



The Fire of God

Acts 2:1-4

Spiritual Renewal Conference

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Luke 3:15 and 16 says,

“Now as the people were in expectation and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was Christ or not, John answered, saying to all, ‘I indeed baptize you with water; but, One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.’”

Never in its history has it been more evident that the men of the United States need to be set on fire. Our households have become our battlegrounds, our inner man cries out for direction and the god of this age fights our rightful position as men all the way.

We have become polluted and confused as to what it is we are responsible for. We forget that life has its costs and its dues to pay. We need the Fire of God in our life, blazing in us, guiding us.

See 1st Peter 2:21 through 25

Today is the day! The day you begin to allow the Fire of God to burn in your heart. Dr. D.H. Strong tells the story of two martyrs who were about to be burned. Both of these men had disabilities, one was blind and the other crippled. On their way to the stake of fire, one said to the other “Take courage my brother; this fire will cure us both!”

For spiritual renewal to occur in our community, we will need to become combustible in God’s eyes. It has a lot to do with our will versus His. There are goals and tasks God wishes to accomplish and there are ones we wish to do. It is all in making His list, ours. God’s Holy Spirit desires to come fully into our life and produce change, dispel darkness and clean house. He is here today, right now.

The average mean temperature in Alberta Canada in the winter is below zero. But, there is a spot that during the coldest of winters still has vibrant green grass sprouting on the surface. In 1919 a fire erupted in a coal mine underground. This fire has never been extinguished and to this day continues to burn. The heat from the fire keeps the ground above warm enough to support vegetation year around. That’s how the Fire of God operates, keeping you warm and productive even in the harshest of conditions.

Let’s start out with a self-evaluation of sorts. This will not be shared, so don’t be afraid to “spill it all”. Take the time over the next few minutes to truthfully answer the following, then take this outline home and review it later to see if the fire was lit on this day.

1. List below at least three things that you consistently think about when you are all alone

2. You discover that you have an extra day off from you job that you hadn't planned for. What activities do you first think of to fill this day?

3. List at least three reasons you would get up an extra hour every day

How you spend your time reveals your character, even to you. The things you think on and decide to sacrifice for show your priorities. We all need the Fire of God in our lives to help realign our lives to His. The characteristics of fire make it the perfect subject to compare to the work of the Spirit of God. In fact it is more true to state that fire gets its character from the Holy Spirit than to say the reverse.



First Characteristic of Fire **FIRE CLEANSSES**

Fire has the ability to clean. Ancient physicians used the flame to sterilize their instruments before medical procedures to help prevent infections. Fire destroys bacteria and germs. It has the power to purge.

What one thing in your life needs purged (removed, destroyed)?

Isaiah chapter six speaks of the call of God on the prophet's life. He has an awesome vision of God, and is shaken by the power of God. Then Isaiah cries out...

"Woe is me for I am undone. Because I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!"



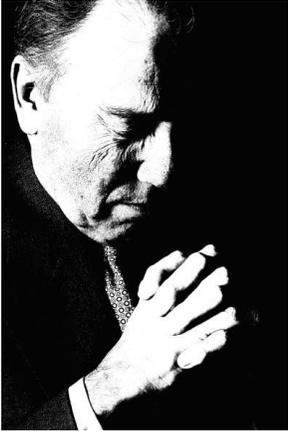
Then it says that a seraphim, a heavenly being present at the Throne of God, flies over to the altar and takes a live coal from it then touches the lips of the prophet. He then proclaims...
"Behold this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

The purging of our souls of that which defiles us is a daily process. The Fire is applied only to the area that needs removed or cleansed.

In nature, God allows great forests to burn. Man tries to extinguish them, but, the natural purging of old vegetation in a forest actually promotes the growth of the new. And, in fact, without it the forest would eventually die. For God to bring the new into the New Creature (that's you!) He has to be allowed to purge you of the old [2nd Corinthians 5:17].

List the harmful things that God has removed from your life so far

The world of Christianity has a dark side. It is filled with misconceptions and preconceived notions. It isn't just in the realms of our experiences involved in the world that we become polluted and unfit. Erroneous teachings, hurtful feelings that aren't dealt with and our own lack of discipline for Bible study and prayer can prepare us for a cleansing. The Holy Spirit of Fire can do the job.



Below, write out a prayer that you will pray each day this week to ask God for His Fire to purge out the bad and cleanse you from iniquity.

Father God... _____

Amen



Second Characteristic of Fire FIRE OVERCOMES DARKNESS

Fire has the power to bring light into darkness. Long before the light bulbs of the 20th century, man lit the world at times of darkness with the brilliance of fire. The flame brought the unseen to light when electricity was only a plan of God.

We spend our lives trying to hide from God only to be reminded that our God sees in the dark. Have you ever tried to hide something that you were ashamed of from someone close to you? God's Fire wants to blaze into your life and expose all those things that, if left unchecked, will eventually be your downfall.

Name at least one area of your life or deed you do that needs to be exposed and dealt with _____

Isaiah 58:7 through 9 speaks of the Light of God that shines in our hearts and protects us...

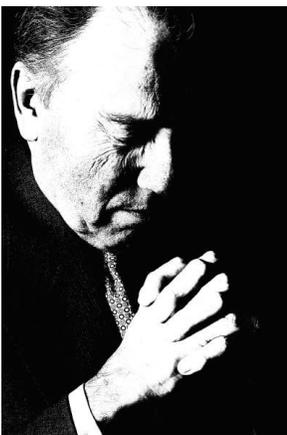


“When you see the naked that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the Glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am’.”

When the Fire of God burns a path into your soul and fills it with light, others see it. It becomes a source of direction for them. No longer do they see your righteousness (which is like a filthy rag, dark and dingy) but they see His. This characteristic of God’s Fire, the Holy Spirit, affects those around you.

Make a list below of all those people around you that you would like to see develop a relationship with Jesus Christ:

When God speaks to you... you know what I am talking about... It’s when you are in a service at church or in a situation where a burning in your heart is telling you to act. Whether that is in something you need to say, confess to or in something you need to do, that burning sensation is most likely God Himself. That is the Fire bringing His own fashion of Light into your life. It is then that you need to react.



Below, write out a prayer that you will pray each day this week to ask God for His Fire to blaze light into your soul so that the folks on the list above might see Jesus.

Father God... _____
 _____ Amen



Third Characteristic of Fire FIRE CHANGES THINGS

Put steel into a furnace heated to a sufficient temperature and the heat causes the molecules to line up in straight rolls. The steel is strengthened greatly as a result. Heat gold to a high temperature and all of the impurities will rise to the top leaving a more precious and costly gold beneath. Set coal, wood or paper on fire and the flames turn each into a pile of ashes. Fire, in the natural world, has the power to change anything and everything it touches.

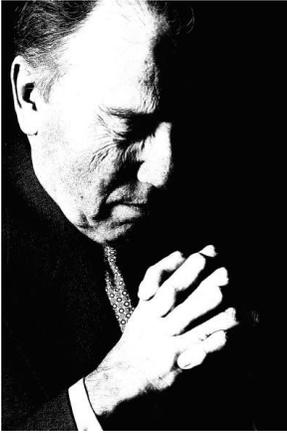
Look up Hebrews 12:29 and write it down in the space below:

Our God is the change you need. Not one person who came into this room today is done. No one is finished. All of us, each one, have a deep need to change. The Fire of God has the power to alter our state of existence, if we will let Him.

What are some areas of your life that God has changed over the past years in your walk with Him?



Just remember, the only ones who have graduated to a state that is not in need of change are in the cemeteries.



Below, write out a prayer that you will pray each day this week to ask God for His Fire to change the areas of your life that haven't, those that need to.

Father God... _____

_____ Amen



Special Characteristic of this Fire
THIS FIRE IS SUPERNATURAL

Read Genesis 15:6-17

What supernatural indicator did God use to show Abram that his offering was acceptable?

Read 1st Kings 18:30-39

What supernatural indicator did God use to show Elijah that his offering was acceptable?

The Fire of God is His stamp of approval, His indicator of acceptance of the sacrifice, offering. When the Fire falls, the supernatural happens! The common becomes extraordinary. David slew a 9 foot giant, Gideon beat incredible odds, Paul survived numerous attempts on his life... twelve men turned the world upside down and forever changed the course of history!

Look at Jeremiah 20:9. Have you ever felt what Jeremiah describes in this verse? If so, explain...

Are you kindling today? Are you combustible for God? Go to the bank for a loan, and it's going to cost you interest. Spend your money for lottery tickets and there is no guarantee that your money will come back to you. But, the Fire of God is free for the asking.

Consider yourself combustible. Pray this prayer with me to close today...



Father God... I need Your Fire today. I have been too cool in my walk with You and have neglected the area of influence that You have given me. I allowed myself to be distracted by the world and the worries thereof. Set me ablaze today, my God! Purify me, cleanse me, purge me prepare me. Start this process today, I pray in Jesus' Name... Amen