



Come Alive

Pastor Larry Vriezelaar | August 16, 2020 | First Congregational Church

The theme enthusiasm is one of my favorite positive themes. I want talk to you about it today. It comes from two words. Enthusiasm comes from en theos. En means in, if you've ever heard of theology, **theos means God**. The word enthusiasm, it literally means in God, or it means **to be filled with God**.

True spiritual enthusiasm, isn't something you work up, it's not a product of your environment, **it's a posture of your heart**, and your **time with God**. It's born in the presence of God, by the power of God. In fact, I love what the Apostle Paul said, in 1 Corinthians 15:57 and 58, he said this, Paul said, **"But thank God that He gives us victory over sin and death."**

Because of what our God has given us he said, **"My dear brother's and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work,"** and I love this, he said, whatever you do, **"always work enthusiastically for the Lord, "for you know that nothing you do "for the Lord is ever useless."**

Work enthusiastically for the Lord, and whatever you do, is never ever done in vain. Here is what I love about this thought. It's not what you do that makes it meaningful, **it's who you do it for.**

I want to show you a person from the Old Testament. David was a shepherd boy who became a king, he was a kid who became a king. As a king, he was filled with en theos.

If you know the story about David and Goliath. The Philistine army was at war with the Israelite army, and they would often pick a representative warrior to do battle, and declare the winner based on those two. And the Philistines had this massive giant named Goliath. Israelites had nobody, that would stand up to this giant.

And this little kid, little shepherd boy, who was bringing snacks to his brother, looked on with enthusiasm. And I want you to watch his spiritual enthusiasm and confidence in God, when he said, Scripture says, to the Philistine, **"You come against**

me with sword and spear, and javelin, "but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, "the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled. "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I will strike down and cut off your head. "This very day I will give the carcasses "of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, "and the whole world will know, there is a God in Israel." En theos.

There is no human confidence in this, this is raw, unparalleled spiritual enthusiasm born out of time with God. The question is, where did he get that? Where did his spiritual enthusiasm come from, when there was a whole army of other warriors, who didn't have what he had. Where did he get that, ongoing, inner dwelling, spiritual enthusiasm?

Three thoughts about where David's enthusiasm came from.

- First of all, he trusted God, daily.
- He walked with God, daily.
- And he worshiped God, daily.

How could he fight a giant? Because in previous days, he trusted God when he was taking care of the sheep, and a bear would attack. And God gave him the strength to defeat the bear. And since he trusted God the day before for that battle, he could trust God in this day, for the battle ahead. **He trusted Him daily.** He enjoyed His presence.

He walked with God daily. He was the one who said this, "The Lord is my shepherd, "I shall not want." I lack nothing at all. "He makes me lie down in green pastures. "He restores my soul. "He leads me, He guides me, He comforts me, "He's always with me. "He guides me along the right path, even for His namesake. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow "of death, I will fear no evil, because you are with me. "Your rod, and your staff, they comfort me. "You prepare a table before me. "In the presence of my enemies, surely goodness and mercy, "will follow me, all the days of my life." **He trusted God daily, he walked with God daily.**

He worshiped God daily.

When the Ark of the Covenant came into his home town, where the presence of God dwelled, he went out, not fully, completely dressed. And went into a massive worship party, so much so that his wife was embarrassed and made fun of him. But he just couldn't contain himself. It wasn't a click on a computer screen, once a week to watch a sermon. It wasn't even a drive across town to sit in a church service, and sing some songs, and listen once a week. It was a daily, abiding, in the presence of God, that gave him this enthusiasm. **He was in God.**

Maybe it's time you come alive.

We are preparing to partake of Holy Communion...a perfect time for you to renew your ENTHUSIAM for God. "En theos".

Rob will read to us the Communion Scriptures and then lead us in the Lord's Prayer.

Teresa and Ron, brother and sister, will minister to us in song as we partake of Holy Communion.

I want to encourage you to become "En Theos" ENTHUSIASTIC about serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

"My Redeemer Lives"