

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

"JEALOUSIES"

It is pleasant to sit under a sparkling sky with a glowing, crackling fire penetrating our souls with rays of warmth. Such an experience makes us feel good all over. But, you let that comforting fire get out of control, and it will consume everything in its path, leaving behind only destruction and anguish.

Such a contrast can be seen in the word "jealousies" or "emulations" (KJV). The word denotes a warm, fervent, and vibrant spirit that can accomplish much good. But if not controlled, it will produce harmful evil. It involves the strong passions of beings, whether the incensed retributive fury of God (Heb. 10:27), or the mournful longings of man (2 Cor. 7:7).

Like the precautions taken with the camp fire, we must learn to control our fervent spirit and allow it to give glory to God, and not destroy our well being.

I. WHAT THE WORD "JEALOUSIES" MEANS

- A. ZELOS - Noun; occurs 17 times in the N.T. and means to begrudgingly look at the personal qualities, accomplishments, influence or possessions of another, strongly wishing they were our own.
 - 1. The word is translated "emulations", "jealousy", "indignation" "zeal", "envy" and "envying".

II. HOW THE WORD IS USED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. The word is used in a good sense and translated "zeal", manifesting its warm, vibrant, unflagging desire or love for some noble person or goal (2 Cor. 7:7, 11; Jn. 2:17).
 - 1. Such fervor can be a good influence upon others (2 Cor. 9:2).
 - a) We can be stirred to imitate or emulate the qualities or example of another in a good sense. But, when we look with resentment toward the nobility of the person, wishing we were the only one so honored, we have sinned - jealousy.
 - 2. The character of one's motive behind his zeal causes this vibrant desire to be good or bad (2 Cor. 11:2, Gal. 4:17-18, Col. 4:13).
- B. The word is used to denote a type of envy one has over the success and influence of others.
 - 1. The Jews manifested this spirit when they viewed with anger the success of the Apostles with the multitudes (Acts 5:17, 13:45).
 - 2. Such a spirit leads to harmful retaliation (5:18, 13:50-51; Acts 7:9 - verb form (ZELOO), cf. Gen. 37:4, 11, 28).
- C. Such a fleshly mind eliminates spiritual growth (I Cor. 3:3).

