

'LOVE FROM ABOVE'

(Fullness of Joy through Biblical Fellowship in Christ)

Studies in 1 John

'Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer ...'

That old song by Nat King Cole pretty much summed up what most people looked forward to in that seasonal break between spring and autumn... a rollicking few months of leisure before returning back to normal in September. Much of the song is irrelevant to a good Christian's idea of good times to remember, but the adjectives describing summer may be close to the truth about having so much unstructured leisure and free time that it's hard to resume an orderly, disciplined lifestyle after having 'rolled out the *lazy, hazy, days of summer...*'.

It's great to have vacations and good times during the school-year break each summer, but it's a fact that many Christians let down their spiritual disciplines for a few months and begin to slip and slide away from the Lord in their daily personal and family devotions, faithfulness at church, and living a disciplined Christian life in general. Some become *lazy* and *hazy* in spiritual things which can easily lead to things becoming a little *crazy* while too much fun in the sun crowds out things of eternal value. Sometimes finding one's way back home to God when summer ends is as frustrating as going back to school and work through the crowds and traffic returning in August.

Except for those who maintained spiritual discipline on vacation, getting back on schedule with the Lord will probably not be easy. Depending on how *lazy, hazy, and crazy* some Christians were during their summer will determine how smoothly they will transition to real life. Regardless of how challenging it may be, it must happen to spare your entire life from becoming *lazy, hazy and crazy* all the time.

Please allow me a few pastoral ideas for a blessing transition from the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer to the faithful, fruitful, fulfilling abundant life in the Savior (***Matthew 6:33***).

- Get back to regular, weekly Sunday worship at CBF right away (no *lazy*, irregular church family fellowship)
- Get back into daily devotions going through in a new book of the Bible (no *hazy* off and on, hit and miss, disorganized time with God/ I suggest going through the ***Gospel of Mark*** to get familiar with your Lord again)
- Begin going to church more than just Sunday morning (Wednesday and/or Friday services will raise the bar of your spiritual life, especially if you volunteer to help in one of the ministries offered) and
- Control the busyness of your life (narrow down extra activities outside of church to just a couple of other things weekly to keep life from getting *crazy*/ ***1 Thessalonians 4:11-12***).

If you take me up on these few things right away prior to the beginning of the school year, you'll be surprised how much God will bless you and your family for putting Him and His church first, with everything else orbiting around a biblical, Christ-centered life and home. May the Spirit of God help you let those '*lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer*' become lifelong memories, but not let them become a lifestyle description of your spiritual condition.

PtL

‘Love Isn’t Gullible’
(God’s love is nice but never naïve)
1 John 3:24-4:6

Spirit-Filled Detection
(‘Test the spirits’ by the Spirit)
3:24-4:1

“Now he who keeps His commandment abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit Whom He has given us. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Spirit-Tested Defection
(‘Overcoming’ by the Spirit)
4:2-3

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of Antichrist which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

Spirit-Approved Direction
(Discern truth & error by the Spirit)
4:4-6

“You are of God, little children and have overcome them because He Who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”