

HOW DO YOU SPELL "LUKEWARM"?

Kavya Shivashankar, 13, of Olathe, Kan., won the 82nd Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday night, May 28, 2009 on national television. She beat out 292 other hopefuls to win the 2009 competition. She took home more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes and, of course, the huge champion's trophy. You could say that afterward she was spellbound!

Her winning word was "Laodicean," which is a spiritual sickness the symptoms of which are lukewarmness and indifference. The word comes from the name of the city of Laodicea which was a resort area where people came to luxuriate in the warm springs located there. Jesus said of the church in that city that it too was like the water, lukewarm. (Rev. 3:16)

This church had conformed to the culture in which it was located and consequently had cooled off toward God. They just sat, soaked and soured! Because of this tendency in human nature, Paul wrote to the church in Rome: "Do not be conformed to this world." (Rom. 12:2)

Some symptoms of Laodicean sickness are:

- A spiritually lukewarm temperature, neither hot nor cold toward God, just blah;
- Satisfied just to be a mediocre Christian;
- Preoccupied with day-to-day routine, no time to meditate on God's Word;
- Focused upon growing wealth rather than growing spiritually;
- Content to enjoy the pleasures of life rather than think about the purpose of life;
- Loving Jesus and living for Him is an afterthought;
- Fixated more upon being happy than being holy;
- Too self-centered to be interested in sinners who need the Savior.

This was the church where Christ was outside trying to gain entrance. He said, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20)

Knock! Knock!

"Who's there?"

"God!"

Open to Him and He will rekindle the fire of devotion. That is spelled R-E-V-I-V-E-D!

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