

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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The Energy Of Spring

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Spring is here! It seems all at once, fresh green grass sprouts from a backdrop of dormant brown. New sprigs are spurting out from branches of trees and shrubs. The landscape is popping with color from the wild bluebonnets to the cultivated Azaleas. A fresh vibrancy is in the air. After all it is Spring, not lifeless “old man Winter”, or the listless “dog days” of Summer. In nature there is an energy in Spring unlike any other time of the year.

Aside from the technical scientific definition of “energy”, we can accurately see “*vigor or intensity of action*” contained in the meaning of this word. “Energy” is necessary in our walk with Christ. Jesus demands of us a “working” faith (*Galatians 5:6*), a “lively” hope (*I Peter 1:3*) and a “fervent” love (*I Peter 1:22*) for one another. A sluggishly slothful attitude in our service unto the Lord should never be mentally entertained, knowing that Jesus demands only service from a “*fervent spirit*” among his followers (*Romans 12:11*).

There is a vigor or intensity of action that should be seen in our attitude towards God’s

word. We are to manifest the intensity of a newborn desiring nourishment as we “*long for the spiritual milk*” of the word (*I Peter 2:2*). A healthy newborn is not having to be constantly coaxed to drink, but usually lets you know that it is time for feeding, and vigorously engages in obtaining the needed nourishment. What a great time of year to Spring clean lethargy from your desire to know more of God’s word. Peter reminds us that we “*grow to salvation*”, and the ultimate goal of Heaven is determined first by the character of our appetite for God’s instruction.

Sometimes, energy to serve the Lord comes from the good example of others. Paul spoke of the actual abundant contribution from the undivided hearts of the Macedonians’ to move the Corinthians to go ahead and properly give. He was proving them “*through the earnestness of others*” (*2 Corinthians 8:8*). In turn, the Corinthians’ readiness for more than a year to participate in the contribution to needy saints in Jerusalem provided a “*zeal*” that “*stirred up very many*” of the brethren in Macedonia (*2 Corinthians 9:2*). Earnestness and zeal are words packed with energy.

They come in the form of good examples. Do not underestimate what your zeal in service unto the Lord can do for another. It may be the very flash of light that awakes them out of slumber to a vibrant service of their own.

Energy is often connected with youth. We marvel at the abounding energy of a young boy or girl. New start up companies often abound with energetic workers executing the dream of tireless planners. We will be examining this week Christianity and the church in it’s youthful beginning as we explore the Book of Acts. We will not be able to ignore the zeal and intensity of service manifested in the lives of the apostles and early disciples (Acts 5:29, 8:4, 17:11, etc.) May their long ago earnestness stir us up to serve the Lord today with vigor.

By attending every night of our Spring Meeting, you will be able to recharge your spiritual batteries. And by manifesting towards God’s word a newborn’s longing for milk while in attendance, your zeal may help others jump start their spiritual lives and service unto the Lord. In Spring time nature comes alive! May we this Spring come alive in our spiritual service unto the Lord.