

LIVING FOR GOD; LIVING A LIFE OF LOVE

A "Hot" Spirit contrasted with a "Cold" Love

1. Having a fervent ("hot") spirit.

- Romans 12:11 - We need to be "fervent in spirit" (rather than "sluggish") in serving the Lord. [NOTE: We are to serve the Lord in *everything* we do, and not restrict this command to activities we consider "religious." We are to do *everything* in life, even eating and drinking, for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).]
- Acts 18:25 - An example of someone who was fervent in spirit. [Originally, the person (Apollos) had only a *partial understanding* of the truth, until he was better instructed by Paul's co-workers. This passage illustrates the need for us to have an *accurate understanding* of the way of the Lord, when we attempt to serve him. Merely being "fervent in spirit" is not enough.]

2. Do not let your love grow cold, when you find yourself surrounded by increasing wickedness.

- Matthew 24:12 - As wickedness increases, in the end times, the love of many will grow cold. [These people are *contrasted* to those who "stand firm to the end" and are saved.]

TO THINK ABOUT...

Note the context of Romans 12:11. Being "fervent in spirit" does *not* mean "add more religious activities to your life." The entire passage focuses on *love*, not on religious activities. It focuses on living one's life as a *disciple* (follower and learner) of Jesus, and using one's "gifts" (abilities) for the good of all people. Read the entire chapter.

Your attitude toward serving the Lord (your "spirit," in Romans 12:11 and Acts 18:25), and your love for God and people (Matthew 24:12), are directly related. Either *both* will be hot or *both* will be cold. You cannot have a hot spirit *and* a cooled-off love at the same time. With this in mind, evaluate your life.

We are to love both God and neighbor (including our enemies). What is the significance of the *contrast* between having a cooled-off love and "standing firm to the end"? In what ways are they opposites? Is the "warmth" of your love like ice cubes? To what degree are you like (or not like) the people described in Matthew 24:12?

This week, is your life going to demonstrate a cooled-off love or a fervent spirit? How?

GREEK WORDS:

zeo, to boil with heat, be hot (or to glow, of solids); metaphorically - used of "boiling" anger, love, zeal for what is good or bad, etc. Acts 18:25; Romans 12:11

psucho, to breathe, blow, cool by blowing; passive: to be made (or to grow) cool, cold.
[Figuratively of waning love in this verse:] Matthew 24:12