

Taking It Home:

- Did this message help you, challenge you, or confuse you?

- Would others who know you best say that you are zealous in your spirit? What is holding you back from being zealous for the Lord?

- The word “zeal” is the Greek word, *zeo*, which means “to boil.” Its usage in Romans 12:11 means “to boil in the Holy Spirit.” The idea here is not of being overheated to the point of boiling over and out of control but, like a steam engine, of having sufficient heat to produce energy necessary to get the job done. Do you have sufficient spiritual energy for the Gospel of Christ, or do you place little energy on serving God?

- Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Are your spiritual gifts being used to serve the Lord through the Body of Christ, the Church? If you do not know what your spiritual gifts are, go online and find a spiritual gifts test you can take to find out your unique gifting by the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Kent Hannestad
Bethel Church
March 18, 2012

The Zeal Deal
Romans 12:11

The Zeal Deal

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelhc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 18, 2012

Romans 12:11

Quick Review: Whatever is worth doing in the Christian life is valuable enough to be done with enthusiasm and care. The whole truth of Paul's teaching in Romans is to behave like a Christian, *Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good,*" (Romans 12:9). Part of daily Christian behavior is serving God and living an obedient life filled with zeal and fervency.

My Story:

- It seems everyone knows somebody who has a personality that is passionate, joyful and enthusiastic. What are some of the godly characteristics you see in the person you know who is outgoing, passionate, joyful and enthusiastic even in times of difficulty? Describe some of those characteristics.
- The word "diligence" is an action word. Look up the word "diligence" in a Bible commentary or concordance. What does it mean for someone to be "diligent?" What would people say about you; do they see you as being diligent? Why? Why not?
- Make a list of the characteristics you feel should describe a genuine Christian?

Growing Deeper:

- Look up the word "zeal" or the word "fervent" in a Bible dictionary or concordance (depending on your Bible translation) and discover what the word means. Understanding the context of Romans 12:11 requires looking back a few passages and interpreting Romans 12:9-11. What exactly is the apostle Paul asking the believers in Rome to be fervent or "zealous" for and why?
- **READ Romans 12:11 and interpret the 3 clear disciplines of Paul's instructions. Diligence** means taking action; **Fervent (Zeal)** is an attitude; and **servicing** has to do with perspective and priority. What does the apostle Paul want believers to **earnestly** (with diligence) do according to 12:10-11a? What does the apostle Paul want believers to have "zeal" for? According to the apostle Paul in Romans 12:11, how is a person supposed to **serve** the Lord (**READ Romans 12:4-8 and interpret**)? What spiritual gifts does Paul mention in Romans 12:4-8?
- According to the apostle Paul, should a believer serve the Lord in his/her own power? (Cf. Phil. 4:13) **READ 1 Cor. 12:1-11; Col. 1:29; 1 Peter 4:10-11 and interpret.** What are the clear instructions about believers using their spiritual gifts to serve the Lord?
- Paul instructed the Christians in Rome to serve the Lord Jesus Christ with "Zeal." What should be the daily priority of all believers when it comes to serving the Lord? **READ and interpret Colossians 3:17; 23-24.**
- Make a list of the clear instructions Paul gives to ALL believers in **Romans 12:9-13** on how to conduct their daily behavior living like genuine Christ followers; i.e., (1) *Christians should love others without hypocrisy.* Introspection: How are you personally doing living out these biblical instructions? Which of these instructions do you need more work in improving?