

# Enthusiasm

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, May 6, 2018

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Main Theme – Considering enthusiasm (i.e., spiritual passion) in relation to our Christian walks.

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## WORSHIP & PRAYER

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Events (REGULAR)**
  - Potluck – Today, Immediately After Service
  - CC Training – Today, During the Potluck Supper
  - Men's Breakfast – Saturday, June 9 (9–10:15am)
  - WM – Tuesday Evening, June 12 (6:30–8:30pm)
  
- **Upcoming Events (SPECIAL)**
  - Membership Packets – See Pastor James Following Service
  - Memorial Day Observances – Monday, May 28 (9am & Noon)

## MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work  
-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

## **MEMORIAL DAY PRESENTATION**

Memorial Day is much more than an opportunity to enjoy a three-day weekend. It provides for us the annual opportunity to remember and pay tribute to fallen soldiers. Ron Phelps is a man who is passionate about such remembrances. I would like to invite Ron to the pulpit at this time. Please consider his remarks this morning.

**POST** – Ron, thank you for your remarks. May they continue to resonate in our hearts & minds.

In light of Ron's remarks:

I invite you all to join us for tomorrow's Memorial Day observances, starting here in S. Barre at 9am and continuing uptown at Noon. May God bless this Memorial Day Weekend and may He bless the United States of America!

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- **DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**
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## OPENING REMARKS

As always, it is wonderful to see you. I look forward to these weekly moments of worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what God has for you today! Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes.

## ENTHUSIASM PT. 1

This morning I want to spend some time addressing a timeless and timely theme: ENTHUSIASM.

**NOTE** – We're going to consider a lot of Bible this morning (from multiple angles on the theme). I would like to begin by offering a workable DEFINITION for the word the word at hand...

**DEF** – an intense fervor; a sense of passion, zeal and eagerness.

**ILL** – People can possess enthusiasm in A MULTIPLICITY OF ways:

- An enthusiasm for a particular HOBBY (a passion for hiking)
- An enthusiasm for a particular SPORT (a passion for the Patriots)
- An enthusiasm for a particular field of STUDY (a passion for science)
- I have a passion/enthusiasm for MARVEL films (Avengers: Infinity War)

## ENTHUSIASM PT. 2

**KEY** – However, the term enthusiasm actually has RELIGIOUS connotations (ORIGINS):

1) If you look at the dictionary (ARCHAIC usage): Religious fervor supposedly resulting directly from divine inspiration, typically involving speaking in tongues and wild, uncoordinated movements of the body.

2) If you dig a little bit DEEPER: early 17th century term from French or via late Latin from Greek enthousiasmos; from enthous 'possessed by a god, inspired' (based on theos 'god').

**KEY** – i.e., Enthusiasm was originally a compound term in the Greek: en (in) theos (god). Thus, the term referred to a sense of passion, zeal and eagerness that resulted from divine connection; as one was possessed by; inspired by; moved by; stirred by; energized by a god (IN OUR CASE, the Lord God v. the perverse influence of a pagan 'god' or demonic spirit).

## ENTHUSIASM PT. 3

I believe that there is a place in our Christianity for biblical ENTHUSIASM. i.e., There is a place for a godly passion, zeal and eagerness that flow from union with Him. I am referring to the sense of fervor we experience as He inspires us, moves us, stirs us, and energizes us!

**KEY** – Scripture calls us to a sense of enthusiasm OFTEN (though it utilizes the equivalent terms passion, zeal and fervor). In fact, it is amazing how often the Bible calls us to a place of fervor AND in the number of places we are commanded to exhibit it!

I would like to take some time today to call you to a renewed sense of passion for the Lord and His ways. I can only pray that He stirs within us a renewed sense of ENTHUSIASM! Let's delve in.

### AREA 1 (SERVICE TO GOD)

**KEY** – Let's have an enthusiasm for SERVING GOD (general sense)

#### **Romans 12:9–21 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 **Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.** 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

#### **KEY – NOTEWORTHY ITEMS...**

- Let us be zealous for/passionate about SERVING THE LORD
- Let US never lack in this zeal; let us keep (man-component to zeal)

#### **Titus 2:11–14 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, **eager [zealous] to do what is good.**

## **AREA 2 (REACHING & DISCIPLING OTHERS)**

**KEY** – Let’s have an enthusiasm for the GREAT COMMISSION – Reaching Lost/Making Disciples

### **Colossians 1:24–29 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 *To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.*

### **KEY – NOTEWORTHY ITEMS...**

-Let us be zealous/passionate about (as was Paul) reaching the lost and making disciples.

## **AREA 3 (SERVICE TO OTHERS – GIFTS/SP. SERVICE)**

**KEY** – Let’s have an enthusiasm for the GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and their proper usage

### **1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (NIV) (Gifts of the Holy Spirit & the Body of Christ)**

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

### **1 Corinthians 14:1, 12 (NIV) (Discussion on Tongues—Alone—v. Prophecy: Proper Usage)**

1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

12 Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

**KEY – NOTEWORTHY ITEMS...**

- Let us be zealous after the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit
- Let us be zealous after the gifts for the UPBUILDING of the Church
- Let us be zealous – but let that zeal operate ACCORDING to knowledge/God’s purpose

**AREA 4 (SERVICE TO OTHERS – WORK)**

**KEY** – Let’s have an enthusiasm for our WORK (i.e., Jobs)

**Ephesians 6:1–9 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”— which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. **7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.**

9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

**Ephesians 6:7–8 (NLT)**

7 Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. 8 Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

**NOTE** – The relationship between a servant and a master MOST CLOSELY resembles that of an employer and an employee. Thus, we will look at this text through that particular facet or angle.

**KEY – NOTEWORTHY ITEMS...**

- Let us be zealous for/passionate about the WORK/SERVICE we offer to others
- Let US never lack in this zeal, recognizing that God will bring about great REWARD

**Colossians 3:17 (NIV)**

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## AREA 5 (PRAYER)

**KEY** – Let’s have an enthusiasm for the spiritual discipline of PRAYER

### **James 5:13–18 (NKJV)**

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

**KEY – NOTEWORTHY ITEMS...**

-Let us be fervent in seeking the Lord – knowing that He hears and responds in kind!

### **Matthew 7:7–11 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

7 “**Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

## AREA 6 (LOVE FOR OTHERS)

**KEY** – Let’s have an enthusiasm for LOVING OTHERS

### **1 Peter 4:7–8 (NIV)**

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

**KEY – NOTEWORTHY ITEMS...**

-Let us be fervent in loving each other deeply...

**1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)**

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

**1 Peter 1:22 (ESV, Emphasis Mine)**

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another **earnestly** from a pure heart

**1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (NIV)**

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**NOTE** – Of course, we know loving others is the second element of the Great Commandment...But let us close with the FIRST ELEMENT OF THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT (ultimate obligation) ...

**AREA 7 (LOVE FOR GOD) PT. 1****Matthew 22:35–40 (NIV)**

35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**KEY – NOTEWORTHY ITEMS...**

-Let us be fervent in loving God – everything else falls into place once this is in operation!



## AREA 7 (LOVE FOR GOD) PT. 2

### 2 Samuel 6:12b–23 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

12 . . . David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. 13 When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. 14 Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord **with all his might**, 15 while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

16 As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.

17 They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the Lord. 18 After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty. 19 Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

20 When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!”

21 David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. 22 **I will become even more undignified than this**, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

23 And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

## CONCLUSION

I believe that there is a place in our Christianity for a biblical ENTHUSIASM. i.e., There is a place for a godly passion, zeal and eagerness that flow from UNION with Him. I am referring to the sense of fervor we experience as He inspires us, moves us, stirs us, and energizes us!

**KEY** – NEXT SUNDAY we will continue w/ ways to cultivate spiritual enthusiasm (passion)