

Is Your Faith Dormant?

I just came in from picking up fallen tree limbs and twigs in my front yard. Recent high winds dropped enough debris to overflow a yard waste container, and that was just from the front yard. Winter weather in North Carolina usually consists of ice that clings to tree limbs and an occasional winter wind. So, why do we have fallen limbs during the winter season? My guess is that cold weather causes trees to go into hibernation mode, reducing or shutting off the flow of water to its extremities. Branches become dry and brittle, and can't handle the adversity of ice and wind. During the winter trees appear to be lifeless, but they will awaken with the coming of spring.



Are there seasons of your life when your faith is dormant? During these times do you cut off the nourishment that sparks your spirit -- worship, the Word and prayer? If so, do you find yourself more vulnerable to adversity during these times? However, if you can maintain the strength of faith you will be able to withstand the storms of life. If not, you will gradually lose your resiliency. Like the seemingly lifeless, dormant tree you'll face times when you bend and break.

We know that spring weather will come again and our trees will sprout new life. Even so, the limbs that withered and died have already fallen to the ground. In our faith walk, we may regain our zeal at another time, but we also will have lost something during our period of dormancy. When we are at a weakened state we are little match against Satan. We may make regrettable, poor decisions when our faith was in hibernation mode.

What we can do is to make a conscious effort to keep our faith from experiencing times of being dormant. When you feel you are losing your enthusiasm for the Lord, actively step up your game. Surround yourself with a network of friends who recognize when you need encouragement. Be around positive people who are enthusiastic for the Lord. Attend uplifting Christian events and maintain regular attendance at church. Public worship when we show our love for God in fellowship with other believers. Being part of the bigger picture will give you strength. Others can help you, but your zeal for the Lord is an internal reaction. Read motivational faith-based books that inspire Christian service and study of God's Word. Play inspirational Christian music in your car, the office or at home, and listen to the words. Dormancy is the result of how we react to our environment, particularly in a down time. Don't let your environment or feeling of helplessness control your outlook. Remember, God will be with you to the end of the age. Seek for your heart to always be on fire for the Lord.

Scripture: *They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32).*

Question: How do you stay strong in your faith during down times?



Prayer: Heavenly Father. Life is a marathon with times when we are less active in our faith. Events of the day disappoint us and we begin to lose our zeal for you. We pray we will recognize these down times and take steps to regain our enthusiasm for the faith. Amen.