

**EASTER SEMINAR TEACHING BY PASTOR JOHN DANIEL
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ZEAL

Zeal is in Greek and pronounced as DZAY/-LOS, meaning heat i.e. (fig.) "zeal" (in a favourable sense, ardour or ardent - adj.: - burning, fiery, zealous, burning with emotion, inflammable, ardour (noun warmth of passion or feeling, eagerness, enthusiasm in an unfavourable one, jealousy, as of a husband (fig. of God), emulation, envy, etc. Chambers Dictionary describes zeal as intense (sometimes fanatical) enthusiasm, activities arising from warm support or enthusiasm, strong feeling such as love, anger, etc, or passionate ardour. According to Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary edited by Ronald Youngblood, zeal means enthusiastic devotion, eager desire, single minded allegiance. I underlined single minded allegiance, one of the descriptions from the Bible Dictionary, to show that everybody has zeal or allegiance to something or somebody. What I am saying in effect is that there is nobody existing on earth who does not have zeal or intense enthusiasm or strong feelings for something or somebody, but if your zeal or fanaticism as a disciple of our Lord Jesus, is not for the Lord your Saviour and the things of His Kingdom alone, then your allegiance is not single minded but double-minded. And according to James 1:6, you will be unstable in both or all the ways, because you will not know whom to please. Jesus clearly stated during His sermon on the Mount in Matt.6:22-24, "that the light of the body is the eye, if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light". What this means is, since the eye is what lightens the body, if your eye is only focussed on the Lord Jesus, then you will have strong feelings, love, great zeal or intense enthusiasm, or single minded allegiance for Him. In verse 23 He said, "but if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness..", meaning that if your eye is focussed in the world and the system which is evil, then your body will be full of darkness, because you will not have strong feelings, zeal, love, or an allegiance for God and the things of the Kingdom. And for this reason, Jesus further said, "No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Serve is in Greek and pronounced as DOOL-YOO/-O meaning to be a slave to, be in bondage, (do) serve. Mammon is simply defined as wealth, while wealth means a valuable possessions of any kind, riches, the condition of being rich, an abundance, or plenitude (with, of), prosperity. The Lord made it very clear that no man can have zeal, strong feelings, love, allegiance or be in bondage to two masters. You either hate one and love the other, or you despise one and hold on to the other. You cannot be a slave to God and also to mammon. If you owe any allegiance to the world or the things of the world, you will never have zeal or love for God. It is for such reason that the Lord Jesus during His days in the flesh pledged His allegiance, zeal and love to God and the house of God, when He drove away the money changers, their sheep and oxen out of the temple in fulfilment of Ps.69:9 or John 2:17.

Jehu to execute the wrath of God on Ahab's chapters of the book of Kings. Though he later started serving or worshipping an idol introduced in Israel by Jeroboam, but because of his zeal in performing the decreed judgment of God in Ahab's family, he was promised by the Lord in II Kings 10:30, that his children up to the fourth generation shall rule Israel. Jehu was not supposed to be king for he was not heir apparent to the throne, but God laid upon him the burden to execute His judgment upon Ahab's family, and for this reason he was brought to the throne.

Num.25:1-15:- For being zealous in killing Zimri the Israelite and Cozbi the Midianitish woman, who in spite of the anger of the Lord and His plague, to wipe all those who went into whoredom with the daughters of Moab, not only joined in sacrificing but also eating and bowing down to the Moabite gods; Phinehas the son of Eleazar, and the grandson of Aaron the priest obtained not only a great name and authority in Israel, but turned away the wrath of God from the children of Israel and caused the plague to cease. God in rewarding him, gave unto him the "covenant of peace" with his seed after him. This means that Phinehas and his seed among all the descendants of Aaron will continue to be priests forever in Israel. You may ask why did I say so? After all God told Moses in Exo.40:1-15 to anoint Aaron's sons like he did to their father so that they will minister unto Him in the priest's office, for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations. Yes God truly said so, but He.7:23 showed that by reason of death, each priesthood or office ceases to exist. However God has ordained that one of the descendants of Aaron will become the priests with his lineage not only in the Millennium, but also for eternity just like He promised that David will continue to be the king of Israel not only in the Millennium but also eternity. That is what Phinehas got as a reward for his zeal, and this is why it's called a covenant of peace (righteousness). A lesson to learn here is that there is always a great reward when you zealously do the perfect will of God. But when you are working for God out of zeal without having the knowledge of His perfect will, He must meet you to redirect your zeal towards His perfect will.

For example: Saul later surnamed Paul met the Lord Jesus and became converted when he was zealously destroying and persecuting the saints of God (Acts 9:1-28, Acts 22:3-5, Gal.1:13-14). He also suffered in the same way as he was made to go through heavy trials to prove his love or zeal for God. Paul after his hard and painful experience wrote in Rom.10:1-3 that the people of Israel were blindly doing what he did. Note his statement in verse 2, "for I bear them record that they have a zeal (love) of God but not according to knowledge" (i.e. present truth or sound doctrine), and for this reason he continued to pray that God will look at their zeal and cause them to be converted so as to be saved. They were so committed to the things of God but not according to the present truth. It was rather according to the tradition of their fathers which has been done with, by the coming of our Lord Jesus, His death and resurrection.

Commitment is the major key point to discern the zeal someone has for God. There is just no way you can claim to have zeal for God if you are not fully committed or dedicated to God and the things of His Kingdom. Commitment therefore means a promise to do something or to behave in a



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and work and loyalty that someone gives to
etc. Something that you have previously
time and that prevents you from doing
anything else at that time.

Prov.22:29:- A man that is diligent in his business is he who is committed to God and the things of the Kingdom and does not allow the things of this world and its system to distract him or cause his zeal for God to drop. And look at the great reward he gets, "...he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men." The word stand is in Hebrew and pronounced as YAW-TSAB meaning to place (anything so as to stay), to station, offer, continue, etc. But according to Chambers Dictionary, stand in this sense means to be, become or remain upright, to be on, or rise to, to have or take a position, to assume the attitude and duties of, to be or remain, to be set, be in a position, etc. What this is saying is that the person will be exalted to the position of standing before kings and not before wicked people. Why? It is because a diligent or committed disciple of our Lord Jesus is an Ambassador of Christ representing the Lord Jesus not only in your work place or business, but also in any country or organization you come in contact with, and you will continue to receive the kind of favour and blessings you never dreamt of without putting any human effort.

Prov.12:24:- This is another way of showing that he who through his zeal is committed to God and the things of God, will certainly be exalted to the rulership position, but those who are not zealous or committed will not only remain servants, but will be made to continue paying tribute.

Prov.10:4:- He that is committed or diligent in the things of God will certainly become rich (i.e. I am talking of divine prosperity) not only in the things of God, but also financially and materially.

Finally, show your zeal for the Lord by being totally committed to God and the things of God and the blessings of God for you will begin to manifest faster.

All through the Bible God refers to us as His sons and daughters. This is because the earthly family is a picture of the relationship God wants to have with His children. It is the kind of relationship He has with the Lord Jesus, even before He came into the world. That was why Jesus Christ many times referred to God as His Father. The concept of family was in the mind of God even before creation as a way of revealing Himself to man. Abiding under the shadow of God's wings, is simply placing ourselves under God's authority, by allowing Him rule over us as a Father through His channel of authority.

Gen.2:16-17:- When God made the garden of Eden, He gave man permission to eat from the fruit of every tree except from the fruit of one. The fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil was the only tree God told man not to eat, it was also the only tree that has some knowledge to offer. That tree contained knowledge of some good as well as some evil in it, but God strictly commanded man to stay away from it. God never wanted man to have that kind of knowledge, because He had already given man all the knowledge that he will need. Adam was not void of knowledge, because if he were, he wouldn't have been able to name the creatures in the garden. He ate from that tree of knowledge of good and evil, because Satan made them desire to be free from the Fatherhood of God. Satan convinced them, that God did not want them to become wise so that He will subject them to bondage, that they might depend on Him forever. We refuse to obey what God tells us through His channel of authority, because we believe that the person God has placed over us does not want us to prosper.

Matt.18:1-4:- According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, the word "converted" in Greek is , and is pronounced STREF/-O, meaning to twist i.e. turn quite around or reverse, convert, turn (again, back again, self, self about). Except we turn ourselves around, reverse our ways, and turn back again to God as children by completely placing ourselves under His authority channel, we will never enter into the Kingdom of God. As His children, we cannot do anything we like, but are to do only things permitted by God our Father. In the natural, a child becomes mature when he is independent of his parents. He leads his own life the way he wants it, since he is no more subject to his parents. In the Lord, the more we grow and mature, the more we develop the nature of a child, by becoming more intimate and totally dependent on God. This total dependence on God, and not being able to do what we like, is abiding under the shadow of God's wings. A kingdom is an area ruled by a king where all the people within that area are subject to the laws set by that king. Hence the kingdom of God is the area ruled by God, where all within that area are subject to the laws of God. The act of feeling that you have come of age to manage and control your life, and need not the counsel of God is the nature of a bastard. This is the nature of those who have made Satan their father. God wants to take control of the food we eat, clothes we wear, all our physical as well as our spiritual needs. The more God draws you closer to Himself, the more He expects instant and absolute obedience from you, and the more He punishes you for the slightest disobedience.

all the affairs of your life to God
city, you become His son and the apple of
is he who God cherishes, nourishes,
protects and guards jealously day and night. He will hide you from
everything that goes on in the world, by making you busy only with the
business of the Lord. He scrutinizes everything that comes your way,
and removes those things that are of the world. When you become
engrossed in the business of the Lord, you become strange and
unattractive to the world. People will run away from you, and this is
God's way of protecting you as He makes sure that only the people
He wants come closer to you. By so doing, God puts us out of reach of
satan and the system, because the system is satan's widest and
strongest net which he uses to catch and destroy men. Satan cannot
strike at those under the shadow of God's wings, because he will
need to defeat God in order to do that. Instead he injects those
desires of freedom from God's authority in us, in order to pull us out
and strike at us. All those in the system of the world, have not become
God's children. His children must leave the system and dwell under His
channel of authority. Those persistent corrections, advices, rebukes,
etc, from God's authority channel, are simply God exercising His rights
over us as His children. Children, who desire to be free from the laws
of their parents, must pack out of their parents' houses to do so.
Hence if you desire to live differently from the way God wants His
children to live, or if you think that those corrections and rebukes
are becoming too much, then you must quit being God's son and dwell
outside His channel of authority.

Matt.23:37-39:- Today, the body of Christ does not want to be under
God's authority. They preach liberty of the Spirit and live carelessly
that it is hard to distinguish between Christians and unbelievers.
There is no more discipline in the body of Christ, in that they say
they adults, and are no more children, so that they can do whatever
they like. Jesus used this example of the hen gathering its chickens,
to show us the type of relationship that can save us. That liberty of
the Spirit, which members of the body of Christ preach today, is
actually independence from God. If God wanted us to be independent of
Him, He would have told Adam to eat or do whatever he liked in the
garden. He wouldn't have made us as spirit, soul and body, because the
soul which houses the spirit, was created to dwell forever with God.
Matt.5:44-45:- Blessings are not signs of sonship. God may even grant
the desires of the wicked, but it does not mean that they are His
children. Except they turn back from those ways which God might allow
them to go, they will eventually end up in perdition. By giving their
heart's desire, it becomes difficult for them to place themselves under
Him, because they see that they can get what they desire even without
being under His authority. This is different from His children, as He
makes them pass through untold sufferings and hardship in order to
humble them. God who sees the end from the beginning, will not grant
all your desires even though those desires may look harmless to us. God
continues to subject His children to divers sufferings, perfecting them
for the kingdom they are about to inherit. God never created the earth
for man to come and disobey Him by living according to his own desires,
but God made the earth for man to rule only according to the
instructions of the Lord. In the Kingdom of God, only the will of God
is done. We must allow Him to take absolute control in all the areas of
our lives through His channel of authority, because God who created us
knows what is actually best for us.



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