

The Fire of God

INTRODUCTION:

We are living in exciting but challenging days...

God's purposes are moving along faster & faster- but we have to keep up the pace!

It is crucial that we learn to move with God as He is bringing the world & the church into unprecedented change!

1) THE FIRE OF GOD *EMPOWERS*

-the day of Pentecost- 3000 were saved

-Moses at the burning bush- began a season of miracles & deliverance

- John Wesley was asked, "Why do so many people come to your gatherings?"

"I set myself on fire and people come to watch me burn"

(The "Arab Spring" started when a protester in Tunisia poured gasoline on himself & set it afire, that protest shocked the nation and started the overthrow of their government... then Egypt... then Libya... when a protester sets himself afire it will be shown by the news media around the world- there is *power* in fire!)

-Elijah on Mt Carmel- when the fire fell, a nation repented!

-East Timor's revival started when the fire of God swept in... millions saved in revival of great power!

2) THE FIRE OF GOD *PURIFIES*

-Mt.3:11-12 John the Baptist proclaimed that Christ was coming to baptize w fire, to burn up the chaff!

-Indonesian farmers cleanse the fields for planting by burning the fields

-Do you want to find out if a pearl is real or not? Hold it up to a flame- fakes will burn!

-Mal.3:1-3 The Lord, who we seek, will suddenly come...revival!...but who will be ready?

-Christ will come as a refiner's fire (His 1st coming: with a whip! Jn.2:15)

-Heb.12:29 Our God is a consuming fire

-Is.32:13-15 Who can dwell w/ the God who is everlasting fire? Only the pure, nothing to be burned up!

-Qualifications of righteousness: Our Walk- Words- Impartial (no bribes), ears & eyes pure (TV)

-Is.32:16-17 The blessings of those in Zion who can dwell w/ God, the consuming fire:

-He will dwell on the heights (seated w/ Christ in heavenly places)

-His refuge will be the fortress of Rock (Ps.18:2 The Lord is my Rock & Fortress & Deliverer)

-His bread (word of God) and water (Holy Spirit) will be regularly given him

-Your eyes will see the King in His beauty-King Jesus! The All-beautify One!

-Is.6:1-5 Did young Isaiah qualify to see the King in His beauty? NO! He saw the King in His Holiness!

"WOE IS ME!" He saw the Consuming Fire! Isaiah's hypocrisy was exposed! (a priest, but had sin)

-Is.6:6 When Isaiah repented, a seraphim (fiery one) took a burning coal from heaven's altar, and burned his lips! Isaiah was purified by fire! THEN Isaiah could be called of God to powerful ministry, and he was then able to see the King in His beauty as Isaiah prophesied about the coming of Christ!

-After we are purified, then we can be empowered, Is.4:4-5. The assemblies, the churches on spiritual Mt. Zion will need to be purged by fire- the spirit of burning- before the fire of God will become our defense and glory!

3) THE FIRE OF GOD *NEEDS MAINTENANCE*

-2 Tim.1:6-7 "Fan into flame (kindle afresh) the gift of God which is in you by the laying on of my hands." Timothy was given an anointed ministry (charisma, spiritual gift), but he had to stir it up into being effective!

-Last message of William Booth: "Look well to the **fire** of your souls, for the tendency of **fire** is to go out"

-Lev.6:12-13 The fire is to always be burning on the altar (of our heart)

(the fire on the altar came from heaven when Moses' Tabernacle was dedicated)

(the fire on the altar came from heaven when DAVID'S Tab was dedicated...DAY OF PENTECOST

- Maintain* the true fire of God & don't try to *replace* the fire of God!
- Two sons of Aaron the High Priest tried to minister using fire they had made, Lev.10:1-2
They were to use the fire that came from heaven, but instead replaced it w/ fire *they* made on earth.
- What kind of fire motivates us? What fuels our life? Human motivation, or heavenly motivation?
 - * Success? (Mk.8:36) Comfort? (Lk.9:23) The approval of others? (Gal.1:10)Different vehicles burn different fuels to power them (gasoline, diesel, LPG, 10% ethanol...)
What do you put in the fuel tank of your life, to motivate you? What is your passion?
Jealousy is like fire, S. of Sol.8:6. Lust is likened to a fire, 1 Cor.7:9.
There are many fires we can use to fuel our life- but is it God's fire, or human fire?
- Aaron's sons tried to serve God with strange fire- we can also try to serve God, w/ wrong motivations!

- Lev.6:12-13 The fire is to always burn on the altar of our heart- if it has gone out, we need to be like Elijah, who offered a new sacrifice on the altar- new consecration- & the fire of God fell, repentance!
- * The Priests of old had to cut up the sacrifice- but now, WE are to be a living sacrifice, Rom.12:1
- The sword of the Spirit, the word of God, can expose our inner thoughts and attitudes...expose the flesh in our life to be burned!

4) THE FIRE OF GOD *WILL PREVAIL*

- Christ came to send fire on the earth, Lk.12:49. It came to the church on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:3
- The fire of the H.S. is to always be burning in our hearts, to purify, to empower...
- If we let the fire of the H.S. die down in our hearts, we will replace it & get fired up by human motivations- yet the fire of God will still prevail in a believer's life when we stand before Christ, although our delay in being purified by God's fire will bring us great loss, 1 Cor.3:12-15
- Example: Lot was a believer, but compromised... aimed for success & prosperity (with compromise)...
 - became an elder in the gate (an elder of Sodom!), wealthy, nice home in the city...
 - we could become prosperous, esteemed church leaders (compromising with the world & sin
 - churches are compromising with immorality & homosexuality, not wanting to "rock the boat."

GOD'S FIRE WILL PURIFY US- but are we like "Lot"? Lot was saved thru the fire, but lost most of the efforts of his life- his house & wealth, burned up! His eldership, wiped out! His family- some lost, only 2 daughters saved- and they were corrupted & brought forth little of eternal reward!

If we let the fire of God burn and purify us NOW, our consecrated lives will bring forth good rewards that will endure the fire of God's testing, and bring us eternal reward!

God's fire can confront us- or empower us! If we let God's fire burn away our sin, our wrong motivations, our compromise- then the fire of God will be able to abide in our heart to empower, not destroy! To fill us w/ the fire of God's pure love!

Moses' bush was not consumed- we can be like it! On fire, but not consumed! Burning, not burned out! Shadrach, Meshech, & Abednego were thrown in the fire, but they were consecrated to God – the fire only burned away the ropes around them, they were not burned- made a powerful witness!

Is.4:4-5 If we will receive the spirit of judgment & burning, we will be among the assemblies of Zion that will be prepared to enter into revival & glory!