

Kindling Thoughts

A ONE DESIRE Devotional
From Pastor Scott



January 24, 2025

As a young boy, I remember poking sticks into a campfire so I could create a writing torch to trace smokey letters in the air. I was always amazed how quickly the flame would dwindle and go out when I removed the stick from the fire. I was equally amazed to see it burst back into flame as soon as I brought it near the glowing bed of coals.

Friends, that's a picture of what we've been doing during our **ONE DESIRE Prayer and Fast**. This has been a time to draw near God's presence, the source of our spiritual flame and zeal, in a posture of humble reflection.

"Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."
-Roman 12:11

In fact God's Word calls us to examine ourselves (Psalm 139:23-24; II Corinthians 13:5; I Corinthians 11:28).

As we approach the conclusion this Sunday, here is more devotional "kindling", in the form of questions, to help you with a little self-reflection as you cry out, "Increase My Zeal, O Lord!".

Questions For Reflection

Choose a question that resonates most and ponder it before the Lord as you pray and fast:

- 1) **What has the Lord been teaching me so far?** As you've been experiencing more devoted time in prayer and Bible reading, have there been any particular truths that have stood out? Ask the Lord to give you eyes to see, ears to hear and a mind to remember what's He's been teaching you.
- 2) **Has my zeal increased? If so, how?** If zeal is more an act of devotion than it is just an emotion, examine your past week and ask the Lord to help you identify "zealous" moments where you put conviction into motion and turned your passion into an action.
- 3) **What tends to rob me of my zeal?** The measure of our zeal isn't so much what it takes to heat up, but rather how little it takes to cool it off. Ask the Lord to help you identify the things that most often hinder or dial down your zeal.

Zeal Is
More Devotion In
Motion
Than Merely Emotion

- 4) **What is one thing, one conviction in my inner being, that I know the Lord has made clear to me, but which I have not engaged or put into motion?** It's natural to seek after some new lesson we're hoping the Lord will bring into our faith. However, often there are things the Lord has already taught us, which we have yet to obey. Ask the Lord to help you identify any such areas.

My dear church family, like that stick bursting into flames as it drew near the campfire, I pray your zeal is burning brighter and hotter because you've drawn near the red hot coals of God's presence.

As we draw near the conclusion of this year's **ONE DESIRE Prayer and Fast**, let's continue praying in unity,



"O Lord,

***Increase my zeal for your glory and the impact of my L3 L.I.F.E..
Help me identify anything other than you that occupies the central focus
of my life.***

***Give me strength to resist its empty appeal for my attention.
Make my heart beat as one with yours, O Lord my God. Amen"***

Looking forward to seeing you Sunday. I hope you will plan to stay for the potluck following the service.

May the Lord bless you as you live a L.I.F.E. marked by Zeal!