



# Rekindling the Fires of Our Zeal

Numbers 13:26 – 14:10

# Rekindling the Fires of Our Zeal

- Quite often, the difference between brethren who do and brethren who simply talk about doing is zeal.
- “One person with a divine purpose, passion and power is better than 99 people who are merely interested. Passion is stronger than interest.”  
(Israelmore Ayivor)
- Why does it seem that the majority has lost their zeal? What rekindles zeal for God?

# Remember That God Is With Us

- Num. 13:28-33 - “Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan. 30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it. 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

# Remember That God Is With Us

- Remember the unstoppable power of God's word
  - Rom. 1:16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
  - Jer. 23:29 - "Is not My word like a fire? says the LORD, And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

# Remember That God Is With Us

- Remember the unstoppable power of God's word
  - Heb. 4:12-13 - "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

# Remember That God Is With Us

- Remember that the King is with his subjects
  - Matt. 28:20 - “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
  - Heb. 13:5 - “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

# Remember To Revere God

- Num. 14:1-3 - “So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”
- Israel forgot that what God did to Egypt, He could do to them or the Canaanites, depending on who they feared the most

# Remember To Revere God

- Who has earned our reverence?
  - Luke 12:4-5 - “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”

# Remember To Revere God

- Ecc. 12:13-14 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”
- 2Cor. 5:10-11 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men”

# Remember God's Blessings

- Num. 14:4 - "So they said to one another, Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."
- Israel had forgotten how much and how often God blessed them.
- What would help us to remember and rekindle our zeal?

# Remember God's Blessings

- The zeal of the Lord
  - John 2:13-17 - “Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. 15 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. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise! 17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”

# Remember God's Blessings

- The zeal of gospel preachers
  - Acts 14:14-15, 19 - “But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them”

# Forget Worldly Comforts

- Num. 11:4-6 - “Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!”

# Forget Worldly Comforts

- Sometimes the saved remember:
  - Worldly fun, drinking, dancing, obscene humor, provocative fashions
  - Worldly friends, partying, living without restraints and regrets
  - Sleeping in on Sundays, fewer obligations and sacrifices, more spending money
  - Less embarrassment, no set convictions, fitting in with the crowd

# Forget Worldly Comforts

- Sometimes the saved forget:
  - The guilt of sin that all of the distractions of Satan could not divert
  - The dread of aging and the fear of death
  - The discomfort of the awareness of a selfish and pointless existence
  - The fear of facing God in judgment bound by sins

# Forget Worldly Comforts

- 1Cor. 6:9-11 - “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

# Remember The Blessings Of Obedience

- Num. 14:6-9 - “But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.”

# Remember The Blessings Of Obedience

- Those who remember the blessings of obedience rekindle their zeal
  - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

# Remember The Blessings Of Obedience

- 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
- Phil. 3:13-14 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- “A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, and fervent in spirit. He sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed-up in one thing — and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives — or whether he dies; whether he has health — or whether he has sickness; whether he is rich — or whether he is poor; whether he pleases man — or whether he gives offence; whether he is thought wise — or whether he is thought foolish; whether he gets blame — or whether he gets praise; whether he gets honor, or whether he gets shame — for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing — and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning — he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn, and if consumed in burning — he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach, and work, and give money — he will cry, and sigh, and pray. Yes, if he is only a pauper, on a perpetual bed of sickness — he will make the wheels of sin around him drive heavily, by continually interceding against it. If he cannot fight in the valley with Joshua — then he will do the prayer-work of Moses, Aaron, and Hur, on the hill. If he is cut off from working himself — he will give the Lord no rest until help is raised up from another quarter, and the work is done. This is "zeal" in religion.” (J.C. Ryle)