

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

Whooh! 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 *zealing* it!

The others cheer, "Ooooooooooh!"

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!

RESENTMENT

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

BURNOUT

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 haaaate it.

BURNOUT

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.