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Be fervent in spirit...

Romans 12:11b

The Christian life is not meant to be lived in a cold, formal manner. Rather, the Christian life is meant to be lived passionately with a deep desire to be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Those things which enhance our love for God - congregational worship, Bible reading and Bible study, Christian fellowship, prayer - while all duties for the Christian - are not meant to only ever be done out of a sense of duty. These disciplines which deepen our devotion to Christ are meant to be done willingly, gladly, and fervently. The word “fervent” is the Greek word: *zeo* which means to be hot, boiling, earnest.

1. Based on James 5:17, how did Elijah pray that was different to most people?

2. If most Christians obeyed First Corinthians 15:58 what affect might it have?

3. Paul tells the Corinthians (2Corinthians 8:7) that there were certain things they *needed* to excel in. List the things he tells them to excel in and discuss *how* believers could do this.

4. From later on in this passage (2Corinthians 8:22) how do we know that Paul regarded enthusiasm (fervour, zeal, earnestness) as such an important quality for those who served within the church?

Enthusiasm. Don't fake it – faith it!

5. What can happen to others in a church if someone is full of zeal or fervour?
(Note Second Corinthians 9:2)

6. Based on Ephesians 6:7 what motive should we have for our fervency?

Amen.