

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

“...FOR THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE...” ~ EPHESIANS 4:12

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DON'T JUST STAND THERE, DO SOMETHING!

By Jeff Himmel

Even as they camped on the plains of Moab within sight of the Promised Land, the Israelites stumbled in their walk with God. Numbers 25 tells how the Moabites and Midianites enticed Israel into idolatry and sexual immorality (many commentators describe it as a pagan fertility cult). Is there any doubt that God was angry? He ordered the execution of the guilty and punished the Israelites with a terrible plague.

Incredibly, in the middle of all this sin and judgment, one of the tribal leaders of Israel had the gall to bring a Midianite woman right into Israel's camp and take her into his tent. But when Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, saw this man's defiance, **“he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand, and he went in after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked”** (vs. 7-8).

What stands out about Phinehas is not just that he saw the problem, or that he was disturbed by what was happening. The nature of this calamity was obvious, and many people were weeping over it (vs. 6). But Phinehas wasn't content to stand there and weep; he did something. And what he did made a great difference.

May God send us more men (and women) like Phinehas! No, I don't mean people who are looking to run somebody through with a spear. I mean Christians who, when they see an opportunity, a problem, or a need, will take initiative and do something about it. People who, instead of just complaining about what is lacking, will do their part to make things better.

- Instead of complaining that *"we don't do enough to reach the lost,"* a Phinehas will personally try to teach a friend or neighbor about the Lord.
- Instead of grumbling that *"the church needs to be friendlier,"* a Phinehas will offer a warm greeting to visitors at assemblies (and regulars, too!), will open his home and his spirit in hospitality, and will work to build and strengthen bonds of love.
- Instead of fretting that *"someone ought to help,"* a Phinehas will clean a house, mow a lawn, run an errand, cook a meal, or do something else for someone who is sick, disabled, elderly, or just in need.
- Instead of lamenting that *"worship assemblies are not uplifting,"* a Phinehas will pour his heart and soul into praising God and edifying others.
- Instead of grouching that *"Christians are not dedicated enough,"* a Phinehas will relentlessly pursue holiness in his own life and show others how it's done.
- Instead of worrying that *"someone needs to say something"* to a brother or sister who is out of line, discouraged, or struggling, a Phinehas will **"admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, uphold the weak"** (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Of course, no one can do everything. But everyone can do something. Look around you. Do you see needs to be met? Tasks to be done? People to be helped? Souls to be nourished? Don't just wring your hands in distress over it—keep the spirit of Phinehas alive and do what you can to make a difference!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

By Max Dawson

The man said he believes in the Bible as the Word of God—but he never reads it.

He said he believes that God hears and answers prayers—but he seldom prays.

He said the church would be more effective in its work if more of its members were really dedicated—but he never engages in any of the church's work.

He said he believes that the church assemblies are times for edification and praise to God—but he seldom gathers with the other Christians.

He said he believes the younger generation needs stronger spiritual values—but he doesn't demonstrate spirituality in his own life in the presence of his kids.

He said the church members are not doing the work the Lord intends—but he, like others, is not doing any work.

He said he knows the Lord is coming again—but he lives as though the Lord will never come.

Beloved brethren, there are some Christians who think, talk and act like the man mentioned here. I think

better of you. The very fact that you are reading this short note today may indicate that you have more spirituality than this man.

But, on the other hand, if you are like this man, why not do something about it today? Anyone can talk about being spiritual. God is pleased only when talk turns to action (James 1:22; 1 John 3:18).

(You may already know what the two verses above say. But just for fun, why not look them up anyway? Just to be sure.)

NOTES: _____

AM LESSON:
“Why Do We Only Have
Male Leadership?”

PM LESSON:
Life As God Sees It:
Is Abortion Ever The Answer?

**“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES...”
(MATTHEW 28:19-20)**