

“Godly Enthusiasm”

Sermon: November 2011

I would like to speak about the subject of “enthusiasm” - Godly enthusiasm. When we think about someone being “enthusiastic”, we probably think about someone filled with excitement, someone who has keen interest in something and so on. The dictionary definition of the word “enthusiasm” is:

1. Great excitement for or interest in a subject or cause.
2. A cause of great excitement or interest.
 - a. Ecstasy arising from supposed possession by a god.

This last definition sounds like it could be referring to a pagan definition, and I think we’ll see that scholars have got in there and twisted the meaning a little bit to suit their thinking.

Now here is something interesting which I would like to read. I don’t have the source with me right now, and I apologize for that, but the quote states:

“The word enthusiasm comes from the Latin *enthusiasmus*, from Greek *enthousiasmos*, which comes from the word “entheos”.

That’s an interesting quote...notice the word “entheos”. We know that the word “theos” in the Greek means “God”...so the word “enthusiasm” ultimately comes from the adjective “entheos”.

We know that the word “Theos” means God, and the *first part of the word enthusiasm is “en”* which means “in” or “within”. So if you put those two definitions together you get the phrase “in God” or “God within”...“en theos”. So the word “enthusiasm” has the word “God” in it.

I’m just going to continue reading:

“The word *enthusiasm* is derived from its source in Greek. *Enthusiasm* first appeared in English in 1603 with the meaning "possession by a god." The source of the word is the Greek *enthousiasmos*, which ultimately comes from the adjective *entheos*, "having God within".

So taking all this into account, real enthusiasm, the original meaning of the word “enthusiasm” essentially means “God within”! Enthusiasm means “God living within us”...it means “allowing God to live in us”...

The more we understand the *Biblical* meaning of the word “enthusiasm”, the more we understand that “enthusiasm” effectively means “God within us”, or “God in us”, --- the deeper we should understand that we all have to have “enthusiasm” to be successful in reaching our ultimate goal of being born into the God Family. If we are not brimming with Godly enthusiasm about Him and His ways, not only will we not make it but we will not even be able to help others. Without Godly enthusiasm – without God living in us - we cannot be a tool in His hands. We must allow God to live in us so that we can be fired up from within, so that we can be fired up for Him and for His Truth.

Let’s just begin by going to Luke 18:18

Luk 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luk 18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none *is* good, save one, *that is*, God.

Luk 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

Luk 18:21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Luk 18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, **Yet lackest thou one thing:** sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: **and come, follow me. [Strong’s tells us that this could be translated as “come, accompany me, reach out to me, be the same way with me [or “be the same as me”]”**

This individual kept the commandments and everything, but he lacked one thing! Christ effectively said “you’re keeping the commandments and so on, but you lack Godly enthusiasm.

You lack allowing God in...why? Because his riches kept God out. His riches were an obstacle that kept God out! This man kept the letter of the law perhaps, but he was not on fire and He was not willing to do what it took to let God in.

This is how careful we have to be. We can keep the commandments, but unless we allow God to live in us...we are lacking the one thing Christ cautioned this man about.

Christ told the man....come follow me....come and be the same as me. What do you think Christ meant by that? Well, we are told in scripture that Christ and the Father are one...(we're told that in John 17:11 and so on)...but that doesn't mean they're one individual...it means the Father and Christ are one in unity...it means Christ is following God...it means that Christ is in God and God is in Christ. And this is the sort of unity we should be striving for!

“En theos” – God within. This is the lesson Christ was teaching the man in Luke 18. And it's a lesson we need to learn....

If we want to be truly fired up for God, if we are to be truly fired up for His Truths and His ways, we must let God in... we have to eliminate the barriers. It's not good enough to only keep the commandments....yes, we have to keep them, but we cannot only keep the letter of the law...we have to let God in...we must have Godly enthusiasm.

Christ effectively told this man: “you do these things....you keep the commandments....you might be keeping the letter of the law, but you lack Godly enthusiasm. You have certain barriers which are stopping you from allowing God in...and that is preventing you from having the Godly enthusiasm needed for eternal life”. That's the lesson being given in Luke 18:18-22.

We've got to come to the point where we are brimming with Godly enthusiasm. We must allow God to infiltrate our whole being and allow Him to use us as He wills. Our eventual success of being born into the God family depends on this. We need to bring an energy to God as never before, we must be fired up to do God's work, we must put time into energetic Bible Study, into energetically coming before God in prayer and so on. We need to stir up the right kind of passion for God and His ways and the only way that can happen is if we break down the barriers which are allowing God to come in. And there are a number of barriers we need to be thinking of

and focusing on:

Work

Money

Entertainment

Distractions

Vanity

Selfishness

Negativity (is a big one)

...any physical things that take up most of our time outside the working day should be under scrutiny to ensure that they are not barriers. Whatever we place before God is a barrier! We have to smash those barriers so that we can be one with God, so that we can allow Christ to live His life in us!

John 6:53

Joh 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Joh 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

Joh 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Joh 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: **so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.**

Joh 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

Again – we're told here that we are to have Christ living in us. And we know of course that the

Bible is the Word of God...we know that we are to eat the Word of God. We are to thirst and hunger for righteousness sake....and that terminology denotes enthusiasm...it denotes eagerness...it denotes interest...it denotes passion...it denotes zeal...

And the kind of eagerness, interest, passion and zeal required only comes about by having Christ in us.

“He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him”.

“he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever”

Again, we've got to allow Christ in us... “en theos”... we must have God within, and how does that happen?

Let's go to John 14:6

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Christ is Truth, Christ is the Word of God, the Bible is the Word in print...and the way we come to God and open the door to Him is by fervent Bible study...it's by fervent prayers which are mediated by Christ on our behalf. We must hunger and thirst. We have to hungrily eat and drink up the Word of God for righteousness sake.

Brethren, “enthusiasm” in the physical sense comes when you are full of whatever it is that you are enthusiastic about. When you are excited about something, when you have a zeal for something you read up on it, you get all the information there is to get on the subject, you learn all there is to learn about it, you get to know it inside out...you are filled with it... If you're going on holiday somewhere, you would look up information on the place you're visiting, you would try and find photographs so you can know what to expect, you would ask family and friends to find out what they know about the place... and as you do all these things you're filling yourself up with excitement... you can hardly wait till the time comes for you to travel...and you

can hardly contain that excitement, your enthusiasm shows by the way you act and feel.....you'd be more positive, you suddenly feel better.....everything about you improves.....and that is what we have to develop with respect to God and Godly enthusiasm. God wants us to be filled with His Word, He wants us to be filled with His Truth, He wants us to come to the point where we are searching, looking and proving and we simply cannot contain the excitement we have for Him and His Truth, and when we get to that stage...when we're close to God through prayer... Godly enthusiasm will be evident in our lives! We won't be able to hide it! It will reflect in our attitude, it will reflect in our outlook, it will reflect in the way we think, how we do things, what we say and so on....and the more evident this is, the more we allow God to live in us.

“En theos” - Godly enthusiasm in action.

Joh 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

This is what God is talking about! We need to kick off the shackles, get rid of the barriers and open the door...and when we do that we allow God to come in. And when that takes place.... and *only* when that takes place.... we are promised to find the pasture....so says John 10:9. We are promised to find the pasture...which is symbolic of blessings. But it all hinges on whether or not we are going to allow God...Christ...to live in us. And as we saw earlier on, its not enough knowing the commandments, its not enough keeping the letter of the law...as we saw in Luke 18....we need to allow God to be in us ...and again, the extent that we allow God to live in us will reveal itself in our attitude, in our outlook, in how we live our lives. It will be revealed by how we react to situations... it will be revealed by how we react to trials and so on. It will be revealed by how we deal with others.... It'll reveal itself in whether we are selfish or not. We must always allow God to live in us and allow *nothing* to push him out.

John 11:25

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Same principle. “He that believes in me,...He that trusts me...He that commits Himself” .. *He* shall live. In other words, he that allows God in....he that allows God to take over....shall live. We cannot do it on our own, God must do it for us....He that allows God in and trusts in

Him...shall find the pasture and live! God is simply telling us that we need to open the door and allow Him in. We need to allow Him in --- whether it's through allowing Him to communicate to us, whether it's putting our faith and trust in Him, whatever the case may be...God wants to see that we are humble enough to allow Him in.

We need to bring an energy to our Bible study, to our prayer life, to the way we conduct ourselves – and with that comes relaxed faith, confidence that God will intervene and take over. THIS is Godly enthusiasm.

Now, I wanted to spend a few moments to say something about trials...I know that some have questioned the amount of trials people have been facing recently. And I think it seems as though perhaps too many associate trials with being a bad fruit...they associate trials with being correction from Godnow again, I don't doubt that trials are allowed for a reason... There is no doubt that through trials, God can be getting our attention about something...whether individually or collectively...He could certainly be correcting us about something, but let's not discard the reality that through trials God is helping us to grow and build character. Through trials God is accomplishing something far greater than possible correction. Let us not assume that because someone faces a trial, God is correcting. God does sometimes use trials to correct, but trials are there for other reasons.

Let's just take a note of some Biblical examples of what I'm saying. When Jesus Christ was a baby, King Herod made a decree that all children under the age of 2 be killed. Now again, this was a tremendous trial, especially for Joseph and Mary. Jesus Christ went through His life being attacked by Satan... and if you think about it, at the end of every day in Christ's life, He knew that He was one day closer to having to face His greatest trial. He knew that he was going to be betrayed by one of His twelve closest aides. He prophesied that He was going to be turned in to the enemy by one of those who was closest to Him. Christ was going to be tried, ridiculed, spat on, He was going to be humiliated, He knew that He had to be beaten, He knew He had to be scourged, His flesh was going to be torn open...and if that wasn't enough ... He had to be nailed to the stake and left to die! But again, knowing He had to go through that, having the burden of knowing that the future of God's family rested on Him....don't you think that was the biggest burden anyone could face?

And when the time eventually came for Him to face the trial and actually go through it, how did

Christ react? Was He negative? Did He complain? No He didn't! He never sinned! So, through this trial, was God correcting Christ? Was God testing His mettle? Or was God putting Him through the test, to see if Christ would qualify to be born into the Family of God and inherit all things?

And again, brethren, what makes us any different? We stand to be born into the Family of God, we stand to inherit all things with and under Jesus Christ, and when we face trials, we should rejoice in those trials... when we face trials God is seeing whether we are allowing Him to live in us! When we face trials, God is testing us and proving us....and again, with God in us.... "en theos"we can come out of those trials stronger. So I think we need to be very careful of the way in which we look at trials. Let us not judge when others face trials. Let us not think negatively... let us not automatically assume that trials are only given for correction. That is what Christ's detractors said when Christ faced His trial...we'll see that in just a moment. They mocked him because of the trials he faced! "God cannot be with Him", they said...because if He was, He wouldn't have this trial. The thing we must understand is that it is because He was with God that he faced those trials! When we face trials, God is teaching, correcting, proving, and testing us. I have no doubt in my mind that we will ALL face trials, we will all face increasingly difficult trials as time gets shorter. This is what happened with Christ...and things won't be different with us. God has to correct us, He has to test us, He has to teach us. He wants us to build character.

There has been a culture introduced in the Church in years gone by, that if people faced trials God is correcting them, and because of that many have been reluctant to share their trials with others. They have been reluctant to let others know about their trials for fear of being looked down upon.... But again, this boils down to vanity, it boils down to pride ... because as it states in James 5, we should share these things with each other so that we could beat and grind our prayers finely, so that we could encourage each other... this is what unity is about.

But let us just go to the book of Matthew so that we could just take a look at Christ's attitude when He was faced with the biggest trial in His life:

Mat 27:1 When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

Mat 27:2 And when they had bound him, they led *him* away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Verse 11:

Mat 27:11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

Mat 27:12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

Mat 27:13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

Mat 27:14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Did Christ complain? Did He retaliate? Was He negative? Did He blame God? Was He going through these things – through these trials - because God was not with Him?... or because God was correcting Him? Notice verse 15:

Mat 27:15 Now at *that* feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

Mat 27:16 And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

Mat 27:17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

Mat 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

Mat 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Mat 27:20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

Mat 27:21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

Mat 27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? *They* all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

Mat 27:23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

Mat 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*.

Mat 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children.

Mat 27:26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *him* to be crucified.

Mat 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band *of soldiers*.

Mat 27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

Mat 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Mat 27:30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

Mat 27:31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*.

Mat 27:32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Mat 27:33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

Mat 27:34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted *thereof*, he would not drink.

Mat 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

Mat 27:36 And sitting down they watched him there;

Mat 27:37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Mat 27:38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

Mat 27:39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

Mat 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Mat 27:41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking *him*, with the scribes and elders, said,

Mat 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

Mat 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. ***[They scoffed at Him. They questioned whether God was really with Him.....so do you see how we have to be so careful to not lump a trial with a bad fruit?]***

Verse 44:

Mat 27:44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Mat 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Mat 27:47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard *that*, said, This *man* calleth for Elias.

Mat 27:48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled *it* with vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink.

Mat 27:49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

Mat 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Mat 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Mat 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Mat 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Mat 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Mat 27:55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

Mat 27:56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

Mat 27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

Mat 27:58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

Mat 27:59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Mat 27:60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Mat 27:61 And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

Mat 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Mat 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Mat 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Mat 27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

Mat 27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

We must change the culture...

The thing we must understand is that it is because God is working with us that we face trials! When we face trials, God is teaching, correcting, proving, and testing us. And as I said, it seems obvious to me that we will ALL face increasingly difficult trials as our time gets shorter. This is what happened with Christ...and things won't be different with us. God has to correct us, He has to test us, He has to teach us. The main thing is that we must face our trials with enthusiasm. We must face our trials with "en-theos"...we must face our trials just as Christ did, with God in us. God will see us through those trials...God will do it... we just have to be a tool in his hands...

we have to have faith in Him, and do what we can to support that faith.

And I've said this before, the thing about enthusiasm is that it is contagious. When you are enthusiastic in the right way – it gives you the sincere and positive attitude needed to be a light for God. When we're positive, when we allow God in and when we're filled with Him and His Word, we essentially become that lamp that cannot be hid.

Let's go to Luke 11:3 to see what Christ Himself said about this:

Luk 11:33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth *it* in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

When you're filled with enthusiasm, you cannot contain yourself. When you're enthusiastic it's going to reveal itself. It's going to show by what you say, what you do, how you carry yourself, your attitude, your outlook on life, your faith.

Verse 34:

Luk 11:34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, [*in other words, when your eye is focused*] thy whole body also is full of light; but when *thine eye* is evil, thy body also *is* full of darkness. [*when our focus isn't where it should be, everything suddenly seems heavy....everything is taken out of proportion and so on*].

Verse 35:

Luk 11:35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

Remember John 1:4 where it states “in him was life; and the life was the light of men”.

Very positive scripture. We need to be careful not to allow negativity, or worldly desires, or anything else push God out....because very quickly...that light which is within us can turn into

darkness. God wants to be within us....He wants us to have Godly enthusiasm...and that means God within us.

Verse 36:

Luk 11:36 If thy whole body therefore *be* full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Again, this is referring to Christ being in us! Christ is the light of men. If we are to let our lights shine, we have to be Godly enthusiastic. And this is what drives us forward...the right type of enthusiasm is being filled with the spirit of God, and it's the kind of power we've got to unleash so to speak if we are to be truly successful and live beyond this wretched physical life.

Real successes, the meaningful successes in life, being born into the family of God will only come about if we have God living in us! (That's the right kind of Enthusiasm).

John 11:25:

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Joh 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Do you believe this? Do you believe what this is saying?

“Let me in! Drop the barriers....drop the pride...drop the vanity... because if you don't you're only keeping the letter of the law”. We must allow God to come in.... and again, we do this through allowing God to communicate to us through Bible Study, we allow this through prayer, and we allow it through faith, reliance in Him. God living in us is demonstrated by our attitude, by our outlook on life, by the fruits of the spirit evident in our lives.

And then of course there is the Laodicean condition which we must all be fearful of falling into.

Notice what is said in John 12:48:

Joh 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Joh 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

Joh 12:50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

And back in verse 48: “He that rejects me and receives not my words has one that judges Him...”.

Isn't this the Laodicean problem? Isn't one of the Laodicean's problems that of not coming under the authority of God? Isn't one of the Laodiceans problems that of not listening to the communication coming from God? Isn't one of the Laodiceans problem that of resisting and rejecting? And if we do that are we not resisting and rejecting Godly enthusiasm...are we not resisting and rejecting God in us “en-theos”?!

But again, Christ was full of enthusiasm. Let's see this in John 14:10:

John 14:10

Joh 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

This scripture, this verse, seems to give us the closest definition of the true meaning of the word “enthusiasm”.

Joh 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

All glory given to God...and if you read the accounts of Christ in the four gospels you will see how He was full of the Father. His life was evidence that the Father was in Him...He never sinned once, He helped, He went out of His way, He lived a selfless life, He took on our sins, He paid the penalty in our stead, He set the Godly example, He demonstrated complete faith, He was never negative... always positive despite the trials he faced, and the trials He knew He was going to face at the end of His physical life.

Christ had Godly enthusiasm. He put God first in His life. He never had any barriers that stopped God from coming in. And the example He set is how we have to become. Do we keep the commandments with zeal? Do we go out of our way to help? Do we go the extra mile and put our soul into allowing God to work through us? Do we energetically go to God in prayer? Do we strive to allow the fruits of the spirit to shine by our example and attitude? Do we give God our full attention when He tries to communicate to us through His Word? How enthusiastic are we? Do we allow God to live in us the way we should?

Or do we put up barriers? Because if we do, God wants us to cut them down.

Why?

Let's go to John 15:2-6 for the answer:

Joh 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Joh 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Joh 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Joh 15:5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.**

Unless we're brimming with Godly enthusiasm....we can do nothing! Why? Because without Godly enthusiasm ... without Christ in us...we're on our own!

Verse 6:

Joh 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Joh 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Joh 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

Joh 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Joh 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

Godly enthusiasm is no doubt the most powerful component we need to employ to see results in our life. This is what's going to propel us to true success ... to being born into the God Family. We've got to pour our heart and soul into our prayer life, into our study life, into obeying the commandments, into stirring up the spirit, into allowing God to communicate to us and so on.... Because if we don'twe take on a fundamental Laodicean trait. Let's notice this in Rev. 3:20:

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

This is what it's all about. It's all about allowing God to come into us. It's about destroying the barriers.....dropping the vanity, dropping the pride, and allowing ourselves to be humble. It's about en-theos...it's about God within us...it's about coming under the authority of God...it's about being full of His word...it's about being excited about His truth and it's about having one supreme goal in mind...that of making it into the Family of God.

Ralph Waldo Emerson stated:

"Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic and faithful, and you will accomplish your objective. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

This is what God is telling us. He is telling us that nothing great will ever be achieved without "en-theos"....without God living in us. I just want to substitute the words "God in us" or the words "God living in us" for the word "enthusiasm" in Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote.....and if I do that his quote will read:

"God living in you is the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic, have God living in you and be faithful, and you will accomplish your objective. Nothing great was ever achieved without God living in you."

Frank Borg

November 2011