

Zeal and Knowledge

- Zeal without Knowledge
- Knowledge without Zeal
- Zeal + Knowledge

The Bible teaches, that we should have an **Active Interest**, which is **ZEAL**, Enthusiasm, or Fervor.

- [Ecc.9:10](#) reads, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, **DO it with thy MIGHT**; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”
- “...walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,” ([Eph.4:1](#))
- “**NOT** slothful in business; (**BUT**) fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;” ([Rom.12:11](#))
- “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be **ZEALOUS** therefore, and repent.” ([Rev.3:19](#))

The Bible also requires **KNOWLEDGE**, or clear **UNDERSTANDING** of the Will of God.

- “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **UNDERSTANDING** what the **WILL** of the Lord **IS**.” ([Eph.5:17](#))
- “And beside this, giving all diligence, **ADD** to your faith virtue; and to virtue **KNOWLEDGE**,” ([2Pet.1:5](#))
- “**GROW** in grace, and in the **KNOWLEDGE** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.” ([2Pet.3:18](#))

The lesson is entitled, “Zeal and Knowledge”, but first, let’s consider,

I. Zeal WithOUT Knowledge

Concerning the Jews, Paul said,

- “For I bear them record that they have a **ZEAL** of God, but **NOT** according to **KNOWLEDGE**.” ([Rom.10:2](#))

...which is,

A. Activity without Guidance

...Works without Faith

...Heat without Light

- The Bible says, “So then **FAITH** cometh by **HEARING**, and hearing by the **WORD of God**.” ([Rom.10:17](#))
- God, “will have **ALL** men to Be **SAVED**, and to **COME** unto the **KNOWLEDGE** of the **Truth**.” ([1Tim.2:4](#))

regarding ‘Zeal without Knowledge’, consider some,

B. Examples

At the scene of the transfiguration, Peter,

- “said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if Thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. ⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.” ([Matt.17:4-5](#))

In [Jn.18:10-11](#), the Biblical record says,

- “Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?” ([Jn.18:10-11](#))

Peter had much Zeal for the Lord in this context, but it was without Knowledge.

Concerning 'Zeal without Knowledge', consider some examples from Saul of Tarsus.

- [Acts 22:3-4](#) reads, "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was **ZEALOUS** toward God, as ye all are this day.
⁴ And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons, both men and women."
- "For ye have heard of my conversation (or manner of living) in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:
¹⁴ and profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly **ZEALOUS** of the traditions of my fathers." ([Gal.1:13-14](#))
- "concerning **ZEAL**, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." ([Phil.3:6](#))

Concerning 'Zeal without Knowledge', there is a,

C. Danger of False Security

Some think "all is well"; but they are as LOST, as the Jews were.

- Paul said, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
² For I bear them record that they have a **ZEAL of God, but NOT according to KNOWLEDGE.**
³ For they **being IGNORANT of God's righteousness**, and going about to establish their **OWN righteousness**, have **NOT submitted** themselves unto the **RIGHTEOUSNESS of God.**" ([Rom.10:1-3](#))

Probably none more religious (then or now), than the Jews of the 1st century,
But their Zeal was without KNOWLEDGE.

- Jesus said, "to those Jews which believed on Him,
IF ye continue IN My Word (which requires knowledge), then are ye My disciples indeed;
³² and ye shall **KNOW the Truth** (To "know" equals knowledge),
and the **Truth** shall make you **FREE.**" ([Jn.8:31-32](#))

Trying to establish one's own righteousness through law and tradition,
Is like running in the dark, and eventually to one's own destruction.

- Jesus said, "in **VAIN** they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments OF MEN." ([Matt.15:9](#))

Spiritually speaking, Jesus said,

- "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.
¹⁴ Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind.
And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." ([Matt.15:13-14](#))
- "...they that are UNlearned and UNstable, **WREST** (or twist),
as they **DO** also the other scriptures, **UNTO** their own **DESTRUCTION.**" ([2Pet.3:16](#))

D. Knowledge of Truth is Available; So Ignorance Is Inexcusable

[Acts 17:25-31](#) says,

- God is Not “worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing **He GIVETH to all life, and breath, and ALL things;**
²⁶ and (God) hath **MADE** of one blood, all nations of men, for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and (God) hath **DETERMINED** the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

²⁷ that they should **SEEK the Lord**, if haply they might feel after Him, and **FIND Him**, though He (God) be not far from every one of us:
²⁸ for **IN Him we live, and move, and have our being;**
as certain also of your own poets have said, For **we are also His offspring.**
²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.

³⁰ And the times of this **IGNORANCE**, God winked at; but now **COMMANDETH all men every where to REPENT:**
³¹ because He hath appointed a day, in the which **He will judge the world in righteousness** by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.” (that’s [Acts 17:25-31](#))

- The apostles were told, “Go ye into all the world, and **preach the GOSPEL** to every creature.
¹⁶ He that **believeth AND is baptized shall be SAVED;** but he that **believeth NOT** shall be **DAMNED.**” ([Mk.16:15-16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Acts 22:16](#))
- Paul stated, “Have they not **HEARD?** Yes verily, their **SOUND** went into all the earth, and their **WORDS** unto the ends of the world.” ([Rom.10:18](#))
- “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they **RECIEVED the Word** with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” ([Acts 17:11](#))

We’ve noticed it is possible to have ‘Zeal without Knowledge’.
Likewise, it is possible to have,

II. Knowledge without Zeal

...which is,

A. Understanding without Activity

...Faith without works

...Light without heat

- “For **AS** the **BODY** withOUT the spirit is **DEAD**, so **FAITH** withOUT works is **DEAD** also.” ([Jas.2:26](#))
- “Even so **FAITH**, if it hath **NOT** works, is **DEAD**, being alone.” ([Jas.2:17](#))

Regarding 'Knowledge without Zeal', notice some,

B. Interesting Examples

Such as, the church at Ephesus.

- [Rev.2:1-5](#) reads, "Unto the angel of the **church of Ephesus** write; These things saith He, that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, Who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
³ and hast borne, and hast patience, and for My Name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat **AGAINST** thee, because thou hast **LEFT** thy **first LOVE**.
⁵ **REMEMBER** therefore from whence thou art **FALLEN**, and **REPENT**, and **DO** the **first WORKS**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." (that's [Rev.2:1-5](#))

- "And unto the angel of the **church in Sardis** write; These things saith He, that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; **I know thy WORKS**, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art **DEAD** (which is, faith without works).

² Be **WATCHFUL**, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.
³ **REMEMBER** therefore how thou hast **RECEIVED** and **HEARD**, and hold fast, and **REPENT**.
IF therefore thou shalt **NOT** watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." ([Rev.3:1-3](#))

The Galatians were devoted, but then lost their fervor.

- Paul said, "Ye **DID** run well; who did **HINDER** you, that ye should **NOT** obey the Truth?" ([Gal.5:7](#))
- "For **IF** a man **THINK** himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.
⁴ But let every man **PROVE** his own **WORK** (...according to the scriptures), and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.
⁵ For every man shall bear his own burden." ([Gal.6:3-5](#))

In every age, it seems there are some who have 'Knowledge without Zeal'.

[Matt.5:13](#) reads,

- "Ye are the **SALT** of the earth: but **IF** the salt have **LOST** his savour, wherewith shall it be **SALTED**? it is thenceforth good for **NOTHING**, but to be **CAST OUT**, and to be trodden under foot of men."

Some don't have enough zeal to maintain their knowledge.

The Bible says,

- "For when for the **TIME**, ye ought to be **TEACHERS**, ye have **NEED** that one teach you **AGAIN**, which be the **FIRST** principles of the **ORACLES of God**; and are become such as have **NEED** of milk, and **NOT** of strong meat." ([Heb.5:12](#))

Regarding 'Knowledge without Zeal', consider the,

C. Danger of this condition:

TRULY, It is a sinful state.

- "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have **NOT** works? **can faith save him?** (which implies, faith alone cannot save)
¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,
¹⁶ and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?
¹⁷ Even so **FAITH**, if it hath not works (or is not shared), **is dead, being alone.**
¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." ([Jas.2:14-18](#))
- "Ye see then how that by **WORKS** a man is justified, and **NOT** by faith only." ([Jas.2:24](#))
- "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." ([Jas.4:17](#))

Failure to act upon one's knowledge, brings condemnation.

The Bible says,

- The "servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." ([Lk.12:47](#))
- Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." ([Lk.9:62](#))

Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone, And All The World Go Free?

No, There's A Cross For Everyone.

We've noticed, that it is possible to have 'Zeal without knowledge', and likewise, 'Knowledge without Zeal'.

But, If we're going to please God, we must have,

III. Zeal + Knowledge (that is, Zeal that includes Knowledge)

...which is,

A. Understanding + Activity

...Faith + works

...Light + heat

Paul prayed for this ideal spiritual state.

- "that your love may abound, yet more and more in **KNOWLEDGE** and in all judgment;
¹⁰ that ye may **APPROVE** things that are excellent; that ye may be **SINCERE** and without offence, till the day of Christ;
¹¹ being **FILLED** with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." ([Phil.1:9-11](#))

Notice some,

B. Examples of precious ones, in this condition:

...such as the Disciples in Jerusalem.

- The Bible says, “they that **gladly RECEIVED His Word, were BAPTIZED:** and the same day there were **ADDED** unto them about three thousand **SOULS**.

⁴² And they **CONTINUED stedfastly** in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in (spiritual) breaking of bread (not a meal, but the Lord’s supper), and in prayers.⁴³ And fear came upon every **SOUL:** and many (miraculous) wonders and signs were done by the apostles (to confirm the Word – Mk.16:17-20).

⁴⁴ And all that **BELIEVED** were together, and **HAD** all things **COMMON;**

⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, **AS** every man had **NEED.**

⁴⁶ And they, **CONTINUEING** daily with one accord in the temple (which was, spiritual worship),

and breaking bread from house to house (which was, a physical meal), did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

⁴⁷ **praising God**, and having favour with all the people.

And the **Lord ADDED** to the church daily, such as should be **SAVED.”** ([Acts 2:41-47](#))

...those that “should be **SAVED**”, were those that “were Baptized” because they “gladly received His Word”.

Notice the great, humble apostle.

- Paul said, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that, for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.
¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **FORGETTING** those things which are **BEHIND**, and **REACHING FORTH** unto those things which are **BEFORE**,
¹⁴ I **PRESS TOWARD** the mark, for the **PRIZE** of the high calling of God **IN** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.3:12-14](#))

The Thessa-Ionians had ‘**Zeal that included Knowledge**’, as Paul said of them,

- “remembering without ceasing, your **WORK of faith**, and **LABOUR of love**, and **PATIENCE of hope** **IN** our Lord Jesus Christ, **IN** the sight of God and our Father;” ([1Thess.1:3](#))
- God “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, **ZEALOUS of good WORKS.**” ([Titus 2:14](#))

Thankfully, there are always some, who are solid spiritual citizens.

We can count on them to study, teach, pray and attend worship service and gospel meetings.

Regarding ‘**Zeal With Knowledge**’, notice the,

C. Blessedness, of this condition

...where Success, and Joy, can be ours.

- “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, **ALWAYS** abounding in the **WORK of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your **LABOUR** is not in vain **IN** the Lord.” ([1Cor.15:58](#))
- “And the **PEACE** of God, which passeth all understanding, shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds **THROUGH** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:7](#))
- “Whom having not seen, ye **LOVE**; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet **BELIEVING**, ye rejoice with joy, unspeakable and full of glory:” ([1Pet.1:8](#))

The blessing of an Eternal Crown awaits those who have 'Zeal + Knowledge'.

- Paul said, "I have **FOUGHT** a good fight, I have **FINISHED** my course, I have **KEPT** the faith:
⁸ henceforth there is laid up for me a **CROWN** of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall **GIVE** me at that day:
and not to me only, but unto all them also that **LOVE** His appearing." ([2Tim.4:7-8](#))
- "Fear none of those things which thou shalt **SUFFER**:
behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison,
that ye may be **TRIED**; and ye shall have tribulation ten days:
be thou FAITHFUL unto death, and I will **GIVE** thee a crown of LIFE." ([Rev.2:10](#))

The song by Thomas Shepherd, entitled "**Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone**" reflects these scriptural thoughts.

- 1) Must Jesus bear the cross alone
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for ev'ry one,
And there's a cross for me.
- 2) The consecrated cross I'll bear
Till death shall set me free,
And then go home my crown to wear,
For there's a crown for me.

IV. IN-CLOSING

SAVED One's:

Continue with the practice of 'Zeal + Knowledge',
to manifest and demonstrate in our daily lives,

- "**WHOSE** I am, and **WHOM** I serve," (as Paul did, [Acts 27:23](#))

LOST One's:

BECOME a Christian before it is too late, and Add to your Faith ([2Pet.1:5-8](#))

- "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." ([Rom.5:6](#))
- "Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering;
not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" ([Rom.2:4](#))
- "for as many of you as have been baptized **INTO** Christ, have put **ON** Christ." ([Gal.3:27](#))

The Lord invites you, and we wait to assist you,

If you have a spiritual need, COME while together we stand and sing.

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