

LUKEWARMNESS

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

LUKEWARMNESS

Key Text: Revelation 3:14-16

Teacher: Moses O. Adewuyi

Prayer

Our dear righteous Father, we adore and exalt You, we glorify Your Holy name. We ask that You minister to us as we go into Your Word today, open our understanding, grant us knowledge and wisdom. Thank You Abba Father, in Jesus most wonderful name we have prayed. Amen.

Study

Revelation 3:14-16 KJV And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; [15] I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. [16] So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Please, I beg us to follow this particular teaching carefully as The Holy Spirit Himself is sending out this teaching at this particular time for a reason. After man fell, there has always been this strong decision between choosing to do good and evil. It was before the fall of man that all man did was good but the moment the evil one, the devil stepped into the equation and deceived the first man and woman, then everything changed! As a result of the evil entity coming in between, evil then began on earth and the battle between doing the right thing and the wrong thing began. This is the reason Cain killed his brother, Abel and yet wasn't remorseful at all. He felt as though he did the right thing because evil now seemed normal to him. **Genesis 4:8-13 NLT:** "One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him. Afterward the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I

my brother's guardian?" But the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth." Cain replied to the LORD, "My punishment is too great for me to bear!"

When you look at Cain's replies, you will discover that he wasn't still remorseful or sober for what he did, he was only sober for the punishment laid on him. Which means, he might not have admitted that what he did was bad or wrong at all, talk more seeing it as an evil thing. This shows how much evil became the order of the day after man fell. However, there are people who do good but still do evil at will, they don't see anything bad in doing evil so far they do good a times. Before we proceed, let's look at our text!

Revelation 3:14-16 KJV And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; [15] I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. [16] So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Firstly, we have to know that God sees everything we do, He sees our works and actions. He knows and sees everything we do each minute. A lot of people have a particular notion, though I have once been a victim of it too when I was younger until I grew to understand the truth. The notion is that, some people think, due to the world's population, God finds it hard to monitor everybody once. This is a wrong impression and notion. No matter the number of human beings on Earth, God knows what is going on with **every** single person at every second, minute or hour. God is a supreme being and has characteristics that no man has. He is;

1. **Omnipresent** :Which means God is **present in all places at all times**.
2. **Omnipotent** Which means God is a **Spirit being who has unlimited power or authority**.
3. **Omniscient**: Which means God has **infinite awareness, understanding, and insight**.

4. **Omnipotent:** Which means God **is able to handle ANY situation.**

5. **Omnificent:** Which means God is **unlimited in creative power.**

These characteristics are not possessed by any man but God only because He is a supreme being. What a mighty God we serve! Now, having known that God watches us and knows whatsoever we do, let's continue in our text. God was referring to the church of the Laodiceans and He said He knew their works, how they were neither hot nor cold. This is what will lead us to our topic today, Lukewarmness!

What is Lukewarmness?

According to Merriam Webster dictionary, lukewarmness means **moderately warm**. It also means **lacking conviction and being half-hearted**.

Those are the dictionary meaning of lukewarmness, before we go into the biblical meaning, let's check out these few definitions. It says, moderately warm. Which means, it is not cold and it's not hot, it's just average! When you wish to take your bath and you heat water in a kettle, after it has boiled, do you just pour it on your body? No! Why? Because its temperature is too high and hot and can cause damages to your body. But, what do you do? You mix it with cold water, water that has a cold temperature. Then, it becomes fit for your body to use for bathing. The stage when the water is fit for your body is the "warm stage". It means such water is lukewarm because it's neither hot nor cold, you can't refer to it as cold water because its temperature is a little bit warmer than the temperature of the normal cold water. And you can't also refer to it as hot water because its temperature is a little bit colder to the temperature of the normal hot water. The other dictionary definition says, lacking conviction and being half-hearted, which means that when conviction is not fully 100% and when the person has partial interest in a thing. Do you know that a complete heart (❤️) makes a functional heart. Now, imagine the heart is divided into two (💔). It means it will lack its full function and as a result, stop functioning even at all. "Half" means the ½ of something, the partial quantity of thing when it's divided into two. When one is Half hearted, such is partially interested in a thing. Having looked at the dictionary meanings of Lukewarmness, let's go into what the bible says

concerning it. Revelation 3:16: **"Thus, because you are lukewarm, and not boiling hot nor cold, I am about to vomit you from out of my mouth."** We can see from this verse that being lukewarm means not boiling hot nor cold. It's either you are boiling hot or you are cold, being lukewarm is not accepted in the kingdom because it's being in-between the two. And we know that, someone who doesn't like doing spiritual things will be cold while someone who is fervent will be extremely hot and boiling. Another version says; **Revelation 3:16: "Thus, seeing that you are indifferent, and are neither zealous nor cool, I am about to spew you out of My mouth."** I so much love this version! We are expected as children of God to be different from the world totally and be separate. But, the moment we accept Christ and still remain indifferent, we lack zealousness for spiritual growth and still refuse to be totally for the devil. This is so common these days, the modern Christianity we have now wants to serve God with a touch of the world. Christians want to sit on the fence, that is lukewarmness! When a person decides to accept Christ and be a church worker but still fornicates or commit adultery and sees nothing bad in it, claiming it's just once in a while Yet, such still mounts the pulpit to preach or pretend like a Christian. Such a person is lukewarm, trying to be Holy and hot but not wanting to get separated from the world system. Lukewarmness means sitting on the fence, when one sits on the fence, the right leg is inclined at a part direction to Mr A's compound while the second leg is inclined to Mr B's compound. The legs are both apart in such a way that the person sitting on the fence cannot be said to be in Mr A's compound or Mr B's compound, but in both compounds partially.

Lukewarmness is when a a person is unstable with his/her walk with God, such person falls today and refuses to bounce back instantly but starts swimming in sin till after some time when he comes back fully. Then, it happens again and again and again. Even though The Holy Spirit keeps speaking to such a person whenever he/she falls, such will refuse to hearken but ensures he/she keeps enjoying sin and as such, keeps decreasing spiritually with no sign of improvement evident in his/her life. Lukewarmness is when a person stands today, falls tomorrow, stands the day after, fall again and keeps enjoying such because of the pleasure he/she finds in sin. When a Christian studies the bible today and the next time another study takes place is in the next 3 days or when a Christian prays today and the next time he prays is in the next 4 days again. Lack

of inconsistency in spiritual activities with no remorse or soberness for such. When such is comfortable with such state and refuses to seek for change in any way but keeps going in such pace. Such a Christian is lukewarm! There are stages of lukewarmness and the earlier a person discovers this and changes, the better. Since we now know what lukewarmness means, let's look at the stages of lukewarmness.

Are we getting something?

Stages of Lukewarmness

We have three stages of lukewarmness which are;

1. The Early Stage
2. The Action Stage
3. The backsliding Stage

Let's break them down now, kindly follow carefully please.

1. The Early Stage: Just as we have the early stage of a butterfly which is called; The larva or caterpillar before it starts growing and get to the stage of becoming a full butterfly. So do we have the early stage of lukewarmness! It does not come suddenly or rapidly, it's always gradual especially for those who were once fervent and boiling hot before they became lukewarm. What happens this early stage is that the Christian is pricked in heart whenever he/she has not studied The Word or prayed. It becomes so strong in such a person that he becomes inconvenient till he does it. But, the moment such a person tries to make himself comfortable and ignores the voice of The Holy Spirit to go have his quiet time, lukewarmness is gradually setting in because such is silencing the voice of The Holy Spirit. This stage is still very early and such a Christian can start procrastinating. For example; If he is the type that usually have his devotion/quiet time very early in the morning, he will start procrastinating and shifting it to evening, later he will push it to few hours before he sleeps. This is how he will change the allocated time for his quiet time because lukewarmness is gradually setting in. In no time, he will doze off in the evening after eating, not being able to observe his quiet time. Such person can also procrastinate and push his devotion

to the next day, this is the early stage of lukewarmness. During this period, The Holy Spirit keeps speaking to such a person but in order not to look as though he/she is disobeying, such person procrastinates and pushes the devotion to another time in same day just to appease The Holy Spirit and make Him know he/she has not backslided even though such a person can end up not having the devotion that day. This early stage comes with a lot of excuses to avoid spiritual activities and gatherings. Someone who is used to fasting will start looking for excuses not to fast, this is because lukewarmness is gradually setting in. The Christian still observes his devotion at this Early Stage but the time keeps reducing. For example;

Somebody who studies the bible 2 hours daily now reduces it to 1 hour, and as time goes on, reduces to 30 minutes. Then, later reduces it to 10 minutes. Though, he still studies his bible but the fire on the altar of his study life is dying and draining drastically! The devil is so consistent and persistent that he keeps hitting his target slowly so that such a person does not notice easily. Those who undergo this early stage of lukewarmness often know they are gradually drawing back and keep promising themselves to bounce back but all the promises keep being postponed by them. Therefore, causing them to draw back gradually. Please, note that this early stage majorly deals with reduced spiritual activities and thoughts of trying to avoid or segregate from spiritual gatherings. Such a person will begin to think of reasons not to attend bible studies, Sunday schools and spiritual gatherings. Though, he/she might not effect it immediately but will start by going late to services and careless attitudes towards spiritual gatherings. Such a Christian still tries obeying The Holy Spirit **sometimes** just because it becomes a burden in heart, even though he/she might be struggling to. This early stage is also the stage when the Christian starts having second thoughts about those things he/she has neglected before, after giving his/her life to Christ. Those filthy things that are irritating in the sight of God which such a person has stopped doing, the early stage is when the Christian starts giving a second thought about those things but still decides not to use them or do them because the work of The Holy Spirit is still at work in such person. If the Christian is a female, she might be reconsidering trousers, jewelries, makeup, earrings, Using of human hair, keeping of boyfriends and the rest. If the Christian is a male, he might be reconsidering barbing of worldly haircuts, putting on of crazy jeans, using of

jewelries, keeping of girlfriends and the rest. Though, they might not go back but they still retain the love of those things in their hearts even though they have stopped using them a very long time. But, the love of these things starts coming into their hearts and they keep admiring those using them. It could also come in the form of finding pleasure and willing to engage in sin, but because The Holy Spirit is still speaking and they are still trying to stay in Christ, they do not really go into doing these things. This is the early stage of lukewarmness.

How can this Early Stage be tackled to stop it from growing into the backsliding Stage?

When a Christian notices this, the first thing to know is that, the devil is after the spiritual growth of such a person. The first thing to do is engage in a retreat, with serious prayer and studying of The Word. Fasting can also be included to make it more powerful. Also, such a Christian should ensure to obey whatsoever The Holy Spirit says at that same moment and shun procrastinating! Whenever The Holy Spirit says, "You have not studied and prayed today". **Ephesians 4:30 KJV And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.** Such a Christian should do away with every other thing and go to have the devotion straightaway to avoid procrastination. Lastly, such a person should be watchful and careful that he/she is not gradually limiting the time spent during devotion to a low period. We should always go higher in our spiritual activities, not drawing back. Since we have known the Early Stage of lukewarmness and how it can be tackled, let's move to the next stage.

2. The Action Stage: For someone to get to this stage, it means such a person has been through the Early Stage and was not able to conquer it that it led to this stage. At this stage, it is now growing worse, the early stage mostly talks about how the Christian keeps pondering on some things. But, this Action Stage talks about such a Christian putting into action those things he has been deliberating on before and being restrained of bit by bit by The Holy Spirit. At this stage, the Christian starts avoiding spiritual gatherings and tries separating him/herself from spiritual people. Weekly services now become once in a blue moon, such a person starts giving attitudes and saying, "I just want to be on my own". Then, he/she starts engaging in those things he/she has dropped before and even when The Holy Spirit convicts such a person, he refuses to hearken to the voice and

does what his/her flesh desires and finds pleasing. At this stage, the Christian believes he/she is not really backsliding but just trying not to be a boring Christian and to be smart. Such a person keeps looking for reasons to back up the sinful lifestyle he/she is engaging in and begins to avoid those who are capable of pointing out his/her faults.

At this stage, the male or female has reconsidered using ornaments and has started using them but not to the fullest to avoid people thinking such has backslided. This stage makes the person fears the words of men than The Holy Spirit's. Such a Christian now have his devotion once in a while, like once in a week, twice in two weeks, once in five days and the likes. Such will draw back drastically in studying The Word so as not to be pricked in heart by The Holy Spirit. Studying The Word becomes boring and a sleeping pill while few minutes of prayers look like many hours and it looks as there is no connection between such a person and the throne of heaven. Everything becomes dry! At this stage, the person tries to show to people that he/she is still spiritual and on fire. It becomes very easy for such people to fake this when they have spiritual gifts at work in them because people will still see them doing wonders and a lot of things but only those who are close to them and are sensitive that will know and understand that they are already getting lukewarm. Those in this stage login very early in the morning into their social media pages and keep surfing the internet all day, forgetting about their quiet time and finding it difficult to do even if they remember. They keep engaging in ungodly chatting that suit and pleases their flesh, they find joy in pleasing their flesh than pleasing God.

This stage, such people can decide not to go to church and connect online every Sunday just to show that they are still connected to God in a little way whereas it's lukewarmness and hating of spiritual reproofs that is making them avoid going to church physically. Such Christians do not filter the teachings they hear, they hate teachings and messages that speak about sin, hell and heaven. So, they follow preachers and teachers who teach what they like and what is not against them. Some of these people change church just to look for a palatable place for their lukewarm life. They gradually find nothing bad in sin and they engage in sin almost often but not always. They still go to church and still have this mindset in them that they have once been born again and should not start living a total life

of sin even though they engage in it almost all the time when they are moved to. This stage is a stage where they do not only lust after the opposite sex in the heart, they also get involved in fornication and even extra marital affairs. They believe you can fight for yourself when anyone offends you with the notion of "I am a Christian but I don't take nonsense!". All these happen at the Action stage where all those things being pondered on are put into action.

How then can this Action stage be tackled to stop it from growing into the backsliding Stage?

It's best to tackle it even before getting to this stage, it's best to tackle it right from the Early Stage. But, if per adventure, it has gotten to this stage, then, here are what should be done; Such a person should repent genuinely and ask for forgiveness from God for all the sins committed. Then, such should rededicate his/her life back to Christ in genuine soberness. After that, a strict retreat with fasting inclusive should be conducted under the guidance of a mentor or spiritual father/mother. Such a person should plead the blood of Jesus, do restitution where necessary and return to attending a Bible believing church where sound doctrine is taught. Quiet time should be strictly observed daily and such a person should monitor that he/she does not fall into the web of procrastination again. Also, if such a person holds a position in the church, he/she should confess those sins that need to be confessed to the church authority (The pastor). Lastly, such a person should do away with ungodly materials and friends who are capable of luring such back into the world.

3. The Backsliding Stage: This is the last stage of the stages of lukewarmness and this stage is the stage where the person has totally backslided. No more studying of The Word, no more prayer, attending Sunday services becomes a burden and such people go to church only on cross-over night when everyone is about to cross into the new year. And the reason they go to church this particular time is because they were once on fire but have just backslided totally. They find sin very easy to engage in, they have grieved The Holy Spirit that they can no more hear His voice again. They do not hide their backsliding state and flaunts it with pride, those things they once preached and taught against, they find themselves engaging in them. They keep seeing those who go to church and are standing in Christ as though they are wasting their time and they keep telling people they

were once like that too. They discourage those who are on fire and this state of theirs is much more worst than before they even gave their lives to Christ at all, why? **Luke 11:24-26 KJV** When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. [25] And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. [26] Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. However, these sets of people are on the pathway way to hell because their names have been blotted out from the book of life due to living a constant life full of sin and lack of remorse for sin. **Luke 9:62 KJV** And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. However, if they refuse to change and death comes, they won't make heaven because of the state they were before death. This is the last stage of lukewarmness.

How then can this Backsliding Stage be tackled to stop it and reconcile back to God

We have to understand that this stage really needs serious attention because a lot has gone wrong at this stage. Firstly, such a person should repent and confess his/her sins, rededicate his/her life to Christ. Do restitution of those sins that restitution is needed for. Another important thing to do is to go for personal deliverance due to how deep such person would have been into sin, so as to get delivered from demons that would have possessed such person. Then, with the help of a spiritual mentor/father or pastor, such a person should be mentored properly in the spiritual way. Such a person should locate a Bible believing church and connect with spiritual and godly friends of same sex preferably to avoid being tempted to sin. Total consecration and sanctification should be prayed for daily and through the studying of The Word. Commitment and determination too are needed to keep pushing and to stop sin, such person should cut off from ungodly friends and materials. Such should desist from watching movies that can trigger sin in a person's life. Lastly, such a person should never be weary or stop pushing because the devil will always want to draw such back into the world.

The Effects of lukewarmness

1. **God said He would spit them out of His mouth; Revelation 3:15-16 KJV** **I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. [16] So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.** God hates lukewarmness a lot, His joy is to see that His children keeps soaring high spiritually and not lukewarm. There will be separation between God and those who are lukewarm as He dislikes it.
2. **It opens door to attacks from the enemy:** When a person is not fully for God, the devil has access into such a person's life because such is not hot but warm. You know it's very easy for you to dip your finger into a warm water but hard to dip it into an hot or boiling water. That is exactly how it is spiritual, if you are hot, it becomes too hard for darkness to penetrate but if you are lukewarm, they penetrate easily.
3. **You lose your right and authority as a child of God.:** When a person is lukewarm, the person finds it hard to be bold to stand against darkness because of being warm.
4. **The probability of such making heaven is slim except such repents**

We have come to the end of today's study, if you have any question, kindly ask but if there is none, I wish you all pleasant night rest ahead. May we not backslide in Jesus name, amen. Thanks for your time, Goodnight dear saints.

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