

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Zeal's Catalyst

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A catalyst is a substance when reacting with molecules of another substance can speed up molecular changes. The catalytic converter in our cars possesses two blocks of micro ducts containing the precious metals platinum, rhodium and palladium. The combination of gas molecules reacting with these metals plus the heat from the gases cause the rapid molecular change of these molecules and create substances less harmless to our atmosphere. The enzymes in our saliva speed up the breaking down of the molecules of our food allowing for easier digestion.

In the spiritual realm, zeal is essential to serving God. The very word speaks of heat. The warm fervent heat of a heart desiring to serve is what being zealous is all about. Paul exhorts Christians in their service to be diligent “. . . not slothful; fervent in spirit serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11).

Conviction is the substance in the heart that serves as a catalyst for zeal. What gives zeal its fervent desire to serve or accomplish something is deep abiding belief in someone or some

thing. Being convicted of something involves the heart being conquered. The heart succumbs to the perceived truth which on contact changes slothfulness or ambivalence to fervency.

Paul, being convicted with the traditions of his fathers, was “*exceedingly zealous*” for them (Galatians 1:14). His pursuit of Christians, who in his heart were enemies of God, was one proof of his zeal (Philippians 3:6). He was proud to be a Pharisee, who allowed no compromise to what his sect considered the Law of God (Philippians 3:5). The problem was not in Paul's conviction which separated him unto God, nor in the consequent zeal. Paul at first failed to see that the Law of Moses was never designed by God to make man righteous, but was designed to point men to the Christ who could make man right before God (Galatians 3:11, 24). Paul was zealously fighting God's eternal purpose. He would have to change, and did. When presented the truth of the gospel, his conviction served as catalyst in his fervent zeal for Christ

The great lesson of Paul is that we must first make sure we have God's truth before we allow

the catalyst of conviction to heat up our zeal. Our zeal for God must first be based upon the proper knowledge (Romans 10:2).

Paul characterizes the Christian as being “*zealous for good works*” (Titus 2:14). God does not expect us to just turn up the heat for zeal, but gives us truth in which to ground our faith. When we are convicted of the fact that Jesus “*gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession. . .*” our hearts must heat up to manifest good works. Do you mean Jesus died for me? I have been redeemed from my sins? He seeks me as his possession? Yes! Yes! Yes! Being convicted of these truths, the heating up of the heart in fervent zeal will follow.

When we do sin, the conviction in our heart of our error will move us to repent. The only way the lukewarm hearts in Laodicea could “*be zealous therefore and repent*” is that they were truly convicted of the Lord's verbal chastening (Revelation 3:19)