

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

...."This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB

December 27th

THE NORMALCY OF THE REGENERATED HUMAN SPIRIT

[pt. 7 of 16]

A Fervent Spirit

* *...."In diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord".... Romans 12:11 ASV*

For a time the flesh may be fervent when it is emotionally excited, but this fervency does not endure. Even when the flesh seems most diligent it actually may be quite lazy, since it is diligent solely in those things with which it agrees; hence the flesh is impelled by emotion. It cannot serve God in matters which do not appeal to it nor when emotion is cold and low. It is impossible for the flesh to labour in cloud as well as in sunshine, step by step, slowly but steadily.

"Fervent in spirit" is a permanent feature; they therefore who possess this spirit are qualified to serve the Lord endlessly. We should avoid all fervency of the flesh but allow the Holy Spirit to so fill our inner man that He may keep it perpetually fervent. Then our spirit will not turn cold or our emotion become chilled, nor will the work of the Lord collapse into a seemingly immovable state.

What the apostle Paul stresses here amounts to an order. This order much be taken up by our renewed will. We should exercise it to choose to be fervent. We should say to ourselves, "I want my spirit to be fervent and not to be cold". We should not be overwhelmed by our icy and indifferent "feeling"; instead we should permit our fervent spirit to control everything, even where our emotion is extremely unconcerned. The sign of a fervent spirit is serving the Lord ALWAYS.