

Spiritual Renewal

1-12-14

Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Has the Fire Grown Dim? God said this about His relationship with Israel: "Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I remember you, the kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown.'" (Jeremiah 2:2). Jesus said this about His relationship with the church of Ephesus: "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love." (Revelation 2:4).

Do not be deceived; God does not accept half-hearted efforts (Revelation 3:15-16). We need to know that losing passion will ensure failure (Matthew 24:12-13). But all is not lost; by your own effort you can stir up your desires in your service to God (Habakkuk 3:18-19)..

With that said, there is the possibility of relighting a fire the wrong way. That would be by trusting human methods to renew our enthusiasm. Such things often are emotion based appeals verses Spiritual understanding. They amount to little more than satisfying the flesh.

We can relight the fire the right way. Consider how Joshua did this with Israel in Joshua 24:1-27. There he encouraged Israel to regain and hold on to their zeal for God. He reminded them that Israel's salvation was expensive. He pointed out that among the nations, many had desired what Israel possessed. Their great danger was not seeing it through. If they could keep their zeal in place, they would succeed.

We need to work on renewing our passion fo the Lord. Do we know people we would desire to obey the Gospel? Remember that enthusiasm is contagious. There are a great number of witnesses in the Old Testament to this (Joshua, the Judges, Samuel, David, Hezekiah, Jehoiada, Josiah, Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah). Each of them is commended for their desire to serve, and for all their days Israel obeyed God.

We need to renew our enthusiasm by being passionate about singing and praying. We need to examine ourselves when it comes to giving. In essence, we need to be passionate about all things that pertain to God.