**Enthusiasm**

**Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.**

***(Romans 12:11)***

**If you want to be enthusiastic, act enthusiastic. Inner enthusiasm follows. *(William Ellis)***

**It is the irresistible power of enthusiasm that was the driving force that enabled Cyrus W. Field to endure nearly thirteen years of anxious watching and ceaseless toil and over thirty voyages across the Atlantic Ocean, before he successfully laid the Atlantic cable. (*Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 105)***

**The worst bankrupt in the world is the man who has lost his enthusiasm. *(H. W. Arnold)***

**In things pertaining to enthusiasm, no man is sane who does not know how to be insane on proper occasions. *(Henry Ward Beecher)***

**In 1947, Bob Petersen, ex-gas-station attendant, acted on his hunch that there were lots of guys like him who loved to soup up and talk about cars. He and a partner risked everything they had -- $400 – to convert that enthusiasm into a slim magazine called Hot Rod. Petersen lugged copies of the magazine to California car races and sole them for a quarter. The Petersen Publishing empire now produces 23 automobile and hobby magazines, and Petersen’s personal fortune is estimated at over $350 million. *(Ralph Kinney Bennett, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm. *(Sir Winston Churchill)***

**There are only two distinct classes of people on this earth: those who espouse enthusiasm and those who despise it. *(Germaine de Stael, author)***

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**Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm; it moves stones, it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victories without it. (Edward George Earle Bulwer-Lytton)**

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: Enthusiasm is contagious, and so is the lack of it. (Reminisce magazine)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Among the pilgrims who joined the First Crusade in the spring of 1096 was a group from the Rhineland who dutifully marched behind a goose and a goat in the belief that the creatures had been filled with the Holy Spirit and would guide them to Jerusalem. Perhaps their zeal was understandable since one of the leading crusaders, Peter the Hermit, had an almost reverential love for his donkey. *(Geoff Tibballs, in The Giant Bathroom Book of Dumbology, p. 200)***

**When man points his mind toward God and allows his zeal to run in a single channel, he may become God-intoxicated. Peter the Hermit became intoxicated with the idea that God wanted Jerusalem rescued from Moslem rule, and he rode up and down Europe on his little mule shouting, “God wills it.” His fanatical zeal started the Crusades that rolled from Europe to Palestine for nearly two hundred years. (Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Spiritual discernment reveals that we are now in the dawn of a new era, that the old methods of supply and support are fast passing away, and that new methods are waiting to be brought forth. In the coming commerce man will not be a slave to money. Humanity’s daily needs will be met in ways that are not now thought practical. We shall serve for the joy of serving and prosperity will flow to us and through us in streams of plenty. The supply and support that love and zeal will set in motion are not as yet largely used by man, but those who have tested their providing power and loud in their praise. *(Charles Fillmore, in Prosperity, p. 9)***

**Every production of genius must be the production of enthusiasm. *(Benjamin Disraeli)***

**It is the irresistible power of enthusiasm that saw Thomas Edison endure ten thousand defeats before he perfected the incandescent lamp. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 104)***

**Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**Everyone is enthusiastic at times. One person has enthusiasm for 30 minutes -- another has it for 30 days, but it is the person who has it for 30 years who makes a success in life. *(Edward B. Butler)***

**Enthusiasm is everything. It must be taut and vibrating like a guitar string. *(Pele)***

**Enthusiasm is excitement with inspiration, motivation, and a pinch of creativity. *(Bo Bennett)***

**Enthusiasm is the father of excellence. *(Bruce Alan Johnson, in The Freeman)***

**With enough patience, certain kinds of fish can learn to recognize and respond to their human owners with genuine enthusiasm. In one verified case, a pet trout was so devoted to its owner that it would slide up onto the bank of the stream where it lived and allow itself to be petted. Human inhabitants of certain South Pacific islands have even succeeded in befriending nurse sharks. And in the Cayman Islands, a well-known stretch of shallow water is occupied by a group of Atlantic stringrays which flop up like excited puppies onto the heads and shoulders of divers who bring them handouts. *(Bartleby Nash, in Mother Nature’s Greatest Hits, p.96)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Embrace the fool within and reap some very positive rewards. The fool can jump outside the constraints of normal convention and shed new light. In Shakespeare’s Mid-Summer Night’s Dream and King Lear, the fool saw beneath the surface to the truth in every situation. In tarot cards, too, the fool is the first card of the deck. According to the Encyclopedia of Tarot by Stuart R. Kaplan, it can signify a new adventure, enthusiasm, initiative, spontaneity, new opportunities, unlimited possibilities, and pleasure. *(Terry Braverman, in New Thought magazine)***

**You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm. *(Colette)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**You can do anything if you have enthusiasm. It is the yeast that makes your hope rise to the stars. It is the sparkle in your eye, the wing in your gait, the grip in your hand, the irresistible surge of your will, and the energy to execute ideas. Enthusiasm is at the bottom of all progress. With it, there is accomplishment; without it, there are only alibis. *(Henry Ford)***

**Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. *(Samuel Ullman, poet)***

**When asked if there is anything she isn’t enthusiastic about, Ruth answered decisively, “Yes, being on panels about aging.” *(Ruth Gordon, star of stage, screen and living room, at age 87, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It beats money and power and influence. *(Henry Chester)***

**Enthusiasm is the highest paid quality on earth. *(Frank Bettger)***

**Identifying your enthusiasm requires courage and heroic creative vision. You have to believe that what you want is possible for you. *(Marsha Sinetar)***

**What makes the difference between a good sales force and an outstanding one? In my experience, three things. First, outstanding sales representatives must see themselves as important persons. Selling is a tough job that requires a lot of self-confidence. Second, they must view their job as important. Third, they must feel good about their company and its products and most especially about their manager, who for most of them is the company. They must perceive that the company is solidly behind them and supports them in every way. If so, they will radiate what I choose to call “infectious enthusiasm.” This makes people want to do business with them, and they will be seen as being different from most of their competitors. Most of all, enthusiasm for the job, the product, the company, or the mission makes the decisive difference. *(W. Seymour Holt, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**It is interesting how keen people are for you to do something they would never dream of doing themselves, how enthusiastically they drive you to your own destruction. *(Rachel Cusk, novelist)***

**We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements in life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about. *(Charles Kingsley)***

**I am reminded of a young lawyer who worked sixty to seventy hours a week but lacked enthusiasm for his career. He also felt distant from his family. When asked which one part of his life was most important to him, without hesitation he replied, "my wife and two daughters." Yet he spent little time nurturing those relationships and found his family pulling away. *(Charles Dickson, in New Realities magazine)***

**It is the irresistible power of enthusiasm that kept George Stephenson working for fifteen years to perfect his locomotive. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business)***

**If you aren’t fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm. *(Vince Lombardi)***

**Enthusiasm makes ordinary people extraordinary. *(Bits & Pieces) 17937***

**The great pianist, Paderewski, was giving a command performance for a royal family in Europe. After his concert a duchess came to him, bubbling with enthusiasm, and said, “Maestro, you are a genius!” He replied, “Ah yes, but before I was a genius I was a clod.” In other words the moment of genius was the result of years of discipline and overcoming and practice, practice, practice. *(Eric Butterworth, in Unity Magazine, April, 1994, p. 12)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Enthusiasm releases the drive to carry you over obstacles and adds significance to all you do. *(Norman Vincent Peale)***

**Dr. Norman Vincent Peale says in his book, Enthusiasm Makes The Difference, that “The word enthusiasm, from the Greek word entheos, means God in you, or full of God. So when we claim for enthusiasm the power to work miracles in solving problems we are actually saying that God Himself in you supplies the wisdom, courage, strategy and faith necessary to deal successfully with all difficulties.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**Enthusiasm comes from the root words “en” and “theos” – which means “in God.” What are you enthusiastic or “in God” about? (Laurie Beth Jones, in The Path, p. 49)**

**Hagar: “I’m taking off to sack and loot. Do you want anything?” Helga: “Yes, get me two sacks and four loots.” Hagar: “Obviously, the excitement of what I do for a living is beginning to wear off!” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)***

**Many men have made a million dollars, but Charles Schwab was one of the few men before World War II who were paid a salary of one million dollars a year. Schwab, a steel executive under Andrew Carnegie, was once asked what he felt made him worth that much. Was it because he knew more about steel than anyone else? “No,” said Schwab, pointing out that there were many people working for him who knew more about steel than he did. He attributed his large salary to his ability to deal with people. “I consider my ability to arouse enthusiasm among the men the greatest asset I possess. The way to develop the best that is in a man is by appreciation and encouragement.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The simplest man, fired with enthusiasm, is more persuasive than the most eloquent man without it. *(Franklin Field)***

**I fairly sizzle with zeal and enthusiasm and spring forth with a mighty faith to do the things that ought to be done by me. *(Charles Fillmore, in his 94th year)***

**Why is enthusiasm for work so important to success? Let me tell you about a guy who dreamed he inherited a million dollars. He dreamed he went to take a shower that morning and the shower wouldn’t shower. He started to shave and the shaver wouldn’t shave. He went to get some coffee and the coffee wouldn’t perk, and the toaster wouldn’t toast. He went to get the newspaper, but the newspaper wasn’t there. He went to catch the bus and the bus didn’t come. He waited 45 minutes, and finally a guy came puffing down the street. “What’s going on here?” he asked, and the guy gasped, “Haven’t you heard? Everybody inherited a million dollars! Nobody’s working anymore!” Just then the man woke up. And he went and had a tremendous shower and a tremendous shave and a tremendous cup of coffee and a tremendous piece of toast. He read a tremendous newspaper and caught a tremendous bus to a tremendous job! What a difference it makes when we are learning to get excited about the work we have today! *(Charlie Jones, in Life is Tremendous)***

**The enthusiastic, to those who are not, are always something of a trial. *(Alban Goodier, in The School of Love, and Other Essays)***

**What the boss can learn from the Boss: When it comes to keeping the customer base happy and coming back for more, said Rick Newman in USNews.com, CEOs can learn a lot from rock legend Bruce Springsteen. Just watch him in action. During his concerts, Springsteen is always "starting one song before the other one ends." That keeps the crowd involved and even on their feet -- the equivalent of introducing new products while the old ones are still being enjoyed and customer goodwill is high. Springsteen also knows how to innovate, "expanding his brand image" with unexpected musical flourishes, without ever shifting his "center of gravity." But he is not shy about "giving the people what they want," always mixing new material with old favorites such as "Badlands" and "Born to Run." The biggest secret to his success, though, may simply be that Springsteen clearly loves what he does. "Enthusiasm is contagious. If you're pumped about what you do, those around you are more likely to twist and shout right along with you. And keep on spending." *(The Week magazine, November 2, 2007)***

**It is said the United States would be brought to a standstill if all its laws were enforced to the letter. In Italy, that is certainly true. Labor leaders call “zeal strikes” wherein strikers do that – apply all laws. They resurrected an unrepealed 1905 law and shut down the postal system completely. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm. *Henry David Thoreau)***

**Enthusiasm makes men strong. It wakes them up, brings out their latent powers, keeps up incessant action, impels to tasks requiring strength; and these develop it. Many are born to be giants, yet few grow above common men, from lack of enthusiasm. They need waking up; if set on fire by some eager impulse, inspired by some grand resolve, they would soon rise head and shoulders above their fellows. But they sleep, daze, wait for public sentiment, cling to the beaten paths, dread sacrifices, shun hardships, and die weaklings. *(Theological Framework)***

**It is the irresistible power of enthusiasm that enabled Noah Webster to spend thirty-six years on his dictionary. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 104)***

**Why are some people inexhaustibly energized while others are chronically fatigued? For some people, their lack of energy is primarily a physical problem. For them, a better diet, nutritional supplements or an exercise program may provide the boost they require. For others, the obstacles to vitality exist on a subtler level. Emotional clarity, nourishing relationships and meaningful work get their juices flowing. They must reduce their tolerance for toxicity, be it toxic substances, emotions or relationships, for vital energy to flow. For all of us, the most important journey is the one that carries us back home, restoring our connection with our source of vital energy. From the moment the first atoms joined together, life has been on a sacred quest to achieve unity above separation. The closer we approach the source, the greater access we have to the vital treasure house that resides there. *(David Simon, in Vital Energy: The 7 Keys to Invigorate Body, Mind and Soul)***

**A husband was advised by his physician to assert himself. “You don’t have to let your wife henpeck you. Go home and show her you’re the boss.” On fire with enthusiasm, the man rushed home, slammed the door, and growled at his wife. “From now on, you’re taking orders from me. I want my supper right now, and when you get it on the table, go upstairs and lay out my best clothes. I’m going out with the boys tonight, and you’re going to stay home. And another thing, do you know who’s going to iron my pants, polish my shoes, and tie my tie?” “I sure do,” replied the wife. “The undertaker.” (*The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Enthusiasm without knowledge is like running in the dark. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**One man, the president of a microprocessor company, told me that playfulness is one of his keys to success. “When we hire new people, we're not so concerned with how intelligent or efficient they are. To us, the important characteristics are their playfulness and their intensity. When people have these two traits, they're enthusiastic -- and these are the ones who generate new ideas. I might add that the word ‘enthusiasm' comes from the Greek word ‘enthousiasmos' which means ‘the God within you.’ Enthusiastic people seem to have access to a spirit which serves as the source of their inspiration.” (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 98)**

**A wealthy farmer decided to go to church one Sunday. After services, he approached the preacher with a great deal of enthusiasm. Farmer: “Reverend, that was a damned good sermon you gave, damn good!” Reverend: “I'm satisfied that you liked it, but I wish you wouldn't use those terms in expressing yourself.” Farmer: “I can't help it, Reverend. I still think it was a damned good sermon. I was so impressed that I put a hundred-dollar bill in the collection basket.” Reverend: “The hell you did!” *(Nebraska Smoke-Eater)***

**Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. People grow old only by deserting their ideals and by outgrowing the consciousness of youth. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. You are as old as your doubts, your fears and your despair. The way to keep young is to keep your faith young, your self-confidence young, and your hope young. *(Dr. L. F. Phelan)***

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