

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Enthusiasm

"Enthusiasm is the mother of effort, and without it nothing great was ever accomplished."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Enthusiasm is the fever of reason." – Victor Hugo

"Enthusiasm begets enthusiasm." – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"The successful man has enthusiasm: Good work is never done in cold blood, heat is needed to forge anything. Every great achievement is the story of a flaming heart." – A.B. Zu Tavern

It we are honest, as we look at the church today, there is a definite lack of enthusiasm. Webster defines it as a, "strong excitement of feeling; something inspiring." And yet when you look on the faces of some of the members it looks like it was a chore just to get to worship services. And in some cases, there have been those who walk about looking like they lost their best friend; sour and cold. It sure is a contrast with David's attitude that we read of in Psa. 122:1, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'"

What the church needs is some excitement. It needs to come alive and people need to know that we love God and that He is real! Yes, we need a revival. "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? (Psa. 85:6).

Since the 1960s it seems that the church has spent the majority of its time looking inward. We have become proficient in keeping house, but have really lacked when it comes to reaching out and saving souls. Our obsession has been with doctrinal soundness, which certainly is important. But the very same thing was said of the church in Ephesus. "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars: and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love" (Rev. 2:2-4).

The enthusiasm needed today must begin in the leadership. Elders need to have an air of enthusiasm. Pulpits need to ring out with enthusiasm. We have the greatest message in the world, and yet you wouldn't know it.

Formalism has afflicted us. People worship God by going through the motions. There is not any sentiment behind the songs. It has become a ritual as though we were cast into a mold.

We need a good dose of enthusiasm and to remember our mission is to save souls!