

**Zeal: Stir the Fire**  
**Dr. John Carmichael**

**[Rom 12:11 NASB95] 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;**

- Revival does not begin with music, crowds, or emotion. It begins when God breathes on embers that were once flames.
- Old Testament (Hebrew) **קִנְיָהּ** (qin'ah) – zeal, jealousy, ardor, passion
  - Used of: God's covenant passion, Human holy fervor, Also misdirected jealousy (important tension)
- New Testament (Greek) **ζῆλος** (zēlos) – zeal, fervor, intense desire; **ζέω** (zeō) – to boil, to burn (used in Romans 12:11)
- Paul does not tell the church in Rome to find zeal; he tells them not to let it cool.
- You don't need new fire. You need stirred fire.
- God still answers hunger. God still responds to yielded hearts. God still baptizes with fire

**What does real Spirit-empowered zeal look like in the life of a believer?**

**Here are five important truths about zeal that every believer needs to know.**

**I. God Is a God of Zeal (Shift: Revelation → Encounter)**

- a. [Isa 9:7 NASB95] 7 There will be no end to the increase of [His] government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.
- b. [Zec 8:2 NASB95] 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.'
- c. [Isa 42:13 NASB95] 13 The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse [His] zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.
- d. God is not indifferent. He is actively, passionately committed to His purposes in this generation.
- e. If God is zealous, then lukewarm Christianity is a contradiction.
- f. Zeal is not something we "work up." It is something we receive as we participate in God's own burning concern for His purposes. Invite hunger, not hype.
- g. Application: Revival starts when people realize God burns with desire for His people.
- h. Ask: What has cooled my expectancy?

**II. Zeal Has Always Marked God's Revival People**

- a. Phinehas – Zeal for Holiness
  - i. [Num 25:6-13 NASB95] 6 Then behold, one of the sons of Israel came and brought to his relatives a Midianite woman, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the doorway of the tent of meeting. 7 When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand, 8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked. 9 Those who died by the plague were 24,000. 10 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 11 "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned away My wrath from the sons of Israel in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I did not destroy the sons of Israel in My jealousy. 12 "Therefore say, 'Behold, I give him

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My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be for him and his descendants after him, a covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the sons of Israel."

- ii. God says Phinehas was "zealous with My zeal" (NKJV)
- iii. This is not violent enthusiasm, but alignment with God's holiness when the covenant was threatened.
- iv. Zeal protects spiritual purity and covenantal boundaries.
- b. Elijah – Fire Must Fall Again - 1 Kings 18; 1 Kings 19
  - i. Elijah saw fire fall, but still needed renewal. Revival fire must be maintained, not just experienced.
  - ii. Yesterday's fire cannot sustain today's obedience
  - iii. Burnout is not solved by rest alone. It is solved by God's presence
  - iv. "Where has the fire dimmed?" "Where have you kept going without burning?"
- c. David – Zeal for God's Presence
  - i. [Psa 69:9 NASB95] 9 For zeal for Your house has consumed me, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.
  - ii. David's zeal was not for success. It was for God's house.
  - iii. Revival restores passion for God's presence not personalities and programs.
  - iv. The fire returns to the altar before it goes to the streets

### **III. Jesus: The Face of Holy Zeal (Shift: Christological Center)**

- a. [Jhn 2:17 NASB95] 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."
- b. Jesus was consumed, not irritated, by zeal for God's dwelling place.
- c. Revival confronts what crowds tolerate.
- d. Jesus still cleanses temples, starting with hearts.
- e. Application: Invite the Holy Spirit to search, cleanse, and reorder.
- f. Do not rush: this is conviction without condemnation.

### **IV. The Holy Spirit and the Fire That Remains**

- a. [Act 2:1-4 NASB95] 1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.
- b. [Rom 12:11 NASB95] 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
- c. [2Ti 1:6 NASB95] 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- d. Fire is not a moment. It is a lifestyle
- e. The Spirit ignites zeal, sustains zeal, and directs zeal
- f. The fire does not fall on talent. It falls on altars.

### **V. A Warning That Prepares the Altar (Do Not Skip This)**

- a. [Rom 10:2 NASB95] 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.
- b. Revival fire must be pure fire, not strange fire.
- c. Zeal is not anti-order; it is pro-presence.
- d. God is not restoring wildfire. He is restoring altar fire.
- e. Passion must be surrendered, not just expressed.

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- f. Zeal must be Spirit-led and truth-anchored. Pentecostal fervor must remain Word-centered.
  
- **Revival happens when God's fire meets a willing altar and His people burn again with holy zeal.**
- **God sustains zeal through encounter, not adrenaline.**