

The Necessary Conditions of Holy Zeal



Outline

- 1. Zeal based on knowledge**
- 2. Accompanied by a good lifestyle**
- 3. Constructive not destructive**
- 4. A strong and courageous zeal**
- 5. A fruitful and active zeal**
- 6. Examples of Holy Zeal**



Based on knowledge

Zeal that is not based on knowledge can be destructive and channeled into false accusation, stirring up unrest, and can be resisting the faith and trying to harm others

- Saul of Tarsus persecuted the Holy Church

St Paul: “Taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law and was zealous toward God as you all are today. I persecuted this way to the death binding and delivering into prison both men and women” (Acts 22:3-4)

- Jews were against Jesus and the twelve disciples

“The high priest rose up and all those who were with him (which is the sect of Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison” (Acts 5:17-18)

Based on knowledge, con't

- Peter's zeal in cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant
The Lord said: "For all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matt 26:25)
- Moses's zeal when he killed the Egyptian that was beating the Hebrew
- James and John asked Jesus if they can command fire to come down from heaven to consume the Samaritan villages that refused to accept Jesus
- The vow that the Jews made to fast until they had killed St. Paul

Accompanied By a Good Lifestyle

- We will never make a good impression or become good examples to others unless we lead by example
“Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who will remind you of my way of life in Christ” (1 Cor. 4:16-17)
- We must love God to make others love him
 - God must first clothe our hearts, before we can influence the hearts of others
- Beware of being merely a signpost on the spiritual path
 - Do not be like the bells that call people to come to church, but never enter the church
- Don't describe the food from heaven, if you do not taste it
 - *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine continue in them, for in doing this, you will save yourself and those who hear you” (1 Tim 4:16)*

Constructive Not Destructive

- Christianity condemns fervor that is destructive and abusive
- Rescues the sinners from their sin and do not crush them
- Be like the flame that cooks well, and do not burn the food
 - Instead of blaming sinners for not following the right path to walk, help them to walk the way by strengthening their determination and will

“The Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them” (John 3:17)

Strong and Courageous

- Holy zeal is a fire that has power and heat
 - “...that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void” (Is 55:11)
- It is the Zeal that has strength to convince others, influence them and defend the faith; truth is considered to be a strong zeal
- Sometimes people may have courage when it comes to thoughtless and irresponsible things, yet the children of God tend to feel embarrassed about their righteousness
 - “But you shall receive power when the holy spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8)

Fruitful and Active Zeal

- If we do not have the zeal that drives us to save others, then we will be a barren and fruitless tree

***“Every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into fire”
(Matt 3:10)***

- Most blessed days in our lives are those which bear fruit with the Lord Christ
 - ***“With the Lord a day is as a thousand years” (2 Peter 3:8)***
- One question to ask ourselves: **What have I done for the kingdom of God?**
- John the Baptist prepared people and made them ready for the Lord
 - ***“This is a true example of a wonderful fruit of a burning zeal”***

Examples of Holy Zeal

The Prophet Elijah:

- Elijah's zeal made him confront King Ahab and reproach him, just as it also caused him troubles and accusations
- His zeal urged him to pray that a difficult situation of some kind would occur through which people's consciences could be awakened, so he prayed for the rain to stop and famine came about for years
- When King Ahab asked him about the reason, he replied: *"I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandment of the Lord and have followed the Baals"* (1 King 18:18)

Examples of Holy Zeal, con't

St. Paul the Apostle:

- When he converted to Christianity, an amazing energy of fervor and power entered him
- He proclaimed the good news of the Lord Christ even when he was in prison, and was concerned about the salvation of others
- Out of his zeal for the Kingdom, he was constantly traveling and enduring hardships in order to spread the faith: ***“Besides the other things, what comes upon me daily; my deep concern for all the churches” (2 Cor 11:28)***

Examples of Holy Zeal, con't

St. Paul the Apostle, con't:

- St. Paul lived a life of holy zeal, and strived for the Kingdom and took up his cross every day and followed the Lord
- *“We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body” (2 Cor 4: 8-10)*

Examples of Holy Zeal, con't

St. Stephen:

- He was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit and of God's grace and power and he did great wonders and signs among people
- The people called "Synagogue of the Freedman", they were (Cyrenians, Alexandrian, and those from Cilia and Asia tried to argue and oppose him, but could not endure his zeal and work, so they conspired against him and accused him of blasphemy and handed him over to be stoned
- His zeal did not desert him and continued to expound the faith and rebuke the leaders of the Jews for their hardness of heart
- His journey was brief, but his zeal was fruitful and was powerful

Examples of Holy Zeal, con't

St. Mark:

- He came to Egypt to a land there was no church, no believers, and the pharaonic were worshiping the god of Ra, the Greeks were worshiping the god Zeus and the Romans were worshiping the god Jupiter
- His zeal was so effective that he was able to spread Christianity in Egypt and Libya.
- He helped St. Paul preaching in Rome and other countries in Europe
- He founded the first theological school in Alexandria and wrote a gospel
- He did all of that with no material resources to help him, but he entered Egypt with a torn shoes from so much walking on foot; *“So we can't say, that we are ready to serve, but we don't have any means or resources”*

Examples of Holy Zeal, con't

Archdeacon Habib Girgis:

- He lived during a dark period of our Christian history, in which there were no preachers and teachers of theology. Even Igomanus Philotheus Ibrahim, who was the only light remaining at that time, passed away, so Habib Girgis was the first student to join the Theological College and during that time, there was no teacher of religion
- Because of his deep zeal, he felt that the Theological college was his responsibility, so he began to study and to teach his colleagues even while he was a student. Also, at the time the college building was not in a good shape, so he felt that it is his responsibility to provide another building for it, so he went around the whole country to collect donations and was able to buy some land and built a study center and a dormitory built an institution for teachers. Also, a library was founded and the Church of the Virgin was built for the students

Examples of Holy Zeal, con't

Archdeacon Habib Girgis:

- Another example of his fruitful zeal, he took on and started setting up Sunday School, since there were no schools at that time nor any programs as well. He encouraged many people to help and participate in that field, with the result that religious education began to forge its way
- Also, he wrote text books to be used for all stages of teaching at school
- He took upon himself all of this, though none of which was officially included in his normal duties
- Habib Girgis' zeal was an example of zeal represented in a deeply positive activity

What did we learn?

Zeal can be either False or true and holy

False Zeal is

Blind

Self
Seeking

Misguided

Impulsive

Destructive

**True and Holy
Zeal is**

Godward

Fearless

Passionate

Generates
obedience

Fruitful and
persistent

Summary

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