

Have I Lost My Zest for God?

Isaiah 29:13 - *And the Lord said: Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men...*

This is a grave danger. To do the routine spiritual actions, without energy and enthusiasm, is unacceptable worship and service. When you feel yourself becoming spiritually dull, it is a warning sign that says, Watch out! You are headed for trouble. I suppose, this happens to all of us on occasion. It is healthy to ask yourself at times, “Have I lost my zest for God and for the things that bring Him delight?” Do I sing the hymns or pray mechanically? Do the truths of Scripture appear to be dull and common place? Has church become a “yawn”? Have I lost the sense of joy and delight in my Christian experience? That spiritual attitude is a danger sign. You need reviving, rekindled, re-flamed. God is about to step in and help. God's provision for this spiritual malaise is found in the latter part of verses 5 and 6 of Isaiah 29:

Suddenly, in an instant, the Lord Almighty will come with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with windstorm and tempest and flames of a devouring fire. (Isaiah 29:5b-6)

Suddenly God will send into your life some experience—something that will get your immediate and undivided attention. That is God's action to wake you up to the danger of drifting off and away from the vitality of a spiritual walk. It is God's reaction to your tepid spirit, your increasing coolness.

I appreciate the story of the two students at Duke University who went to a costume party dressed as blue devils, the mascots of their school. The two started out to find a party, but by mistake, they stumbled into a church prayer meeting. Their appearance set off a mass exodus through the church doors and windows. One lady became wedged in a pew and began to scream in terror. Forgetting that they were the cause of her predicament, the two young men rushed to help her. When she saw them advancing toward her, she raised her hand and said, “Stop! Don't come any further. I want you to know that I have been a member of this church for 25 years—**but** I've been on your side all the time!” That is what one could call a moment of truth because it is brought about by a life affecting experience.

At times God will send something that wakes you up suddenly to the drift in your life. This is why He has spoken so helpfully through the prophets and the apostles, warning us of the danger of spiritual malaise and the danger of living mechanically as a Christian. Do you need renewed spiritual vitality?