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DISCIPLESHIP
REFLECTIONS

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
(Romans 12:11-12, NIV)

Enthusiastic Disciples

As disciples of Jesus Christ, how do you stay enthusiastic day after day in spite of delays, difficulties, dead ends, problems, pressures, and criticisms?

Positive thinking is not enough. Pulling yourself up by your psychological bootstraps is not enough. Talking yourself into optimism is not enough.

The way you stay enthusiastic for a lifetime is found in the word "enthusiasm," which comes from the Greek word en theos. En is the Greek word for "in." Theos is the Greek word for "God." So en theos means to be "in God."

When you get "in God," you will be enthusiastic. It's the kind of enthusiasm that is not affected by the economy or the weather or your circumstances. It is eternal, because you are tied to the eternal God. You are in Christ Jesus.

Paul tells you how to be "in God"---enthusiastic---in Romans 12:11-12: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (NIV). Disciples get that God-given enthusiasm by being joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

