The Feel for Zeal - Part I
by Justin Street

Scripture Reference - Romans 12:9-13 (NIV): Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

A sketch in two parts, for four non-gender-specific characters.

In PART I they will exhibit different characteristics than in PART II. In Part I, all are excited and raring to go, with PEACE being dialed down a little from the others, but none of them act like their names yet.

CHARACTERS (PART I):
BURNOUT - exudes confidence and assertiveness
FEAR - a strategic, detail-oriented planner.
RESENTMENT - equal parts cheerleader/motivational speaker
PEACE - enthused, but cheerfully calm

If possible, start the scene with the text “Some time in the future…” on a screen, fading out as ALL CHARACTERS ENTER from SR, together in a group. They are high-fiving, jumping chest bump, victory dancing, etc. - as they enter. They are over the top excited, except for PEACE, who does seem genuinely excited, but just pleasantly so. Think, Pro Wrestling, but then PEACE is just kind of normal.

BURNOUT comes forward DS as they speak.

BURNOUT
Whoo! Now that was a great Youth Councils!

The others celebrate (“Yay-ya!” “Yea it was!” etc.)

FEAR
So good! I don’t know the last time I felt like this. I feel… I feel…

BURNOUT
Say it.

FEAR
Alright. I feel…
strikes an overdramatic pose
THE ZEAL!

The others cheer.

RESENTMENT
I know that’s right. You are so feeling it. I can feel you feeling it. In fact - I can feel you zeal ing it!

The others cheer, “Ooooooooh!”
BURNOUT
But listen, listen. It’s like they were saying, this zeal, we gotta use it. We need to go out, and we gotta do stuff with it!

RESENTMENT
Ok, yea. You’re such a leader. Just like, a natural. Tell us what you’re thinking. We’re in. I’m in!

to FEAR
Are you in?

FEAR
I’m in!

to PEACE
Are you in?

PEACE
* a little taken back by the intensity, but trying to roll with it
Y-yea. I’m very… I’m in.

BURNOUT
Ok. We need to bring God’s love to the lonely and forgotten. You know who’s lonely and forgotten? Really really old people.

FEAR
Nursing home visitation.

BURNOUT
We need to go to the nursing homes.

PEACE
Hey, that’s a good idea…

interrupts
We need to go to a different nursing home every day.

PEACE
What?

RESENTMENT
Lead us!

FEAR
We can do it. Old people eat early, right? We could meet up after school, cook meals, and take it straight to them.

RESENTMENT
Loving it.
FEAR
Pulls out a phone
We could break down each of their dietary needs in this and plot out a monthly
menu in this app I just built. That way we can keep track of everything - you
know, for stats.

BURNOUT
To measure the effectiveness of our zeal.

PEACE
Excuse me. Every day?

BURNOUT
Oh, does your zeal need a break?

RESENTMENT
What if we all moved in together, in a nursing home?

BURNOUT
Brilliant.

FEAR
Incarnational ministry.

PEACE
Wait, I don’t think they’ll just let you...

BURNOUT
And at nights, when the old ones sleep, we can head out on the canteen,
delivering food and Bibles to everyone within a 90 mile radius.

FEAR
Obviously, we’ll need to have nut-free, dairy-free, and gluten-free options for the
canteen. And we’ll need to have multiple translations of the Bibles.

RESENTMENT
Look at you. Dotting “i”s and crossing “t”s.

PEACE
I’m guessing you want to do this every day too?

RESENTMENT
Um, did you go to the same Youth Councils we did?

PEACE
What do you mean? We’re still here. We haven’t even made it to the van yet.

FEAR
So where is your zeal?
PEACE
It’s here. I have it. It’s just, you’re talking about moving in to a nursing home and taking a canteen out every night - none of us even have a license.

FEAR
We can build a pedal canteen. Or a rickshaw canteen.

BURNOUT
Yes, we will pull it ourselves.

RESENTMENT
Solving problems, people! That’s what we’re doing here today!

PEACE
Every night.

BURNOUT/FEAR/RESENTMENT
Every night!

PEACE
Does no one else have homework?

This breaks a spell of momentum that’s been building with the others, who look at PEACE.

RESENTMENT
Well. I guess if your earthly needs are more important to you.

PEACE
Look, I really admire what you want to do. I just don’t know that this is exactly what they were talking about in there, when they were talking about zeal.

BURNOUT
Of course it is. Do you hate what is evil?

FEAR
really over-the-top
Ooooh, I haaaaate it.

building
Are you ready to cling to what is good?

RESENTMENT
also, over-the-top
With every muscle in my body! Clinging!

BURNOUT
Are you ready to be never lacking in zeal? Well, are you?!?

PEACE
I… sure.

BURNOUT
Then let’s go!!!

*BURNOUT, FEAR, and RESENTMENT* exit SL in triumphant glory. *PEACE* starts to say something else, decides not to, then cheerfully follows.

*Lights out.*