

# DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

The message of Jesus to the Laodicean church. Rev.3:14 *And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans. Write these things says the Amen, the faithful the true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish that you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot I will spit you out of my mouth. Because you say I am rich have become wealthy and have need of nothing. 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 in 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. 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 overcome and sat with my Father on His throne. He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Jesus' message to the Laodicean church was that they lack zeal. If you study the book of Revelation and your interpretation is on the seven church ages, you will realize that the last church the Laodicean church points to the church in the last days which is in our times today if you believe that we are living in the last of the last days. Therefore this message is significant as we look into what Jesus ask our modern church to have. The modern church has a tendency to be a take-it-easy kind of church. Our modern civilization is built upon that kind of take it easy concept. It is built on making things as easy as possible. It caters for the pleasure and the ease of life. And the average person living today has the luxury that even kings do not have hundreds of years ago. So this is our time. And this kind of attitude can creep into the church.

Jesus defines the modern church and the Laodicean church the necessity to have zeal. We are continuing the series on the depths of the Spirit. We want to talk about the deep things of God, something that is necessary to move into the fullness of His plan for our life. How do we define zeal? What is zeal? What does the bible define zeal as? When you say that someone is zealous for the Lord, it can mean different things to different people. When a pastor says that church member is zealous, it depends on the pastor what he means. Maybe he means that church member attend church seven days a week. Maybe he means that person is active in twenty departments. Maybe he means that person does overtime for God in his own spare time. That would be one definition of zeal.

But what does Jesus means when He says that the church must be zealous for God. Taking that as an important message to the last days church, we want to talk about the intensity in the spirit world. I define zeal to be intensity in various areas. We could have intensity without spirituality and that would be mere works. Now the intensity that God wants has to be in spirit, soul and body. There are five areas that we show intensity to God.

Whenever God wants to do something He requires human beings move intensely in him. There is no halfhearted business with Him. Those who are halfhearted never receive anything from God. The halfhearted people are people like king Saul who just put up with things. Or some of the kings in the bible in the book of Kings are just halfhearted kings. They didn't receive God's best. They only received a little portion of God's blessing. But there are people who really move into God, whom we would classify as being zealous for God. Elijah, Elisha, Abraham and many others were zealous for God. Paul was another guy who was zealous for God. How do we define spiritual zeal without going into the works of the flesh?

## **Fasting**

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There are five primary areas that we define as spiritual zeal. Number one is fasting. Fasting shows your intensity before God. To me if a Christian have never fasted before, they do not know what spiritual zeal is. The modern Christians may not fast.

But long ago in the book of Acts when the church first started fasting it was a part of a Christian life. Unbelievers also fast. Let me talk from the unbelievers' point of view first. Fasting seems to give intensity to a person's destiny and motivation and goal in their life. Unbelievers like Gandhi went on a protracted fast. Before he went into the fast, the desire to do something for his land and nation was there. But after he went through it in the natural, he came out of it knowing that was his sole purpose in life. He will live and die for that goal. Before that he had a goal. After that, that goal was his destiny. Fasting seems to intensify a person's desire and focus it. It is just like the rays of the sun. You could channel the rays of the sun through a magnifying glass and focus on one point. That one point becomes intensely hot. The heat is already in the light. But when the light is focused the heat becomes intense. And in the same way fasting brings an intensity in our lives.

Now these five areas are inter related to one another. If you succeed in one area it will affect the other areas. So I am only talking about fasting as number one. But they are not number one in a sense of steps. There are 1,2,3,4,5 so that we could see there are five different varieties. You could connect all these things together. Now fasting is the prime area to focus spiritual zeal. As far as the modern church is concerned, it is not used to fasting. Modern life styles do not promote fasting. Intensity of the fasting is necessary.

Lets look at Mark 9: 28-29. When Jesus had come into the house the disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast the demon out? So He said to them this kind can come out by nothing but by prayer and fasting. Cross-reference to Matthew 17 and we realize that it was an answer to verse 19, *The disciples said why could we not cast him out.* And Jesus said something else in verse 20, *Because of your unbelief.* What is unbelief? Unbelief is an inability to apply our faith to something that we know about. Unbelief is not non-belief. Non-belief is complete ignorance and a lack of information. You don't even know about it. But unbelief is when you have received information and you are not able to apply your faith to accept, to utilize and to bring forth the fullness of what that information is supposed to bring in your life. So when the disciples were in a stage of unbelief it means that they had the information, the authority, the principles, they knew according to Matthew 10: 1 which is before Matthew 17 that they had received power and authority to cast out demons. But somehow that information could not be brought up intensely in them. It is just like having the sun and knowing that there was a tremendous amount of

heat in the sun but being unable to tap the heat of the sun to our benefit.

You see fasting doesn't do anything to the demons; fasting does something to us that bring forth something out of us that create a pressure on the demons. When Jesus said this kind does not come forth except by prayer and fasting, He is talking about intensity. If you deal with demonic powers, you will realize that there are stubborn demons and there are lazy demons. There are all kinds of demons out there. Now Jesus is not saying that by fasting something is going to happen to them. He is actually saying that when the disciples fast and pray, something will happen in their life. There will be intensity that will create pressure on the demons. In a state of fasting and prayer, it will not only be the tone of their voice but it is the spiritual intensity that their voice carry that will drive the demon out. Before that they already commanded the demon. Why didn't the demon obey them? It is because they were not focused. There is a difference between a person who has not heard from God and a person who know in himself a hundred percent that he has heard from God and there is no such thing as failure. You have heard from God and it will come exactly to pass. You commanded, "Be healed; get out from your wheel chair." Then another person coming and seeing the condition and say, "O Father God have mercy." It is totally different. One has heard from God, one has not.

Maybe while you are praying a measure of healing takes place. So as a result instead of getting healed they get half healed. The bible never says that they shall lay hand on the sick and they shall be half healed. The bible says they shall be healed but the intensity is not coming out. There is too much doubt and unbelief. It makes a difference between a miracle and a failure. It is just like Peter walking on the water. As he walked on the water just the doubt caused by the waves and immediately he started sinking. He saw the waves and in his mind he remembered what the waves could do. Just that difference. In a public meeting there is difference between an atmosphere of faith and an atmosphere of doubt. That is why if we want to minister with signs and wonders, we have to completely create an atmosphere where people come with a hundred percent faith. Why is it a hundred percent of the people who come to the meeting don't get healed. There is not a hundred percent atmosphere of faith. Let me tell you if there is ninety atmosphere of faith, ninety percent of the sick people will be healed. If there is sixty percent of the atmosphere of faith, sixty percent will be healed. But if you come to a state

where there is a hundred percent of atmosphere of faith, you have hundred percent of the people healed. Even in Kathryn Khulman's meeting not everyone is healed but quite a number healed even though the atmosphere there was intense in the presence of God. Yet unlike the intensity that Jesus brought forth.

So one of the things that brings forth intensity and zeal is fasting. Have you ever notice that every time when God wanted to move or when the disciples or people of God were away from God, God said you must come to Me with fasting and prayer. In a sense He was saying if My people were to humble themselves and pray. Implied in it is fasting because you see them coming back we always see them fasting and praying before God. Such that even a person like Ahab when he humbled himself before God, God says the judgment will not come on him but come on in the next generation. There is a certain intensity that comes out when a person fast. And that will come out of your life when you begin to fast over certain things. I guarantee you that when you began to fast and if it is not of God it will drop off. If it is of God it becomes so much a part of your very blood cells that you cannot differentiate between your own objective and God's objective for you. God's will and your will become one.

So fasting is the number one way to intensify and increase in intensity of what God wants to do in our lives.

## **Tears**

The second is tears. People cry because they are affected deeply. If right now we begin to dim the light and play very soft music, and I were to tell a very sad story, it can bring tears to some of your eyes. Or if an atmosphere that reminds you of some tearful event, it also brings tears. Now people cry and the tears come out because they have grief or sometimes out of abundance of joy can bring tears too. I have seen people laugh until their tears come out. That's the opposite extreme but there is intensity also but it was a positive intensity. Tears are important in the bible. It is the intense people in the bible who bring forth accomplishments. In modern life we are trained to suppress our tears. We don't realize that they are a

part and a parcel of the development of our emotion.

Turn with me to Hebrews 5: 7, *Who in the days of His flesh when He had offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him.* One of the pre-conditions of Jesus being fulfilling His call and having the answer from God and the assurance from God was that Jesus came intensely to God. None of us has possibly come to that kind of intensity that He has come through in the garden of Gethsemane when He was so intense that His blood vessels broke and blood came out. But every time when there is intensity involved the things that moves you are those things that moves you to tears. And whenever you are not able to shed tears, you have become lethargic in the things of God. I am not saying that always when you come to God you must mourn and cry. But I am talking about tenderness of heart that must always be there.

When I come to the presence of God there are different degrees of His presence. But there is a certain experience of His presence that moves you to tears. But if over a long period of time I have not shed tears, I will say, "God my heart has become too harden; soften it again." I need my heart to be what the bible call soft and tender. If in your prayer life you have not cried for sometime, you better check your life whether it has gone too hard. Usually backsliding and hardness of heart come together. Whenever you have done something wrong you cannot weep before God, then that is how hard your heart has become. Whenever you sense a presence of God you feel joy but there are times that you so moved but the tears cannot come out, then there is something wrong also. Perhaps the dullness of the world has crept into your heart so that you could not be moved anymore.

A harden heart is an enmity to being led by the Spirit. The easiest way to be led by the Spirit is being tender hearted. There are a lot of people who want to be led by the Spirit. But they are not contrite enough for the Spirit to lead them. They don't realize how gentle the Spirit is. He is so gentle that if your heart is just slightly hard, you cannot feel Him anymore. But He is so gentle that only a heart that is tender hearted according to the tender heartedness that is qualified in the bible then you could feel His move. You could discern His leading. Tears are an important element of intensity. A person who can cry is someone who will be very intense in other things that they do. And people who cannot you find that they lose some sort of

intensity in their life. You have become satisfied and complacent with just getting along.

The second area of tears deals with your emotions. When your emotions can no longer be touched, you have lost some level of intensity. Sometimes intensity starts with one of these five areas. You could see some people who are normal Christian (by normal I mean not in the bible normal but the normal of the modern world which is usually below God's standard) just come to church go home and have a normal life and everything normal. Don't get too zealous and don't be backslidden. Just be somewhere barely getting along. Don't do too much don't do too little. Just get a ticket to heaven. That kind of normal. And then suddenly one day that person is touched by perhaps the presence of God or a word or a book or something that moves a person to tears. You see that one area begins to attack the rest. And because of that one incident that person starts repentance seven days a week. These are five different areas. If you could be touched by one of these areas the intensity will flow to other areas. Perhaps a nominal Christian hears a message on fasting. He has never attempted a fast before but for the first time begins an attempt. Then after a period of three days fast or seven days fast something does happen to that person. Intensity comes into the Christian that was never there before. Anyone one of these areas can bring the intensity and the zealousness back to the Christian.

## **Rejoicing**

The third area of intensity is what I call a rejoicing. We will look at the book of Second Samuel 6: 14, *Then David dance before the Lord with all his might* and David was wearing a linen ephod. It says David danced with all his might. Now that is the third form of intensity, being able to rejoice and being expressive in intensity. That looks like in the area of emotions but it is more than that. It is an area of the will. You see intensity of your fasting deals with your spirit. Although it deals with your flesh too but basically it comes from your spirit. The only thing that can sustain you in any spiritual fast is your spirit man inside you. Any just normal natural discipline of fasting for diet reason or whatever is different. But the spiritual intensity of your spirit can sustain any length of fast.

The third area is what I call the expression of joy. Expression of joy has to do with intensity. Someone who could worship God freely like David who couldn't care what people think of him. His own wife commented on how he dressed. He says I worship God the way I want. He was so caught up with that joy that he couldn't be bothered about trying to be a dignified king. He just wanted to rejoice in the Lord. In the same way you just feel the joy of jumping and dancing as you are worshipping God, you have a shy nature so you control yourself. After about ten of years of control, there is some intensity that you lost. Finally something happened and you couldn't control any more or rather you let go. And so for the first time you really released yourself and danced to the Lord. Perhaps you started in your own bedroom. You really rejoiced before the Lord. Something clicked inside you. Its like the scales dropping from you. Its like the fetters and the chains that are holding you dropped off from you. I will guarantee you if you reached the stage where you are willing, ability is no question, because dancing onto the Lord don't need any training except your joy in the Lord. Nobody is going to tell you to dance three steps forward two steps backwards. Dancing to the Lord doesn't deal with your ability. It deals more with your choice. Then one day you couldn't care any more. You just choose to rejoice before Him. And you let go of yourself freely. From that day onwards it moves into other departments of your life. You began to be more zealous for the Word. You see when you do something it has some intensity after that. Why, you are like David you worship God with all your might.

The third area deals more with your choice although you will think it is emotion. All you have to do is to make a choice. Once you make a choice you go ahead with that intensity or worship. Something breaks from you. We don't necessarily worship God because we feel good. We worship God because we love Him. And we want to rejoice before Him. Like I may wake up in the morning, my feelings may not wake up yet but my spirit wakes up. I would want to worship God. I would stir my soul, like David says bless the Lord O my soul. You begin to worship God intensely. The sad thing is that many people can only do that in their bathroom. In the bathroom they will sing Bless the Lord O my soul until the door rattle. But when they come to the church the sing very softly. What happened to that intensity? You know why people can do that so easily in their bathroom? Because that's when they are most relaxed. Sad to say that when they come to church they are very tensed up. Who is watching me? The deacon is watching me; the pastor is watching me. So in the end they cannot worship God because everybody is watching them. They shut off and the intensity disappears. They



couldn't make that choice. It has to do with the choice when you decide to worship God.

## Discipline

Fourth area that develop zeal is what I call discipline. Discipline is ability where you develop habits. I think Daniel would be an exemplary guy in discipline. In the book of Daniel 6: 10, *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home and in his upper room with his window open towards Jerusalem he knelt down on his knees three time that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as was his custom from early days.* I would say that even if a person could regularly do something. Even though the person missed out something on the other three areas where they don't have tears, they don't fast and they are not very expressive in their joy, and they develop the fourth area it does produce intensity in their life. Because no ordinary person without some form of training will be able to develop a habit continuously like Daniel until he was an old man. By king Darius' time, Daniel was an old man. He lived under Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar's son and grandson. The last king was his grand son. Although in the bible they have a favorite way to say that the son of Nebuchadnezzar. Even great grand father they also call son. Jesus was called the son of David although David and Jesus were so far away in genealogy. If you read bible history you will realize that he lived quite long. And this was in his old age. Yet Daniel has a very disciplined habit.

For example if somebody tells me that for forty years they have been getting up at four in the morning without fail except for a few times and prayed for forty years, I will say that guy has zeal. But what area of zeal? It is in the fourth area in discipline. Cornelius who did not know the Lord yet had that in Acts chapter ten. He frequently pray, fasted and gave alms. He even did the first area of fasting. These are expressions that develop zeal in a person life.

Now this fourth area discipline and habit if you examine it very carefully has more to do with the mind. Without a mental discipline you cannot have a social discipline. Or habit discipline in your life. A person who gets up at four every

morning like John Wesley throughout his entire life and ministry has a very disciplined mind. He sets it as a custom and a habit. You may have a different discipline. Some people have a discipline of praying one hour in tongues every day. These are all disciplines that you develop and incorporate in a person's life. It is a discipline of doing something. You will notice that it has to do more with your mental habit. You have ingrained it into yourself. Going to church regularly also is a discipline. It has become such a habit that you don't even think about Sunday. You straightaway go to church. But do you know not going to church is also a bad habit. All you have to do is to miss one Sunday. And you find a few things to do on that Sunday. Then the second Sunday you miss it again. And by the third or fourth Sunday it's a habit. You got things to do for the Sunday. So it becomes a bad habit on the reverse. Going to church is a good habit. So wherever you go anywhere on this planet earth and if it was a Sunday, you will be looking for a place to worship. If you cannot find you probably get down on your knees and worship God wherever you are. Because you are so used to giving God that Sunday to worship. It's a discipline that builds zeal. Without zeal you cannot have God's best.

No one from Genesis to Revelation has ever got whatever God has best for them without zeal being demonstrated. We are not talking about getting the good things. We are not talking about getting the better things. We are talking about getting the best things from God. And if you are one of those who want the best that God has in your life, there need to be a demonstration of zeal before God. You want to live at the level that you could consider super and not just getting along. Before you heard this message probably you have heard that Christians must be zealous. But you don't know how to be zealous. What does he mean by being zealous? We do more good works. As a result when Christians hear, "Be zealous," they go back and do more good works. To them that is zeal. That's not the bible definition of zeal.

You demonstrate your zeal by developing these areas. Number one fasting, number two tears, number three rejoicing before God, number four discipline a spiritual habit and number five is endurance. It looks like the same as number four but its slightly different because number four is a habit that comes forth first from the development of your mind. That is why a person with a weak mind cannot be very disciplined to make a quality decision and carry it through. A weak minded person will be weak willed and they cannot carry it out.

## Endurance

But the fifth area is interesting. I call it endurance and it has to do with physical endurance, physical stamina. It is to be able and willing to push physically to the limits. Now you cannot do that perpetually and get away with it. But there is a certain time and certain place that is permissible in God. For example if I am involved in a project and it is not completed in a time schedule I will give up sleep to finish it. I will push this body as much as I can and after that I know how to get a good rest. But sometimes I work together with others and I find they don't have this kind of zeal. A project is due and I know according to my calculation if we don't do twenty hours of work on that and cut it down to four hours sleep, I know we cannot do a very good job. We can only get by. Yet when I began to work closely and fellowship with people, I realize that these people are still stuck to the eight hours of work. If they finished the eight hours that's it close shop go home. You know what it is. These people have no zeal.

If Jesus kept to eight hours job we are all finished. That is why the life of a minister is like a doctor on call. In a sense you have your discipline where you realize you must have your priorities right. But yet at the same time you realize that souls are at stake. You know that if you give yourself to one thing like for example some people go to the extreme where they are constantly visiting, visiting and they don't have personal time with God. So their ability to minister to people while they visit lessens. Why, they don't have enough time with God. So their spiritual power and presence of God drops. Where normally it would take them half an hour to minister to a person with spiritual result, now it takes them four hours.

The other extreme is they spend so much time with God and they don't fellowship with human beings any more. They are just with God. The only difference they don't talk with people. So as a result their spiritual nature is developed but their social nature is not developed. These people tend to have problems in their personal life. They may not be very good in developing their family life because that takes a social skill. They may not be very good at making business decision of life. They may have tax problems; they may have financial problems. But they are fantastic in

spending time with God. You may say wouldn't God take care of him because he spend so much time with God. No, God doesn't excuse you for laziness. God is not going to fill up your income tax form for you. Even if you fast and pray for forty-eight hours, all God does is to give you the skill to do it.

I remember this young man in the Lord who had a vision of Jesus in his living room. And Jesus told him about his ministry. Then he changed his direction and did something that Jesus told him to use. While Jesus was in the room his tape recorder broke down. He asked Jesus, "Since You are here, why not You repair my tape recorder too?" Jesus said, "I can only do it through you." Do you know what Jesus is saying? If you really want Me to do it, you must listen to Me and tap on My wisdom and I give you the ability and then through your hands I will do it. So in that sense we are looking at this area of endurance where there is a balance that is necessary. Some will spend all their time in the world. Some will spend all their time with the Lord. And they need to balance the two to be a balanced person in God.

In the 1950s revival there were a lot of small little children who received powerful anointing and call of God. Some of the six years old stand on the chair hand on the people and getting the blind healed. By the time they grew up to be teenagers and they are in their twenties they forsook the Lord and went into the world. Even though they are now in their thirties none of them are with God. What was the problem? The problem was that whoever their parents were develop their spirituality without developing their soul. So they grew up never knowing what childhood was. They grew up never knowing what the requirements or the choices of life as a teenager. All those are involved to make intelligent choices. In other words their spirit grew but their soul never grew. And by the time they grew up and as an adult you got to face the world. They have nothing to draw from. So they couldn't take it and they left. And not a single one of them today are around. That is why a teenager can receive an anointing from God and be powerful. But they are like a little firecracker instead of being a rocket that has a continuous fuel. Why because they have the spiritual capacity but they don't have the soul capacity. When you begin to move into the things of God, you realize that without a balance you cannot survive since God made you spirit, soul and body.

Now here we are talking about the last quality endurance. There is something about a person willingness to push themselves to the limit. Its just like you have bought a new car. See any new car need a period of what I call breaking in if your car has gone to the maximum, and then you go to the minimum speed. Once it has broken in, it is very nice driving. All the time you are always driving your car at 50 km per hour. Somehow your car has not been pushed to the limit. But if all the time your car is only 50 km per hour for ten years, that car have never been broken in and by that time it is very hard to break in. Even like a horse. You know those horses that people ride today so nicely. That horse has to be broken in. And that breaking in process is what I call endurance. If you are ever in anything for the Lord and you have never known what is to push yourself to the limits you don't know where your real norm is, I don't recommend that you do it all the time without the leading of the Lord. What do you mean by real norm? Sometimes your friends, your parents and your own mind tell you what your norm is. But you never realize what you can do for God. Sometimes God is merciful and He permits something so that He pushes us, and you say, "I didn't know I could do that." Then after that you became comfortable with it. Why, you are pushed to do it. Which is why a lot of people their talents are discovered by accident because they happened to be the replacement.

I am sure like Philip and Stephen, Stephen died but Philip was one of those deacons carrying things for the widows, serving them in Acts eight. Nobody knew that inside that guy who was like a waiter all the time was this big time evangelist who in a few days can turn the whole city upside down. Who will ever dream that some of you guys what is inside your spirit right now? You may say who is that skinny little guy who sits on the second last row. What good can come out of Nazareth? You never know one day when you are just chosen and just happened to be a replacement for somebody else. All of a sudden all these fantastic things come out. And people say where do you come from. It was inside you all the time. The big time evangelist was inside all the time. But their own minds have set their own limits.

It is just like they take this huge big elephant and tie it to a small little stick. And the elephant will just remain there. But actually the elephant could easily pull that stick out. But what happened is they have taken and tied it to something strong. The elephant has been pulling and pulling for months until the elephant thought

that there is no way it can get out of this thing. So the elephant's mind clicked and accepted the fact that it can never pull that chain out. The elephant has been broken in. After that the elephant trainer can tie the elephant to any stick. Anything that even a human being can just pull out. But the elephant just feel a slight pressure and say I know no need to try.

It is important for us to understand this principle of endurance. You do not know your true capacity until you have reached the limit. Its just like people who don't push to the endurance to the limits. They are like the Israelites before they enter and fight. They haven't even fought and they say we are defeated. Just because that guy is a big bulwark they say sons of Anakim are tall we are like grass hoppers before them.

I remember Jerry Sevell telling this story. Jerry Sevell is a very small size guy. In school he was always among the smaller size. There was this big tough school bully. He was bullying all the other kids in school. One day this bully came after this Jerry Sevell. So Jerry took one look at him and surrendered everything. No need to fight. Do you know gangsters who ask for protection also use this kind of psychological warfare? No fight they just say you know me. Just like the devil. You know what will happen. Just the element of fear is enough. They haven't even tested. And so this bully took Jerry Sevell's money. When Jerry came home, the father asked what happened to all the money. His father gave him a beating. The father says you get everything back or else. Now here is Jerry being stuck between his father's belt and the big bully. If he doesn't face the bully he has to face his father's belt. So the next day he came to this bully. Again this bully wanted to get some more things from him. But it is like some of us. We don't want to move until we have a choice of two evils. When you have a choice of good and evil, you don't want to move. A choice of two evils then you say let me take the lesser one. So here he is facing this bully. He says as he was standing before this bully and remembered the belting he got from his father, a thought strike him. Nobody had really fought this bully before. All he had is his big size and he just walked around. Everybody was scared. In fact he said that nobody in the school had ever fought that bully before. And by that time he was in a sort of terrorized anger. Before the bully could say anything, this Jerry Sevell small as he was, was all over the bully. He was surprised that the bully went down. He said after that the bully was his friend. But this is where he has not reached his limits until that fight.

It just like you have your old car. Even though the speedometer may show how many miles you can go you don't really know. There is no way but to test it out. So you went on the highway and by ninety it was shaking. Then you know ninety cannot. So you go down to eighty. At eighty km per hour the window just shake. So you also say eighty cannot. So now you go down to seventy and it just nice. So now you have discovered the endurance of your old car. Your body is your car that your spirit is in right now and your soul is driving it. And there are limits in all areas. A lot of people accept it as a fact of life without testing it. People say you can only do in one area. You can be a Jack-of-all-trades and master of none. But never accept a limit. I rather test it out myself and find out my own limit. You know your limit in some areas. Physical limits like prayer. How long you can spend your time in prayer or getting up early in the morning. Some people have a physical limit some don't. Some people get up at four in the morning. They heard the message about seeking God in the morning. Early will I seek thee O God. But their usual time of waking is nine a.m. So they get up at four a.m. by the third month their eyes were bloody and black. Then you know that somehow they are rushing it. Do you know that your body also has to be trained to get up early? If you have been getting up at nine in the morning and suddenly you get up at four in the morning your body may not take it. So we have to test our physical endurance.

I am talking about working for the Lord in some areas you got to test it out. Some of you heard people say normally you can never go longer than so many hours praying in tongues. You have never tested it yourself. Until you tried it you don't know your real limits are. Some of us have not pushed ourselves for the Lord's work to the limit yet. Because you have not done that you cannot move back to your norm. If I buy an old car and I know that at 70 the windows are shaking at 80 the whole car shake, then I will probably drive at 60. When you overtake a car you drive at 70 but you find you cannot overtake that car so you come back to 60. You know your limit and you come back to your norm.

Your endurance is not your norm. Your endurance is your maximum capacity. We have to discover our maximum output. I know my maximum I can go for three days without sleep. After your body has been tested it has been broken into. In other words your body began to accept. Spirit you are the master before that the

body wants to be master. So when your spirit wants to do something your body says no. You want to pray in tongues for two hours, your body says cannot one hour will do. So your body fights with you. And you push your body and finally you push your body to eight hours tongues. Then you come down to four hours it is nothing one hour is peanuts. See you have pushed to your endurance.

Same like fasting. Some people find it a struggle just to fast one day. But they have never pushed their bodies to the limit. Now this area you got to be very careful not to destroy your body since we are talking about a highly stress situation. But I am talking about once in a while when there is an opportunity. When you know that there is something that is required of God. Once in a while I get into that kind of situation where I have about five things to do. And they all have a time schedule. I push myself to the limit then after that I get my rest. But for a lot of people give up. Now God will not put you in a situation where perpetually you are always having the five things to do. Always running at 120 km per hour. And as a result you live a very short life. Your body cannot stand that kind of stress. I am talking about zeal for God.

I have fellowshiped and worked with different groups and different peoples. Sometimes I find people lacking zeal. I am prepared to work longer. I say as long as this thing needs to be done I will make sure it goes through. Some people will say it is check out time. In God there is no check out time because God goes by completion. When you are called to something, you must finish it.

Paul who wrote a major portion of the New Testament has all these five qualities. That made him head and shoulders above the rest. If you are talking about getting God's best you will find all these five things. In the book of Acts 9 the very first day of his conversion he fasted three days. What type of fast was it? Look at Acts 9:9 carefully. It was a total fast with no food and no water. That was a baby Christian. You can see that he is someone if he is turned to God he is 100% for it; there are no half measures with him. This is the kind of person that Jesus can use to change the world. We are talking about world changers tonight. We are not talking about mediocre Christianity. If you are the type of people who want to change the world, you join the group of over comers to whom are promised the special blessings. He tells us in Second Corinthians 11: 27, *In weariness and toil, in sleeplessness, often in*



*hunger and thirst, in fasting often.* In other words he often fasted. He had a certain zeal for God. And he sought God with fasting. That was why that one man changed and shook the world. When he enters a town the entire town was shaken. Do you know now why we have one thousand Christians and they cannot even touch the fringe of the city? Where are the hundred thousand Christian in this nation? And why are they not turning the nation right side up? All are prepared to do are mediocre measures. It is going to take a long time. If it takes one thousand volts of Holy Spirit power to shake a nation, and if everyone alone has one micro mini volt, it is going to take a lot of people to reach one thousand volts. But if you have just two guys with 500 volts, they will shake the entire nation. I am talking in terms spiritual voltages of zeal for God. That is why one Jesus is enough to shake the entire universe because He was hundred percent given up for God.

One Paul was enough. One Elijah was enough. But too many are mediocre and work in half measures. The Laodicean church was asleep. Jesus is knocking on the door. Paul was a man who fasted often he has developed a certain zeal in God. The second area is tears. If you could be intense in all five areas, you must be a spiritual giant. Not all Christians are intense in all five. Some are intense in one or two areas. But the second area Paul was intense in is his tears. The things he ministered about affected him right to the core of his spirit. He is all for God and nothing for the devil. Just for some background in Acts 19:10 *And he continued there for two years in the school of Tyrannus until all in Asia heard the word.* And verse 11, *God worked unusual or special miracles by the hands of Paul.* Because of the work in Ephesus the entire region called Asia Minor heard the gospel through one man's ministry. How is that? Look at Acts 20: 31, *Therefore watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn every one night and day with tears.* He told Timothy in Second Timothy 1 how he desired to see his tears that he may rejoice. Only a man who understood the value of tears can rejoice to see it in another. Verse 4, *Greatly desiring to see you being mindful of your tears that I may be filled with joy.* Why should he be filled with joy to see his tears? Because he knows then Timothy will be a hundred percent affected by whatever God has in his life.

Doesn't it feel good when you are able to cry? A lot of people cry for natural things and crisis and grief. They have a right to do it when it is something that is humane and compassionate. But when we are able to come to God and be taken up by the intensity of God's heart and be able to weep over those things, your life will never

be the same. I know fasting has changed my entire life. I know that every time when I reached a point where I have no more strength or something that affects me deeply and I weep my nights before God, as the tears drop down I feel the rain was dropping in my spirit. I feel the strength coming in. Some of you may have felt it. I am not talking about ordinary crying. I am talking about weeping before God. That as you kneel down before God in your own private chamber that as those tears come down you feel a hot flush going right through you. It relieves something. It could be any area but you feel it intensely. Your entire being is absorbed in it.

Intensity is what Paul had. I learned to maintain a broken contrite spirit through tears because I know God likes it. The bible says in Isaiah 66 how God looks for those with contrite spirit. And I said, "God this is something you want to see. How do I maintain it?" God said, "You must always be easily moved by My promises and by the things of God through tears." In the early days of my ministry I have to learn this secret. In the early days of my ministry as I launched forth where I began to move in the gifts of the Spirit I became very busy in God. Then I reached a point where I could not cry for souls. I came to God and said, "God its different the freshness is no more there." Do you know how I keep fresh? I cried. If ever a minister of God cannot cry before God for souls or for his kingdom, they lose their freshness and they began to taste like stale bread.

As long as they have tears like Paul had in God, no matter what subject they teach you would say there is something fresh there. There is something fresh and intense. A lot of people are getting stale bread because their ministers have not wept any more. Some ministers have never cried for souls for years. And if that is the picture, there is something very wrong. Paul cried every night before God. Jesus cried. I reached a point and I say God you got to give me your tears to cry. It was not easy but He did. Most of the time when I am in His presence I always cry because there is something about His presence that melts me. As long as I can weep in God's presence I maintain my freshness with God.

The third thing is the joy that Paul had. In the book of Philippians he says rejoice and again I say rejoice. You are familiar with Acts 16 his back together with Silas' was beaten. Locked up in chains at midnight they sang to God. You see Paul moves to the very extreme in intensity when he was persecuted and bleeding. I am giving

you for my life. These are the things I show you are the depths and deep things of the Spirit. How do I maintain with thousands of things in my heart to do for the body of Christ. The pressure is intense. But anytime when I need His grace and strength for me I just take up my guitar and start worshipping Him. At times when there is misunderstanding, persecutions will come in cycles from time to time. And you feel it intensely in your soul. The hurt is there. It hurts especially if it is not true. Just take up the guitar and worship God.

Paul with Silas lifted up their voices. The first time I ever dance onto the Lord was in a camp in of denominational church. I had never danced before since I am a very conservative person like most of you. And the majority of people are very conservative. You realize it usually a few people dancing all the time. Now they say the dancers are going into the crowd and select who ever they want to dance with. Then one of them came to me. I was just co-operative don't know how to dance but just move the legs. When I did that unknown to anyone there I felt a hot wave move into me. Like fetters dropping off. And from that time onwards it was easy to be expressive onto God. Those of you who have known me may have some very old tapes about ten years ago. You will notice the preaching is different because my personality has changed. It has changed because of these other areas have slowly filtered into the soul.

In the other different areas that Paul had. Look at the book of Acts 19: 9, *When some were hardened and did not believe but speak evil of the Way, he departed from them and withdrew with his disciples reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.* That is a very tedious work. Everyday you got to debate with people. That is a discipline that Paul had. He had a discipline to be able to teach and preach every day. Some people find it hard even to preach once or twice a week. Paul preached everyday possibly about three times a day. That is something of what I call zeal. We need to develop that same discipline that he developed in his life too as we move into the things of God. We need to have zeal to do the things of God, and zeal to read the word. Some of you are disciplined in reading the Word. This is one area you show zeal to God.

The fifth and last area is endurance. In the book of Second Corinthians 11, look at the endurance Paul had physically. See physical endurance does produce certain

tenacity for spiritual things. That is why a person who is very hardworking in the world, when they are born again and come into God, they also tend to be very hardworking. They retain their tenacity in spiritual things. A person who is lazy when they are born again sometimes they are lazy in the things of God. Second Corinthians 11: 27, *In weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often.* Look at Paul's endurance. Sometimes when I hear people training in ministry, they are so conscious of the modern things. These people cannot change the world. The people who can change the world are people who are willing to pay the price in all these five areas. That is why many times the second generation cannot change the world and do the things the first generation did. Why, the second generation is complacent. They don't understand the price that is involved.

Look at all those people in the world talented. Lets say a classical pianist. You ask that person how much they practice. Ask those who break world records. How many times a day they run. No body receives any thing without some form of endurance coming forth. And that kind of endurance is necessary in the spiritual realm also. Unless we have the intensity like Paul has, sorry to say, you can't change the world. But thanks be to God if you can catch a hold of this area of zeal, we can produce world changers, a group of people who will pay the price for anything. If they believe what God has given to them, they pay the price for it. Paul went through all these things. Like a minister I know wanted to build his church. He wanted to build it without cost. No way, anyone who wants to build a church must pay a price. As I was talking to a young minister who was building his church, I asked him what do you have to give to God. Don't ask others to give until you have given your best. Unless you have given your best into it then only you see others being moved to give the rest in. But there are times where God will give you a blessing for all our sacrifices.

It is important for us to understand these five principles because of Jesus Christ and our modern society needs zeal. I think Christians living in cities sometimes are more complacent because of distractions. The village Christians with no T.V. and worldly entertainment give all their time for God. City Christians tends to be lazy and complacent. And it's a rebuttal to our modern civilization. We have the ease of living in a city but we must not lose the zeal. How do we do the zeal? Five areas. And one important test is fasting. Which is why I say for the village people to go to church, they go through the rivers, the jungle and then they reach the prayer

meeting God does a great revival, great move of God, visions, angels came and ministered to them. City folks Christians just hop into a car; if there is no transport, don't want to come. Then we ask a question, "Why is there no revival?" We need revival and we are talking about stirring up all the things of God in our life. We can have it but we must show forth our zeal in God. Whosoever will be zealous for God, God will be zealous for them. God wants us to show our zeal. Why, our zeal shows how much we really love Him.