

**Day 7**  
**Read Romans 12:1-13**

*Focus: Romans 12:11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

**Holiness Burns**

*"I just go where the life is, you know. Where I feel the Holy Spirit. If it is in the back of a cathedral in the quietness and the incense, which suggests the mystery of God, or in the bright lights of a revival tent. I just go where I find life."*

*-Bono of U2*

*"If you can't go to church and, for at least a moment, be given transcendence; if you can't go to church and pass briefly from this life into the next; then I can't see why anyone should go. Just a brief moment of transcendence can cause you to come out of church a changed person."*

*-Garrison Keillor, author*

All of us are secretly looking and longing for two things: a sense of *intense aliveness*, and to be a part of something much bigger than ourselves. The search for these two things plays out in a lot of different ways, but these ways are common to many. On the negative end, people take drugs, become involved in illicit sex, and become violent all in the quest for these two things. On the positive side, much achievement and good can be motivated by this same quest. Sporting conquests and artistic endeavors grow from this source. Turn on the ESPN and you will see it. Turn on the radio and you will hear it:

*All of your weight/and all of your dream/falls on me/it falls on me/You're beautiful now/and the light that you bring/falls on me/it falls on me.*

*-Fuel*

The Bible says that God has placed a longing for eternity in our hearts, and that ultimately we can only find what we are looking for in God. I don't know whether the band Fuel wrote that song about God, but they could have. The glory of the Lord in the Old Testament carries with it the ideas of light and weight. As we experience the reality of a living God in our lives it changes us in a beautiful way. The weight of His character falls on us and we see everything in a new light. When we experience His presence we feel fully alive, and our lives take on a much bigger purpose.

Romans 12:11 encourages us never to lose the intense aliveness and bigger purpose we experience living close to God.

Read Romans 12:11 once more. The language there is the language of passion and action. Zeal means enthusiasm and emotion. Fervor means fire. Serving means faith in action. There is more to holiness than refraining from doing bad things (important, but passive). Holiness is also about doing good things, or better yet . . . *God* things. We lack zeal when we get disconnected from God and His purpose for us. The devil knows that a vehicle without fuel won't get us anywhere, so he tries to shut us down in three key areas. They

are worship/prayer, Bible study, and serving. These are the heart, head, and hands of our faith.

What does this mean in practical terms? It means that if we want to stay on fire for God, we need the emotional intimacy that comes from the daily habit of telling Him how we feel about Him and talking to Him about what is going on in our lives. It means that if we want to stay on fire for God, we need His Word to shape our thinking and vision. It means that if we want to stay on fire for God, we need to put our faith into action by loving others, witnessing, and going on missions trips.

If we maintain these areas of our lives no matter *what* the circumstances, then we will never lose the aliveness and purpose that Jesus has for us. Like John Wesley we will be able to say, "I let God light me on fire and then people come to watch me burn."

*-Mike MacNeil  
Wesleyan*