

MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN – FERVENT IN SPIRIT

Romans 12:11 “be fervent in spirit”

Living in the United States, we are immersed in a culture that loves to eat out, have all the modern conveniences in our homes and for a growing number have professional cleaners clean our homes and landscapers keep our yards beautiful. This culture has crept into the Christian church as well. It is becoming a greater challenge for congregations to successfully recruit ushers, altar guild members, trustees, Elders, treasurers, etc. Members want to be served, not personally engaged in the ministry.

Romans 12:11 says that the Marks of a Christian is he or she will be “fervent in spirit.” Fervent literally means, to boil over. You will note fervent follows “not sloughful” in verse 11. In this verse Paul gives us a powerful picture of what a Christian’s life looks like. Christian faith energizes. Christ in your heart “ferments.” A good illustration is what yeast does to dough. Once active yeast is mixed with dough it produces gases that cause the dough to expand many times its original size and once the dough is baked makes it easier to eat and digest.

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16) Luther translated the Greek word used in verse 11 as “be aglow.” Imagine in your mind what impact you as a Christian can make upon family, friends, neighbors and strangers if you are aglow with Christ in your heart. There is a Christian song that has a phrase, “it only takes a spark to get a fire going.” This is what “fervent in spirit” is all about.

Lucille told her pastor she felt badly that she couldn’t do more in the ministry of her church. The pastor was a bit amazed because he knew that she was always the first to take a meal to a struggling family, sent birthday cards with Christ centered messages to virtually every member of the church and half of the community, personally visited in the homes of elderly to make sure they were safe and well taken care of and helped many in ways that only she and God knew.

Lucille's Christian faith boiled over, fermented, was aglow. God in His grace and mercy has given you the very same faith He gave Lucille. Ask Him to send His Spirit to heat up your faith to boiling and that it overflows into the lives of those around you.

Prayer: Dear Father, You have provided all I need. I pray this day You will use my life to radiate Your love to those around me. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

(Same hymn as yesterday – select one verse and meditate upon it)

Take my life and let it be Consecrated LORD to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my LORD, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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