



**Mount Olive Church Ministries**

**20 Battles Street • Hartford, CT**

**Fighting the Fire Fade: Defeating Spiritual Apathy & Spiritual Warfare**

**Week 1: Recognizing Spiritual Apathy**

**Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Victor Thomas**

## **Theme Scripture (NIV)**

Revelation 3:15-16 — “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

## **Introduction: Understanding Spiritual Apathy**

Spiritual apathy is one of the most subtle yet dangerous forms of spiritual warfare. It does not show up loudly like open rebellion but quietly settles into the life of a believer.

A person can still attend church, still serve, and still participate outwardly while inwardly disconnected from God.

Apathy is when passion fades, but routine remains. It is when worship becomes mechanical, prayer becomes optional, and the Word of God becomes informational rather than transformational.

**Key Line:** Apathy is not the absence of activity—it is the absence of fire.

Because spiritual apathy is not just a personal issue—it is a strategic attack of the enemy against the church.

The enemy understands something...If he can't stop you from coming to church...he will try to stop you from being changed in church.

If he can't silence your worship...he will try to drain your passion. If he can't keep you out of prayer...he will try to make your prayer powerless.

And before you know it...you are doing all the right things externally... but internally...your fire has faded.

Because the modern-day church has learned how to function without fire—how to gather without glory and how to perform without power.

The Bible warns us in **2 Timothy 3:5 (NIV)** that there will be people “having a form of godliness but denying its power,” and that is the very definition of spiritual apathy in action.

We have mastered the routine of church, but we have neglected the relationship with Christ, and Jesus said in **John 15:5 (NIV)**, “Apart from me you can do nothing,” which means activity without connection produces emptiness.

Spiritual apathy shows up when we are more moved by notifications than by the presence of God, and more committed to our schedules than to seeking His face.

Even though **Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)** declares, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

The enemy knows that if he can divide your attention, he can dilute your devotion, because a distracted believer becomes a disengaged believer.

That is why **Colossians 3:2 (NIV)** tells us to “set your minds on things above, not on earthly things,” because focus fuels fire.

Apathy has also crept into the church through comfort, where conviction is no longer pursued and sacrifice is no longer practiced, even though **Luke 9:23 (NIV)** reminds us to “deny themselves and take up their cross daily.”

And when believers stop dying daily, they start drifting spiritually, and drift is dangerous because it is slow and often unnoticed.

But the way we combat this kind of warfare is through intentional pursuit, because **James 4:8 (NIV)** says, “Come near to God and he will come near to you,” which means proximity to God restores passion for God.

We must also return to fervent prayer, because **James 5:16 (NIV)** declares that “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective,” reminding us that prayer is not powerless when it is passionate.

And as we renew our minds through the Word, **Romans 12:2 (NIV)** teaches us that transformation happens when we are no longer conformed but changed from the inside out.

So the answer to apathy is not more activity—it is deeper intimacy, not more motion—but more devotion, not more routine—but a revived relationship.

Because when you get back into His presence, your fire will return, your hunger will be restored, and your spirit will be reignited for the glory of God.

### **Section 1: Identifying Apathy in Daily Life**

In modern life, apathy often shows up through distraction and busyness. Believers may prioritize work, social media, and personal responsibilities over their relationship with God.

Examples include attending church but not engaging, praying only during difficult moments, and lacking conviction when hearing the Word of God.

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And this is not new—**the Bible shows us that God’s people have wrestled with spiritual apathy before.**

In **Haggai 1:4 (NIV)**, the people were focused on building their own houses while the house of the Lord remained in ruins, showing how personal priorities can take precedence over spiritual responsibility.

In **Matthew 26:40-41 (NIV)**, the disciples could not stay awake and pray with Jesus in a critical moment, revealing how spiritual weariness and lack of discipline can cause us to miss divine opportunities.

In **1 Samuel 3:1 (NIV)**, it says, “the word of the Lord was rare,” indicating a season where spiritual sensitivity had diminished among God’s people.

And even the church in **Revelation 2:4 (NIV)** was rebuked because they had “forsaken the love [they] had at first,” meaning they were still active, but no longer passionate.

And if we are honest, we see the same patterns today...

We build careers, platforms, and personal lives—but neglect our spiritual foundation.

We have access to more sermons, more scriptures, and more resources than ever before—yet less hunger and less pursuit.

We are connected digitally—but often disconnected spiritually. We can scroll for hours—but struggle to sit with God for minutes.

This is how spiritual apathy quietly grows...not because God has moved... but because our focus has shifted.

And the danger is this—when apathy becomes normal, conviction becomes rare.

But just as it showed up in scripture, God also calls His people to recognize it, repent from it, and return to Him with renewed passion and purpose.

### **Student Reflection**

Where have I become spiritually passive?

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### **Section 2: Biblical Warning Against Lukewarm Faith**

Jesus warns the church in Revelation that lukewarm faith is unacceptable. Matthew 15:8 (NIV) states: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

This reveals that outward actions can exist without inward devotion. A believer can appear committed but lack genuine spiritual connection.

Because when Jesus speaks in **Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV)** and says, *“You are neither cold nor hot... you are lukewarm...”*

He is addressing a people who had **activity without authenticity... routine without relationship... and form without fire.**

Lukewarm faith is dangerous...because it gives the appearance of life...without the power of transformation.

It's when you know the songs...but don't feel the Spirit...when you hear the Word...

but don't apply the truth...when you come to church...but never change.

This is the reality of Spiritual apathy in the following statement below.

**Lukewarm faith is when God is present...but no longer priority!**

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### ✦ Modern Day Examples of Lukewarm Faith

Today, lukewarm faith looks like:

- Worshiping with your mouth...while your mind is somewhere else
- Serving in ministry...without spending time with God
- Posting scripture online...but not living it offline
- Depending on Sunday service...with no weekday devotion

And if we're honest...some believers have learned how to manage church...without maintaining connection to Christ.

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### **HOW TO DEFEAT LUKEWARM FAITH (INDIVIDUALLY)**

#### **1. Return to Your First Love**

**Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV) —**

“You have forsaken the love you had at first... Repent and do the things you did at first.”

➡ Go back to:

- passionate prayer
- intentional time in the Word

- sincere worship
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## 2. Rekindle Spiritual Discipline

**Romans 12:11 (NIV)** —

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor...”

☞ You don’t stay on fire accidentally—  
**you stay on fire intentionally.**

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## 3. Guard Your Focus

**Colossians 3:2 (NIV)** —

“Set your minds on things above...”

- ☞ What you focus on...fuels your fire
  - ☞ What distracts you...drains your devotion
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# HOW TO DEFEAT LUKEWARM FAITH (AS A CHURCH)

## 1. Create a Culture of Hunger

A church must move beyond routine and cultivate **spiritual expectation.**

☞ Encourage:

- testimony moments
  - altar response
  - engaged worship
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## 2. Promote Accountability & Discipleship

**Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)** —

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on...”

☞ Growth happens when believers:

- challenge one another
  - pray for one another
  - walk together in faith
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### **3. Emphasize Prayer & Fasting**

Because some battles...  
are not broken by routine...  
**but by pursuit.**

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### **CLOSING TEACHING MOMENT**

Church, hear this clearly...God is not pleased with half-hearted worship...  
He is not moved by empty routine...

He is looking for a people...who are passionate...committed...and fully  
engaged in relationship with Him!

Because lukewarm faith may be comfortable...**but it is not acceptable!**

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### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. In what areas of my life have I become spiritually lukewarm?

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2. What distractions are pulling my focus away from God?

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3. What is one step I can take this week to reignite my spiritual passion?

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4. How can I help create a culture of spiritual fire within my church?

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### **Student Questions**

What distractions compete with your time with God?

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### **Final Reflection**

What is one step you will take this week to grow spiritually?

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### **Homework Assignment**

Track your devotional life for 3 days. Identify areas of weakness and pray daily for renewed passion and commitment to God.