

# Drowsy Devotion

## OUT OF THE WORD

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The last thing I want to do is to be one of these guys that are always pointing out the negative when it comes to church, preaching, or ministry functions. However, I feel that one of the chief dangers that has crept into the Lord's church is the sin of what I will refer to as *drowsy devotion*. I do believe that as thinking Christians engulfed in a secular culture of moral depravity, we should be examples of holiness in our speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (1 Tim. 4:12). How we serve God should be considered more than the actual work itself. I also believe *the motive* is an important theme that runs through all the books of Holy Scripture. God does not only notice that we pray, but he takes notice if the prayer is passionate and if the prayer is effectual (James 5:16). God does not only notice if we hear the sermon on Sunday but how we hear the sermon. God is interested that we do not just serve him, but that we serve him instantly and with zeal. We can learn a lot about the angels in the Bible, can't we? I do believe that we should serve God as the angels do: (1) The angels serve God willingly and cheerfully. There are only two options: we can serve God willingly or reluctantly. The devil's angels act and murmur, Christ is nothing but a burden to them. When we serve God reluctantly, we are more like the Devil than an angel of God. (2) The angels act urgently to God's word. They immediately seek to carry out the command of God. (3) The angels serve God freely (Psalm 40:8). Even Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of Him that sent me." (John 4:34). (4) The angels of God serve with a constant steady flow. They neither sleep nor rest. They are always about their father's business. It makes us ask the examining question to our soul and mind... are we content and pleased to love and serve God? Do you even have a desire to have a deeper communion with God? Most professing Christians have a desire for more money, more toys, more vacations, more, more, more. There is nothing wrong with any of these things per se, but if these things have our heart over God, it is sin. No weariness at all ever creeps up on the angels of God. Nothing is going to take their heart away from the living God. (5) If we're going to serve God as the angels we must not pick and choose. These angels of God follow the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). Their greatest desire is to hearken to His word whatever it might be. We must serve God with seriousness and serve even if it goes against the natural tendency of the flesh. If we are not going to serve God with devout reverence, then let us realize, there will come a day when the drowsy will declare just like king Nebuchadnezzar, "His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride." (Daniel 4:37). Very rarely do we connect spiritual drowsiness with pride. If this is where the church is, I would consider a deep study of Romans 11. The kindness of God has been very gracious to graft me and you (gentiles) into the rich root of the olive tree (Rom. 11:17). The American church would do well to glean from the Jewishness of Scripture and see the zeal they had that we often neglect. The proper response will manifest itself by an accurate fear of God (Rom. 11:20) and continuing in the kindness of God (v.22), otherwise we will be cut off the Bible warns (v.22b). So, let us wake up and strengthen

the things that remain (Rev. 3:2). Those who the Lord loves He reproves and disciplines, therefore be zealous and repent (Rev. 3:19).