John 2:13–16** <sup>13</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. <sup>15</sup> When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. <sup>16</sup> And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"



# 1. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD

▶ **John 2:17-21** <sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that *it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."*<sup>18</sup> So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."<sup>20</sup> Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"<sup>21</sup> But He was speaking of the temple of His body (NKJV)



▶ **THOSE DOING BUSINESS IN THE OUTER COURTS** of the temple spoiled the only place where Gentiles could come and worship. This area (the court of the Gentiles) was made into a **HOUSE OF MERCHANDISE. JESUS DROVE THEM ALL OUT... POURED OUT THE CHANGERS' MONEY & OVERTURNED TABLES: JESUS FELT GREAT ZEAL FOR THE SANCTITY OF HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.** Jesus carefully took the time to make **A WHIP OF CORDS**, and thought carefully about what He would do. Jesus used the **whip of cords** only upon the animals. The Passover celebration meant removing every speck of anything leavened (made with yeast) from the home was a symbol, a picture, of cleansing from sin.

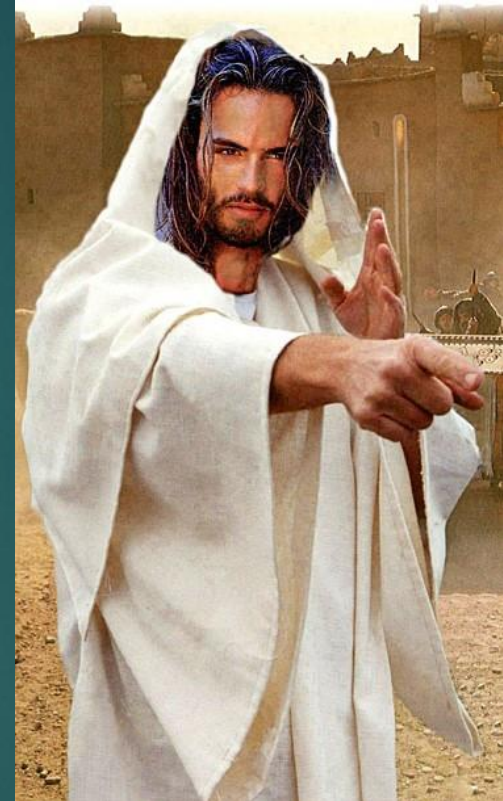


▶ **John 2:17** <sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”

▶ The **“ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE”** - means extraordinary concern for the temple of God; intense desire that the worship there should be pure.

▶ **“HAS EATEN ME UP”** - Has absorbed me, or engaged my entire attention and affection; has surpassed all other feelings, so that it may be said to be the one great absorbing affection and desire of the mind.

▶ **APPLICATION: THE PREACHING OF EVERY MINISTER** should be such that wicked men will feel that they must either become Christians or leave the house of God, or spend their lives there in the guilt and the fear of hell.

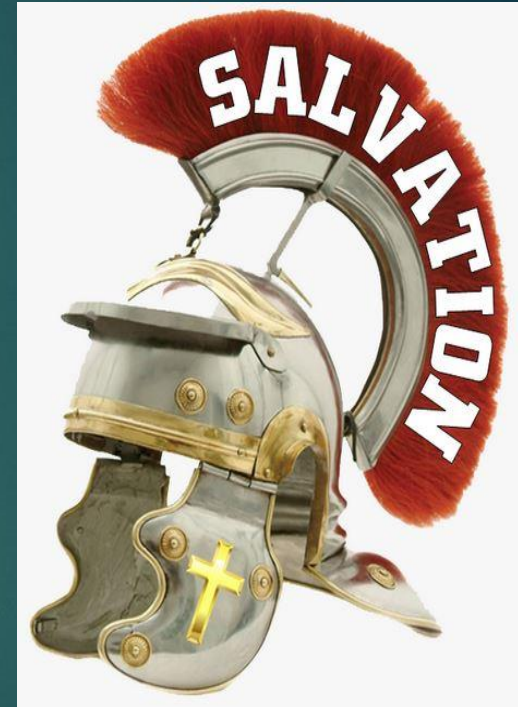


# 1. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD

- ▶ THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S ZEAL WAS FOCUSED ON THE HOUSE OF GOD.

**Isaiah 59:17** *For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. (NKJV)* **THE ZEAL OF**

**JESUS** is for the Salvation of the House of God (the people who form the House). On His head He sets the helmet of salvation: for the ultimate object for which He goes into the conflict is the redemption of the oppressed, salvation as the fruit of the victory gained by righteousness.



## 2. WHAT IS ZEAL?

▶ (1) THE WORD ZEAL MEANS “TO BURN WITH STRONG FEELINGS.”

Zeal is hot, not lukewarm. It means to be passionate with a cause. It is a motivating force and is warlike.

▶ Zeal could also be called passion, enthusiasm or fervency. The anointing of God produces zeal not lukewarm-ness.

▶ **Galatians 4:18** <sup>18</sup> *But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. – Zeal to do good not to do evil.*

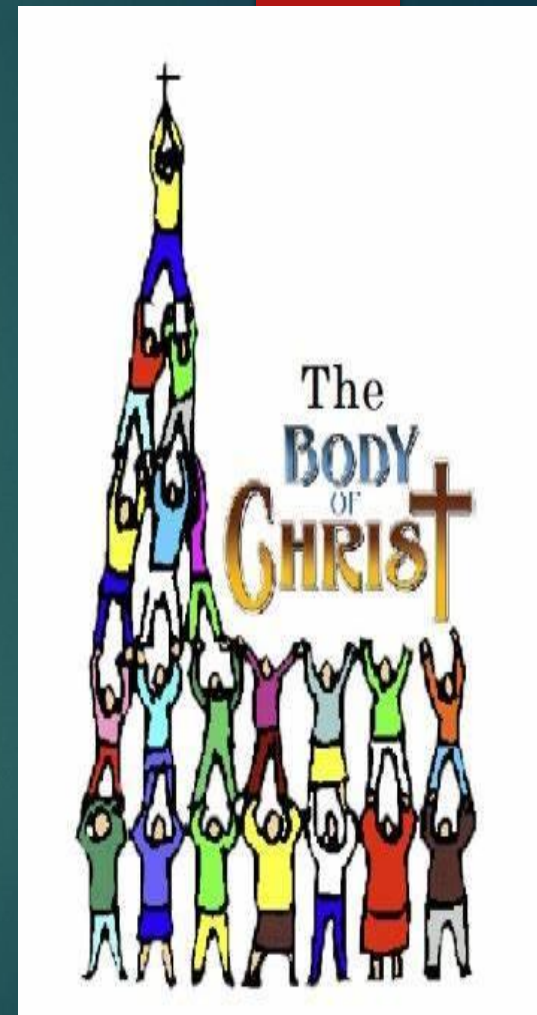


▶ **(2) SIX CHARACTERISTIC OF ZEAL OF THE LORD FOR GOD'S SPIRITUAL HOUSE (LIVING STONES): A ZEAL (i) OF LOVING GOD'S HOUSE - *Psa. 132:13-14.***

*For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place, 14" This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it. (ii) GOING TO GOD'S*

*HOUSE – Psa. 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" (iii) IN BUILDING GOD'S PEOPLE –*

*Psa. 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. HERE THE HOUSE REFERS TO PEOPLE not the building. Unless God is in our lives we live in vain like broken bricks in a broken house.*





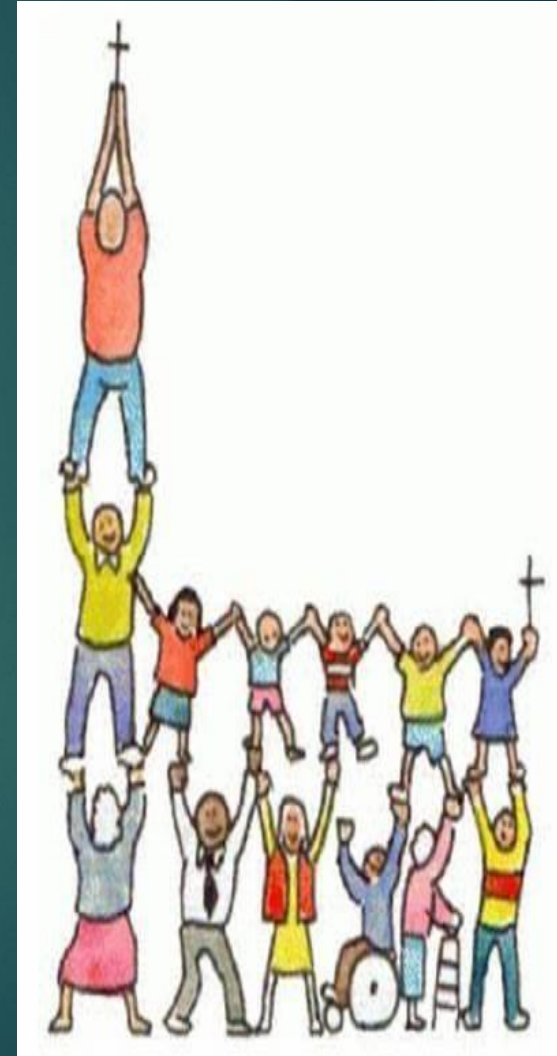
▶ **SIX CHARACTERISTIC OF ZEAL OF THE LORD FOR GOD'S SPIRITUAL HOUSE**

**(LIVING STONES): A ZEAL (iv) IN FINDING SATISFACTION IN GOD'S**

**HOUSE. – Psa.36:8** *They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.;* **(v) IN BEING**

**PLANTED AND ROOTED IN GOD'S HOUSE. – Psa. 92:12-14** *The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,*

*15 to declare that the Lord is upright;*



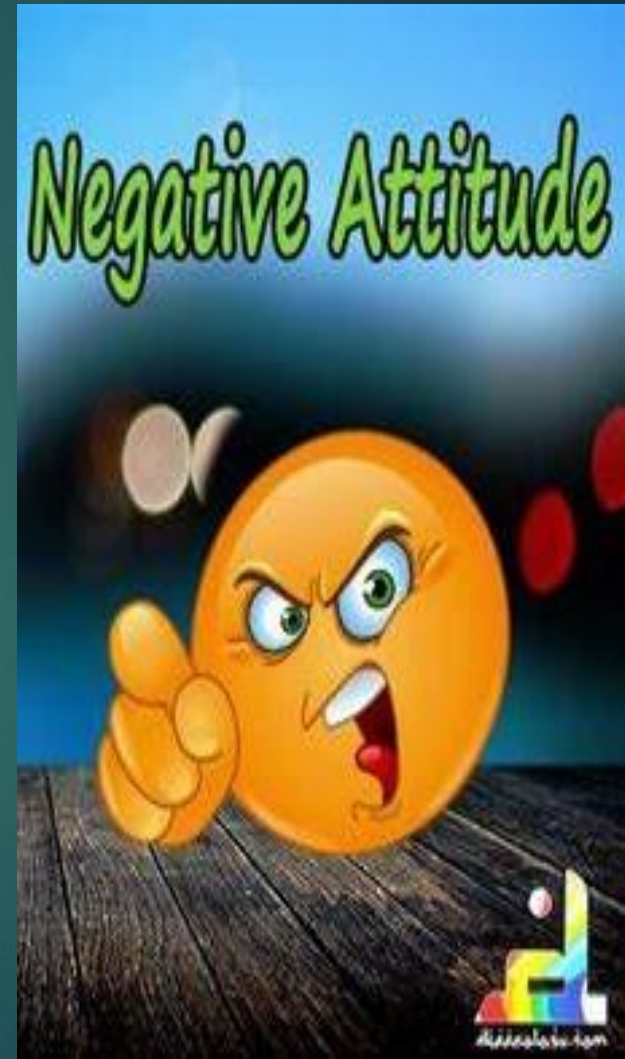
- ▶ **SIX CHARACTERISTIC OF ZEAL OF THE LORD FOR GOD'S SPIRITUAL HOUSE (LIVING STONES): A ZEAL (vi) IN KEEPING UNITY IN THE HOUSE OF GOD – *Psa. 133:1-3*** *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.*



### 3. WHAT KILLS ZEAL?

▶ THE ZEAL OF THE LORD SHOWS IN THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE SERVANT OF GOD MINISTERING IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. ANY STRONG HOLD COULD STOP THE FLOW OF ZEAL & SHOULD BE TORN DOWN. EXAMPLE:

- (1) Complacency, carnality and cooling off spiritually
- (2) Negative thinking and speaking.
- (3) Self-imposed isolation.
- (4) Independent spirit and lack of commitment to the church of Jesus Christ.
- (5) Refusal to sacrifice –even from fear – obstructs the anointing of God and His zeal.



## 4. WHAT DOES GOD WANT OF CHRISTIANS?

### ▶ GOD WANTS CHRISTIANS TO BE:

#### (1) FERVENT IN SPIRIT *Romans*

**12:11**<sup>11</sup> *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.)* and Apollos was fervent in spirit **Acts 18:25**

<sup>25</sup> *He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately. (2)*

#### ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS **Titus 2:14**

*Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*



### ▶ (3) BE ZEALOUS & NOT LUKEWARM

**Revelation 3:15** <sup>15</sup> “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.(NKJV) **THE LAODICEAN CHURCH WAS LUKEWARM**, smug, and self-satisfied. It boasted about its wealth and need of nothing. But the church deceived itself. In terms of its spiritual condition, it was wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Jesus urged the church to turn to Him. Lukewarm-ness is a direct opposite of zeal of the Lord.



### ▶ (3) BE ZEALOUS & NOT LUKEWARM

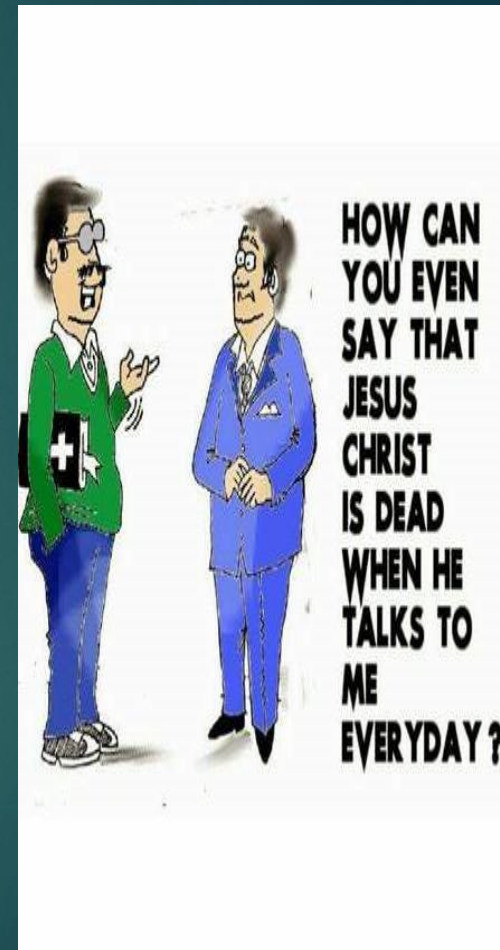
**Revelation 3:19, 21-22**<sup>19</sup> *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.* <sup>21</sup> *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.* <sup>22</sup> *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* (NKJV)

▶ **THE LAODICEANS** needed to turn from their lethargy and restore their relationship with God. In spite of their wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked condition, Jesus still loves them. He explains that He rebukes and disciplines those whom He loves. **JESUS IS KNOCKING THE DOOR OF THEIR & OUR HEARTS DAILY.**



## 5. HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR SPIRITUAL PASSION?

- ▶ (1) EVALUATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. (i) WHAT AM I MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT? (ii) HOW WILL PEOPLE REMEMBER ME? (iii) AM I SATISFIED WITH MY PASSION FOR GOD RIGHT NOW? (a) **YOUR PURPOSE:** the reason for which something is done or created as one's intention or objective. (b) **YOUR PASSION:** Passion is an emotion to be acted upon. Without action, passion yields no worthwhile results. Passion is the fuel in the fire of action. When you have passion for something, you love it even when you hate it.



## 5. HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR SPIRITUAL PASSION?

**(2) AS YOU OFFER YOUR WORSHIP LOOK ABOVE NOT AROUND. GOD AUTHORIZES 5 ITEMS OF WORSHIP: IN ALL FIVE, GOD IS THE AUDIENCE. FOCUS ON GOD & NOT ON MAN.**

**(i) SINGING IS THE FIRST FORM OF WORSHIP:**

**1 Corinthians 14:15**<sup>15</sup> *I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.*

**PRACTICE SINGING IN THE SPIRIT - “HARP & BOWL”** where we sing & play musical instruments combine with singing in the Spirit which will rise to God as incense.





## 5. HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR SPIRITUAL PASSION?

- ▶ (ii) PRAYING IS THE SECOND FORM OF WORSHIP. **FOCUS UPON GOD & DON'T TRY TO IMPRESS MAN.** Oswald Chambers said: “PRAYER IS THE VITAL BREATH OF THE CHRISTIAN; not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that he is alive.” Three things are necessary to have **A FIRE: fuel, oxygen, & a spark.** **THE BIBLE** is our fuel; **A DECISION** is our spark (Joshua 24:15); **PRAYER** is our like our oxygen. **JESUS (a)** arose a great while before daybreak to pray (Mark 1:35). **(b)** prayed all night (Luke 6:12). **(c)** taught that “men ought always to pray” (Luke 18:1).



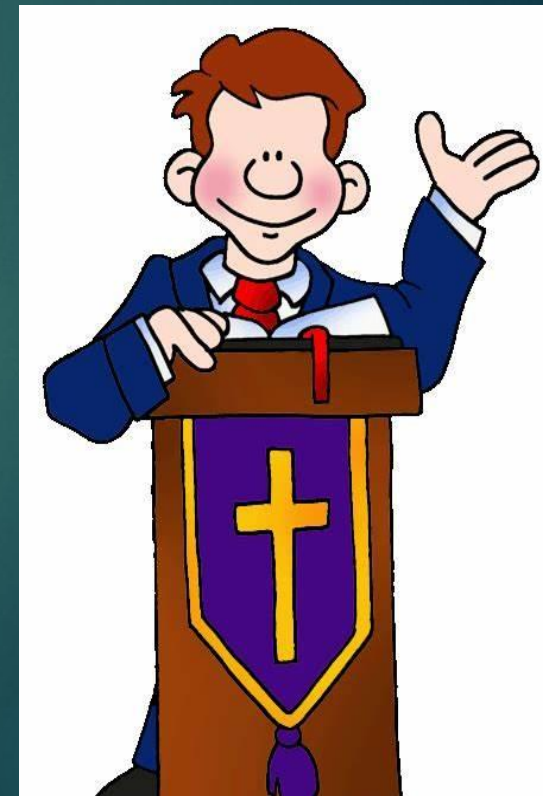
## 5. HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR SPIRITUAL PASSION?

▶ (iii) **SPEAKING, LISTENING & OBEYING GOD'S WORD, IS THE THIRD FORM OF WORSHIP. (a) STUDY THE WORD DILIGENTLY. FOCUS UPON GOD. Acts**

**17:11** *Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

**(b) LISTEN TO POWERFUL SERMONS.**

**Luke 11:28** *But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."*



▶ **(c) STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD: 2**

**Timothy 1:6** <sup>6</sup> *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God.*

**STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD** not for yourself but for others. Peter thought it necessary as long as he lived to keep stirring up other Christians' minds by reminding them of what they believed.

**2 Peter 3:1-2** *I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. <sup>2</sup> I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.*



## 5. HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR SPIRITUAL PASSION

▶ (iv) **LORD'S SUPPER THE FOURTH FORM OF WORSHIP: TREAT THE HOLY COMMUNION WITH RESPECT. 1**

**Corinthians 11:27** *whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. <sup>29</sup> For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.* **REPENT OF OUR SINS**

**BEFORE YOU PARTAKE OF THE HOLY COMMUNION. BE RESPECTFUL OF THE EMBLEMS OF THE BODY & BLOOD OF JESUS.**

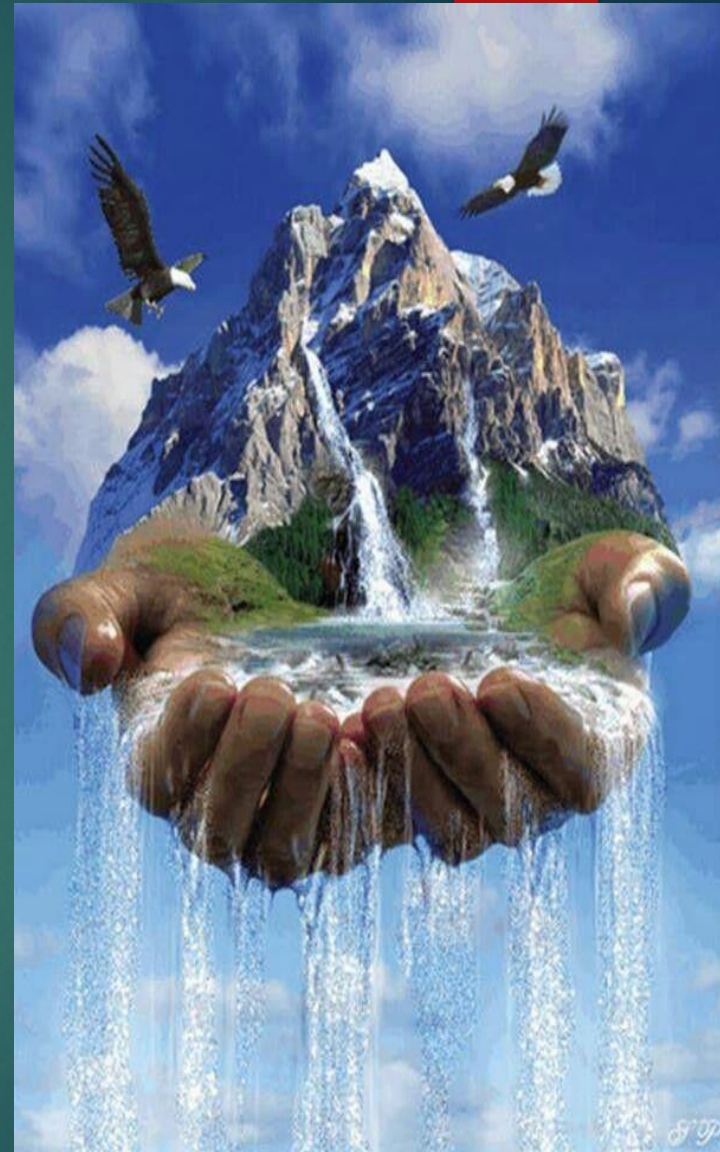


## 5. HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR SPIRITUAL PASSION

▶ (v) **GIVING IS THE FIFTH FORM OF WORSHIP.** IT IS THE ONLY OCCASION WHEN GOD INVITES US TO TEST HIM: **Malachi 3:10-11** *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty.*



▶ **(v) GIVING IS THE FIFTH FORM OF WORSHIP.** EVERYTHING WE HAVE, BELONGS TO GOD. OUR LIVES ARE IN HIS HAND. Yet God does not normally command us to give everything that belongs to Him; He allows us to keep some as managers on His behalf. But the **TITHES AND OFFERINGS** are different; they are not given to us to manage – **THEY BELONG TO WHAT THE LORD CALLS MY HOUSE, THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. GIVE & SEE HOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE TO OPEN THE FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN & BLESS YOU.**



# ▶ **CONCLUSION: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR GOD RIGHT NOW?**

▶ **IT'S TIME WE GET UP** and go to work for the Lord. He's given us motivation. He died for us. He has placed us in the kingdom for a purpose. Why not discover that purpose in your life today?

▶ On June 6, 1995, a man had a terrible crash on a motorcycle. It almost cost him his life. When he was ready to leave the hospital, the doctor told him something that he will never forget. The doctor said *"Most people die from this kind of injuries. You didn't die. I suggest you go out and find what it is that God has planned for you."* **YOU ARE ALIVE TODAY. WHAT HAS GOD PLANNED FOR YOU? SEEK IT WITH ZEAL.**



# PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL PASSION



- ▶ **Heavenly Father, remove my heart of stone and give me a new heart and a new spirit (Ezekiel 36:26), one that burns with the passion to seek you and do your will. Lord, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**
- ▶ **Lord I know that You alone can restore my passion. Let your Word be fire in my bones. In Jesus Name, Amen.**



# BENEDICTION

- ▶ THE LORD BLESS YOU  
AND YOUR FAMILY  
AND KEEP ALL OF YOU  
BLAMELESS FOR HIS  
SOON COMING.