

ZEALOUS OR COMPLACENT?

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Are we looking forward to God's Kingdom? Yes ... to living forever ... live for ever and ever and ever ... free of sickness.

There are two parties involved ... God ... and us. We can be fairly sure God will do His part. Will we do our part?

Jude 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless (that's God's part)

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Saviour,

Who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty,

Dominion and power,

Both now and forever.

Amen.

The other part:

Jude 1:20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **keep yourselves in the love of God, (our part)** looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

The Apostle Peter builds on this.

2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly

great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

There are things we need to be doing. Be diligent. There are areas we need to "cultivate" in our lives:

2 Peter 1:5-7

But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

If we don't cultivate these things:

2 Peter 1:8-9

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For **he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

Do your utmost!! There is effort and diligence needed.

2 Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, brethren, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:12-15

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up** by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

What am I diligently doing to make my calling and election sure? **We don't want to be complacent.**

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

BUT! When there is a "but" ... there is a problem. These things are written down ... for us ... to learn from.

1 Corinthians 10:5-12

But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

Now **these things became our examples,** to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; **nor let us tempt Christ,** as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. **Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Hebrews 2:1-3

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, (We must --- MANDATORY!!! A MAJOR OBLIGATION --- give the more earnest heed) **lest we drift away.** For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect ("Neglect" --- "make

light of") so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

A gradual "cooling down". It's a danger. Don't allow it to happen. The problem is that slow change is difficult for us to detect. We don't notice gradual change. Have we become very complacent?

Hebrews 3:7-19

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
In the day of trial in the wilderness,
Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,
And saw My works forty years.
Therefore I was angry with that generation,
And said, 'They always go astray in their heart,
And they have not known My ways.'
So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest.' "

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," (don't put it off) **lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.** For we have become partakers of Christ **if** we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said:

"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

God was doing His part ... but the people weren't doing their part.

Hebrews 4:1-2

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, **let us fear** lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Hebrews 4:11

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Hebrews 6:4-6

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Hebrews 6:9-12

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. **And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence** to the full assurance of hope until the end, **that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

Hebrews 6:12 AMPLIFIED

In order that you may not grow disinterested and become [spiritual] sluggards, but imitators, behaving as do those who through faith (by their leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) and by practice of patient endurance and waiting are [now] inheriting the promises.

Hebrews 6:12 THE MESSAGE

Don't drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them.

Hebrews 6:12 NIV

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Luke 8:11-15

"Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.** Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. **But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.** Now **the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, (too many other things) riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.** (This is the most dangerous area for you and me!!) But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience **(THIS IS THE ONLY CATEGORY WE WANT TO BE IN!!)**

Luke 8:14 THE MESSAGE

"And the seed that fell in the weeds—well, these are the ones who hear, but **then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and having fun.**

We have to be careful HOW WE HEAR THE WORD!! And ... WHAT WE HEAR.

Luke 8:18

Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

Mark 4:24

Then He said to them, **"Take heed what you hear.** (Be careful who you are listening to!!) With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.

Luke 8:19-21

Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." But He answered and said to them, **"My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."**

We hear ... In order TO DO!!

Luke 6:46-49

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and **laid the foundation on the rock.** And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was **founded on the rock.** But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

Luke 6:49 THE MESSAGE

But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss."

Come to Jesus. Hear His sayings. And ... Do them!!

Luke 13:6-9

He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and **he came seeking fruit** on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years **I have come seeking fruit** on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilise it. And **if it bears fruit, well**. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' " (there was a time element here. We can't just casually assume that we have all of the time in the world)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, (take action) but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it**. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate (Temperate = Exercises self control!!) in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. **But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:27 NET

Instead I subdue my body and make it my slave, so that after preaching to others I myself will not be disqualified.

Paul took action. He didn't just drag along. He worked harder than any other Apostle. He "did his part".

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but **I laboured more abundantly than they all**, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach

the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, (Who was he talking about? Clearly ... the brethren!!) but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (The brethren here are "hearing what they want to hear) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (One day ... hopefully, we will be able to say the same) Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (That crown is available to all of us)

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom (God's truth) calls aloud outside;
She raises her voice in the open squares.
She cries out in the chief concourses,
At the openings of the gates in the city
She speaks her words:

"How long, you simple ones, (seduceable) will you love simplicity?

For scorers delight in their scorning,
And fools hate knowledge.

Turn at my rebuke;

Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;

I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,

I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,

Because you disdained all my counsel,

And would have none of my rebuke,

I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when your terror comes,

When your terror comes like a storm,
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come upon you.

"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;

They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge

And did not choose the fear of the Lord,

They would have none of my counsel

And despised my every rebuke.

Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, (the consequences of their own way)

And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

For the turning away of the simple will slay them,

And the complacency of fools will destroy them;

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,

And will be secure, without fear of evil." (If ... we listen to God!)

The antidote to complacency is to be zealous ... to be on fire ... to be committed!!!

Revelation 3:14-22

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold

nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are

lukewarm, (complacent!!) and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit

you out of My mouth.

Because you say, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' (this is certainly complacency ... "who can teach me anything?") —and do not know that you are wretched,

miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. **Therefore be zealous and repent.** (J B Phillips: "Shake off your complacency") Behold, I stand at the door and

knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ‘ ‘

Let's all make sure that we are all zealous for God.