

**The Feel for Zeal - Part II**  
by Justin Street

**Scripture Reference - Romans 12:9-13:** 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. Now in Part II, they all exhibit their character names.

**CHARACTERS (PART II):**

BURNOUT - defeated and tired, shows signs of a cold

FEAR - a nervous wreck, second-guessing everything

RESENTMENT - suspicious

PEACE - enthused, but cheerfully calm

*If possible, the text "A little further into the future..." appears on a screen. BURNOUT, FEAR, and RESENTMENT enter from SL. BURNOUT looks ragged and defeated, FEAR is overflowing with nervous anxiety, and RESENTMENT is looking reproachfully at the other two. Though they enter together, they move to different portion of the stage to get away from each other. BURNOUT sits in a chair that's on stage, laid out from exhaustion. Keeping with the feel of Part I, their despair is also over-the-top.*

FEAR

I just don't understand why you ordered coconut bars, when I specifically said no tree nuts.

RESENTMENT

But it's not actually a tree nut!

FEAR

Excuse me, but it's a coco-what?

RESENTMENT

I know what it's called, but it's not a...

FEAR

And do they grow in the ground, or on a vine?

RESENTMENT

No, on a tree, but they're not...

FEAR

Then that is the precise definition of a tree nut!

RESENTMENT

This is your problem! You're so stuck on every single detail, we never get anything done if everything has to be perfect!

FEAR

But I have to do it right! It's my zeal - it makes me want to get it right!

to BURNOUT

Back me up on this.

BURNOUT

Can you please keep me out of this? I can't possibly add another thing to my plate.

RESENTMENT

Some leader you've turned out to be. We trusted you, you know.

BURNOUT

Look, do you know how busy I am? Do you know how hard it is, to just keep going, every day? Do you know how much I'm trying to do?

FEAR

You?!?! I'm trying to manage every single minute detail, and I appear to be the only one who cares enough, who has the *zeal* enough to get it right.

RESENTMENT

Managing every detail?

FEAR

Yes.

RESENTMENT

Even small ones? Like, micro details.

FEAR

Yes!

RESENTMENT

You could almost say you were *micro-managing* things.

FEAR

Yes. Wait - no! That's not...

BURNOUT

Could you please just do this somewhere else? I can't take on another project.

RESENTMENT

We're not a project - we're people!

BURNOUT

*not convinced*

Yea, okay.

*They begin to argue over each other "This is why we can't get anything done!" "You're the worst!" "I should've never trusted you!" etc.*

*PEACE enters from SL.*

PEACE

Hiya.

*They all stop arguing and glare at PEACE.*

RESENTMENT

And where have you been?

PEACE

Me? Oh, I was just at...

FEAR

We need all hands on deck here!

BURNOUT

Don't you understand what we're trying to do here?

PEACE

Well, actually, now that you mention...

RESENTMENT

You only care about yourself. You were probably off being selfish.

BURNOUT

Yea, you're looking all refreshed and happy. Where'd you come from, the spa?

PEACE

The nursing home, actually.

RESENTMENT

You went without us?

PEACE

Well, I did mention that I was going. Like I said, I thought it was a good idea.

BURNOUT

Well, what happened?

FEAR

Did they need anything?

RESENTMENT

Did you save them?

PEACE

What? No. We just, hung out. The folks there are really cool, actually.

BURNOUT

Wait. You just - hung out? Like, sat around?

FEAR

Did you organize any activities?

PEACE

Nope. I didn't need to. They have a rec room, where they have board games and puzzles and stuff. Sometimes they have activities already planned.

FEAR

*(gasps)*

So what do you do?

PEACE

Like I said. We just hung out. Talked a bit. Listened. They're really nice.

BURNOUT

But it's like, really really hard, right?

PEACE

Not really.

FEAR

What about your precious homework? I thought you didn't have enough time.

PEACE

Oh, I made extra time for this by taking a break from songsters.

*BURNOUT, FEAR, and RESENTMENT gasp in terror "Whaaaat?!?!?"*

RESENTMENT

*hisses*

Judassssss.

PEACE

Ok, so can we talk about this for a minute? What's going on with you?

BURNOUT

It's the zeal. We have to keep the zeal.

FEAR

Remember the Youth Councils.

RESENTMENT

This is what zeal looks like, don't you see?

PEACE

Let me tell you what I see. You three are a mess. *You're* burned out, *you're* a nervous wreck, and *you* look like you don't even want to be in the same room with them. I think we may have missed the boat on something, because this isn't what zeal is supposed to look like.

RESENTMENT

Well, what's it supposed to look like?

PEACE

Remember the scripture verse?

FEAR

*quickly, as if being tested*

Romans 12:9-13!

PEACE

*calmly*

Very good. Do you remember what it says.

BURNOUT

Never be lacking in zeal!

PEACE

Ok, but let's start from the beginning. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Does it feel like you wanted to go do all these things out of sincere love?

BURNOUT

I don't know. It seemed right at the time.

PEACE

Sure. But was your zeal out of devotion to love well, or out of the need to do well?

RESENTMENT

You were being kinda showy about it.

PEACE

And next it says "Honor one another above yourselves."

RESENTMENT

Ah.

PEACE

And yes, it says "Never be lacking in zeal, *BURNOUT, FEAR, and RESENTMENT start to gesture like they're going to speak buuuuuut* keep your *spiritual* fervor, serving the Lord." Spiritual fervor - your spirit. You spirits sound like they're ground into dust.

FEAR

But it's so hard. What if we mess it up?

PEACE

Be *joyful* in hope, *patient* in affliction, *faithful* in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

FEAR

*getting it.*

Joyful in hope. Practice hospitality.

PEACE

Our zeal should be for the things of God, and yes, that *should* spill out into what we do - but the zeal isn't for what we do. We're called to spiritual fervor, to love the Lord, and love our neighbors.

BURNOUT

Do you think you could introduce us to your new nursing home friends next time you go?

PEACE

Sure. But I can do it right now too. Here, let's take a selfie and I'll send it to the group.

*pulls out phone*

*The group pulls in around PEACE for a selfie.*

FEAR

What do you mean?

PEACE

Well, they're elderly - so... they're all on Facebook.

BURNOUT/FEAR/RESENTMENT

Ohhhhh.

PEACE

Everybody say zeal.

ALL

Zeal!

*Lights out.*