

6.

Do not be slothful in zeal...

Romans 12:11a

Building a great church requires people of great commitment and zeal. For those called to share the burden of local church leadership, there will be plenty of occasions when it will be tempting to give up because you feel as if no one else cares like you do. It is times like these when leaders must lead with *zeal* - despite their feelings, despite their discouragements, and despite their lack of help. Leaders who do this will soon discover that their zeal is highly contagious!

1. Note what Romans 12:8 says about how leaders are to lead. Why would Paul instruct leaders to do this?
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2. Based on John 2:17, how zealous was Christ for God's House and what did it lead Him to do?
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Zeal is demonstrated *passion* and *enthusiasm*. The opposite to zeal is *neglect*. Christ-followers should be the most zealous people on the planet when it comes to fulfilling the cause of Christ!

3. What are we told indirectly to be zealous for in Hebrews 10:25?
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In the book MADNESS, by Jossy Chacko, he tells of being a lukewarm minister. He was invited to Northern India. Jossy told them, if you can show me people who have never heard of Jesus then I'll come over. The Evangelist assured him he could. So Jossy went. He was taken to a village with an assistant of the Evangelist who asked villagers if they had ever heard of Jesus. They said no. One man listened intently to Jossy describe Jesus as The Son of God and the Saviour of the world. He then pressed Jossy with a question, Are you saying that Jesus is the only Saviour of sins? Jossy

responded, Yes I do! Then the man cried- Then you're 3 months too late!!! Jossy was puzzled. The village man revealed- My father died 3 months ago and no one told him about Jesus! Why didn't someone come here and tell us about Jesus before my father died? The question haunted Jossy...*You're 3 months too late!* Today, Jossy heads an organisation (EMPART, empart.org) which now plants 2 churches a day in Northern India! *Jossy Chacko has zeal for the Lord.*

4. What particular things should Christians especially be zealous about? Discuss.

5. According to Titus 2:14, since coming to be redeemed by Christ, what also should believers be *especially* zealous about?

Zeal adds a certain a *determination* to accomplish something in particular. But zeal must be tempered with wisdom and knowledge (note Romans 10:2).

6. What might Peter have meant in First Peter 3:13

7. If another believer told you that they had lost their zeal and was no longer excited about God, Church, or Christianity, what might you say to them to help them regain their zeal?

8. What are some ways you feed you zeal for Christ and His cause?

Amen.