



Zealousness:

Positively and Productively Glorifying God

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**His Holiness Pope Shenouda III,
117th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark**

**In the Name of
the Father, the
Son, and the
Holy Spirit,
One God Amen.**

Zeal is a positive activity, not just words...and any positive activity must have its fruit in the Kingdom of God. The Holy Bible has asked us to be fruitful, when it said, "Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10)

If holy zeal possesses someone's heart, then it propels him strongly towards saving himself and saving others. I hope that you will have this zeal and may you also have, along with it, love for others and the will to strive to bring them into the Kingdom of Heaven.

If you don't have the zeal that propels you to act to save others, then you will be a barren and fruitless tree.

Would you approve of your going to God without having borne any spiritual fruit, without having even won a single soul for the Lord Jesus Christ? Would you be content to be a barren, fruitless tree?

If the vine has only one bunch of grapes upon it, then it is still a blessing (Isaiah 65:8). And what about you? Perhaps you will be able to stand up in the Kingdom of God and say, "**Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me.**" (Isaiah 8:19)

So be fruitful in your life. As long as there is life in a tree, then fruit will come naturally. Be productive, not passive. Ask yourself every day if you are making any new contribution to the Kingdom, and increasing its yield? And whether you have been able to communicate the word of God to anyone else?



His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

The most blessed days are those which bear fruit for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some of the most amazing days have been those in the lives of the saints which were thus blessed and on such days the Kingdom of God grew. The words of the Holy Bible, "**With the Lord a day is like a thousand years.**" (II Peter 3:8) apply to such times.

The generation in which we live might well cry out and pray saying, "O Lord, we did not deserve to live in the generation which saw you in the flesh and saw how you worked. Nor would we have been worthy to live in the lifetime of, for example, St. Paul, either. But yet, it is a cherished prayer that we make: 'Please give us just one day in the life of St. Paul, or one day in the life of St. Peter or St. Stephen.' The apostle Paul was able on one single day to bring 3000 people to the faith (Acts 2:41). And because of St. Stephen, **"the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in**

Jerusalem increased rapidly..." (Acts 6:7)

St. Paul used to win people for the Lord Jesus Christ in every situation (I Corinthians 9:22). He used to work in every field, with everybody, with the Jews, the Greeks, with those not under the law, etc., with the skill of someone experienced in saving souls. How many souls there will be following behind St. Paul in the Kingdom! Who can tell? And how great will be his yield in the Kingdom of God? One thing is certain, which is that he was certainly no ordinary servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is to St. Paul, and people like him that the Holy Bible refers when it says, "**I said, 'you are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.**" (Psalm 82:6) St. Paul was in fact higher than these.✠