

Igniting Genuine

Pasion for Jesus



FIRE POWER

DANIEL KING



Fire Power

Igniting Genuine Passion for Jesus!

Daniel King

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King Ministries
PO Box 701113
Tulsa, OK 74170
1-877-431-4276
www.kingministries.com
Daniel@kingministries.com

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Special thanks to my parents, Robert & Susan King, who inspired the fire in my life.

Introduction

Dear Friend,

Do you want to catch the fire of God? Do you want your life to be radically changed? Are you tired of being satisfied with lukewarm Christianity? If so, this book is for you.

When a battle is fought, the army with the most “fire power” will win. Tanks, guns, and aircraft provide the overwhelming force required to defeat a physical enemy. This book will give you the spiritual tools you need to increase your Holy Spirit “fire power” so you can overcome Satan in every area of your life.

My heart is consumed with the fire of God. I am young, but I have already traveled to over fifty countries preaching the gospel. Ever since I was a child, I have ministered to huge crowds and I have seen thousands of people saved, healed, and delivered by the power of God Almighty. God’s fire compels me to reach out to the lost and hurting people of this world.

The fire of God is going to fall in this generation. People around the world are hungry for the presence of God. Already I have seen the first trickle of a mighty outpouring of God’s Spirit. Yet, what I have seen is only the beginning. Get ready, because God’s fire is going to be ignited in hearts around the world.

The message in this book burns inside of me. The fire of God can also burn inside of you. If you want your life to be changed, read on!

Reaching People Around the World,

Daniel King

“Fire is the hot, intense, burning, all consuming power of God.”
- Billy Joe Daugherty

Chapter 1

Catch the Fire

Recently, I went on a mission trip to the country of Jamaica. Our group experienced powerful ministry at churches and evangelistic crusades. Hundreds of people were saved and many miraculous healings were reported.

The days in Jamaica were extremely hot and quite humid, so as we walked through neighborhoods inviting people to church, we quickly overheated. By the time we arrived back at our hotel that evening, we were a sticky mess. Unfortunately, the showers at the hotel were broken. We fixed this problem by deciding to go for a late night swim in the pool.

As we swam, I noticed there was a panel near the edge of the pool that looked like it was smoking. I was curious, so I foolishly swam over to check it out. I was treading water right by an underwater light when - zap - I was shocked. The electricity shot through my body and numbed my feet and hands. Terrified, I leapt out of the pool. Immediately, I became concerned for the safety of the other members of my team. I started screaming at them to get out of the pool as fast as they could.

None of them knew what was wrong so they just looked at me. As I kept yelling at them about the danger, some began to get out, but most of the people thought I was playing a practical joke on them so they stayed in the pool. I frantically began grabbing people

and pulling them out of the pool. I pointed at the smoking panel and screamed, "Get out!" I yelled repeatedly about the danger until I was hoarse.

When everyone realized how serious I was, they climbed out of the pool. Several stubborn boys refused to fall for what they still thought was a practical joke. I was frustrated as I watched them swim in a dangerous situation. I began to talk to them and show them the danger they were in. Finally, my sense of urgency compelled them to climb out of the pool. I was so relieved when I had saved everyone's life!

God stopped me right then and He told me, "**You need to save people from hell with the same passion that you saved those people from an electric shock.**" This word from God has given me a passion to see the lost saved. This passion is God's fire inside of me. By the grace of God, I had been saved from being electrocuted. After I had been spared, I began to yell and scream, and pull people out of danger. I experienced an intense urgency about it. I did not rest until everyone was saved, because I was concerned for their lives.

God revealed to me that I need to be just as concerned about the lives of people who are headed for hell! I have to do whatever it takes to rescue someone from the grasp of Satan. If I have to speak loud and boldly, I will. If I have to talk them into salvation, I will. I made a commitment to myself that day that I would do whatever it takes to help save a soul from hell.

Someone has described the Christian walk as "One starving man who has found food, telling another starving man where he can find food." I experienced salvation, and now my duty is to help save others! After someone discovers God's fire, spreading that fire as far as they possibly can becomes their responsibility. God gave me a revelation about the urgency that I need to have in my spirit to save the lost. The sinner who has recently been saved is the most motivated person to go out and save others. It is important to continue

to burn intensely. Our job is to catch the fire, keep the fire, and to spread the fire!

Fire gives boldness! I was not worried about what people thought about me when I was trying to save their lives. I did not care what I looked like or how my message sounded. I became bold and I pulled people from danger. When it is a life and death situation, you must burn with a compassion that forgets about all the normal details of life.

I have caught the fire of God, now it is time for you to catch the fire of God!

What is the fire of God?

The fire of God is the burning passion that exists in the hearts of those who are committed to serving God. This fire creates an appetite for righteousness. Fire produces love, reverence, and passion for God. Fire is found in the fervor and intensity of worship. Fire falls when God's children yearn to be consumed with a divine adoration for God. It creates a craving hunger for God Himself.

God's fire drives the preacher to preach. God's fire forces the teacher to teach. God's fire compels the evangelist to evangelize. Fire gives birth to an obsessive enthusiasm for winning the lost. God's fire sustains the soul when trials and tests come your way. God's fire enables the Christian to live a holy life.

The fire of God judges between right and wrong. The fire of God purifies that which is not worthy and destroys imperfections. The fire burns away chaff and leaves gold. It challenges, compels, and produces mighty men and women of God. The fire of God is not given to make us cozy, but holy.

The fire of God is like the fire in the belly of a steamship; it provides the thrust for the voyage upstream. The fire of God is like the fire in a hot air balloon, uplifting the spirit to higher heights. The fire of God is like a campfire, supplying warmth on a cold night.



The fire of God is like the flame in a lighthouse, giving direction and warning of danger.

The fire of God is the difference between dead religion and a living relationship with Christ. The fire of God separates those who play at church from those who are the church. The fire of God differentiates between those who preach life changing sermons and those who only share comforting monologues. The fire of God divides the worshipers from the ones who only want to be entertained. The fire of God is the difference between

the impotent and the powerful. The fire of God is the defining characteristic of the passionate follower of Christ.

- * The fire of God rings the death toll for the forces of the kingdom of darkness.
- * The fire of God energizes God's people with His power and truth.
- * The fire of God burns away sinful thoughts, motives, and desires, and leaves behind a renewed mind.
- * The fire of God removes sadness and replaces it with the joy of the Lord.
- * The fire of God is the sign that true revival has finally come.
- * The fire of God calls sinners to repentance and inspires people to live a life of holiness.
- * The fire of God enlists, trains, and empowers believers for world evangelism.

Three key components of a fire

Let us examine the three ingredients that must be present for a fire to exist. First, a fire must have a source of ignition. This ignition source is a spark or a match, which lights the initial flame. Second, a fire must have fuel. This fuel can be wood, paper, gas, or charcoal; a fire will not burn without some type of fuel. Third, a fire must have oxygen to burn. A candle is snuffed out when it is cut off from its source of oxygen. If one of these three key components for a fire is absent, the fire will never even start.

There is a correlation between physical fire and spiritual fire. These three components of a fire serve as an analogy for spiritual fires. First, God the Father provides the supernatural ignition source for a spiritual fire. All spiritual fire begins with God. Second, the Word of God is like fuel. Jesus, as the living Word, lives inside our hearts providing the fuel that allows the fire to burn. Third, the Holy Spirit is the divine oxygen that blows through our spirits keeping the fire bright. In the same way a fire will not burn without oxygen, a Christian will not burn without the presence of the Holy Spirit.



God the Father is the source of all fire, but he allows us to decide if we want to be on fire for Him. He provides us with a match, and then allows us to decide if we want to strike the match or not. A match will not strike itself. You can choose to permit God to ignite a fire in your life, by picking up the match and then striking it. After we take the first step, God will handle the rest. You have the choice to decide what to do with the match. Do you

want to be on fire for God? The decision is in your hands. Will you strike the match?

Match this

The art of fire making has taken a giant step forward since the old fashioned days when the pioneers used flint and steel to light a fire. Back then, starting a fire was difficult since the process required dry tinder, perfect conditions, and the patience to blow on a spark until it became a flame. Now, we have matches that make it quite a bit easier to start a fire. Did you know that Americans use over 700,000,000,000 matches each year? That is a lot of fires. In fact, one match-making factory on the west coast uses over 200,000 feet of pine wood each day. These matches make it easy for millions of people to instantly strike a flame.

In the past, it has been difficult to start spiritual fires. Revivals have been few and far between. Pastors have struggled for years to light fires in their churches, but things are changing. Now, the Holy Spirit has begun to rekindle old embers. As the church seeks God's face, we are seeing the lighting of thousands of new flames all over the world.

Global warming

Even now, we are beginning to see a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit around the world. In Central and South America revival has been revolutionizing lives. In America, spiritual hunger has been growing as people search for an answer to their problems. In Europe, churches seemingly dead have begun to be revitalized. Asia and Australia have seen the church grow like never before and in Africa millions have heard the good news and responded enthusiastically. Yet, this is only the beginning. Thousands of matches will be lit around the world. Each match will light another match until the world is consumed with flames.

My match is lit

I will never forget the warm summer night when I first experienced the tangible presence of God as a fire. I was twelve years old

at a summer camp with Pastor John Tasch. During the nightly chapel services underneath a huge pavilion, children were repenting and prophesying. The move of the Spirit was amazing and people were seeing visions of Jesus.

On Wednesday night, we were lifting our hands and worshipping God, when suddenly the fire of God fell. Half of the audience was on the floor because the power was so strong. The other half of the children were drunk in the Spirit. In the midst of this, Pastor John singled me out. Under a divine anointing, he commanded, **“Daniel... begin spreading the fire.”**

This was a word from God. Since that night, when I was twelve, I have traveled around the world spreading God’s fire. I ministered alongside of parents to thousands of people in evangelistic crusades. As a child, I saw hundreds of people saved in our services. Now, God’s fire has given me the boldness to go to over fifty countries to share the gospel along with my wife Jessica. We have seen sick people healed, demons cast out of oppressed people, and thousands ministered to. All of this happened because of God’s fire!

One encounter with God’s fire can change your life forever. God is no respecter of persons. What He has done for me, He will do for you. Get ready to catch the fire of God!

“God, I pray, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn up for thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is thine, I seek not a long life, but a full one like yours, Lord Jesus.”

- Jim Elliot

Chapter 2

Learn to Burn

Fire changes things as it grows from a beginning flicker to a strong flame. When a substance has been placed inside a fire, the chemical composition is actually transformed into a new substance. Wood and paper become ashes, gold is purified, and spirits are changed forever. Once something is touched by fire, it is never the same again.

A life changed by fire

A young man was quietly sitting and thinking, when suddenly, God spoke to him. The majestic voice said, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” In response, the young person protested, “But Lord, I do not know how to speak, I am only a child.” God’s divine word thundered in the boy’s spirit and imprinted in his mind a mandate which the boy would never forget. “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.” This young man was Jeremiah the prophet who would boldly proclaim the Word of the Lord to God’s people and to the nations of the earth.

Jeremiah was persecuted, hated, and despised by the people of his day. He was imprisoned by the king of Judea in a pit of slimy mud. His prophecies were laughed at by all of Jerusalem, yet this man of God continued to utter the oracle of the Lord. Even though he experienced grief and finally witnessed the deportation of his people into captivity, Jeremiah never lost the fire of God. From the day God first spoke to him until the day he died, he kept the fire. Years after his childhood experience with God's fire, he exclaimed, "...His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot" (Jeremiah 20:9). In the midst of trouble, Jeremiah kept the fire burning.

Jeremiah is one of my heroes. I have decided that the same mandate God gave to young Jeremiah applies to me. I have made three commitments to God. First, I will speak the Word of God to the nations. I will not make excuses because of my age. Second, I will go everywhere God sends me, and third, I will say whatever God commands me to say. The cost and consequences do not matter as long as I obey God. These commitments stem from God's fire inside of me. To me, the fire of God is the most precious commodity in the universe. I can not live without it.

Just as the fire of God changed Jeremiah, it will also change you. A life touched by fire will never be the same again. Let us examine some of the effects of the fire of God.

1. Fire destroys limitations.

The prophet Joel prophesied, "*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy*" (Acts 2:17-18).

On the day of Pentecost, this promise was fulfilled when tongues of fire came to rest upon the heads of all the disciples. God poured out his Spirit upon all flesh, no one was left out. The Spirit came

to rest upon both young men and old, sons and daughters, men and women. This was a unique event in history, because it removed the limitations off several groups of people.

For centuries, society has told young people that they can not accomplish anything. Those who are young have been told, “You are too young. You don’t know enough. You don’t have any experience. Wait until you grow up.” But, God does not place any restrictions upon young people. God says, “Your young men will see visions.” The young who catch on fire for God will see mighty visions of what God is going to do.



Society has also placed restraints on old people. The world says, “You are too old. God can not use you. Sit down and let the young people do the job.” But, God is not limited by age, he can use anyone of any age. God destroys the limitations of age by saying, “Your old men will dream dreams.” Even old people can catch the fire and dream of what has been and be a part of what is still to come.

The third group that has often been suppressed by both society and the church is the women. Females have been told, “You can’t speak in church. This is a man’s job. Sit down and keep your mouth shut, you don’t have anything to say.” But, God says, “Your daughters shall prophesy.” A female can not prophecy very well with her mouth shut. In these last days, God has promised to pour out his Spirit upon all his servants, both men and women.

The wind of the Spirit which blew through the upper room swept away the cobwebs of tradition and left the people ready for a new move of God. The tongues of fire burned away every obstacle and excuse and released the disciples to do great things for the kingdom.

Those who caught the fire on that day were empowered to change the world.

In the Old Testament, only a select few like Abraham, Moses, and Jeremiah had tasted God's anointing. Then, suddenly, in one day, the heavens were opened and now the multitudes had access to the presence of God. The tongues of fire signaled the beginning of the greatest move of God ever. Each of the disciples became a match crowned with Holy Spirit fire and as they traveled, they spread the fire across the Roman Empire until Christianity matured into an unstoppable wildfire.

2. Fire compels people to live a holy life.

God is a holy God. His fire produces people who live holy lives. As Christians we are "*called to be holy*"(1 Corinthians 1:2). Just as the One who called us is holy, so also must we be holy. "*For it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'*"(1 Peter 1:16). "*For those who are not holy will not see the Lord*" (Hebrews 12:14 - NLT). The fire of God is a symbol of the tangible presence of God which dwells inside our spirits. It is impossible to experience the presence of God without feeling conviction for one's sin. His holiness requires us to live holy lives.

3. Fire gives a passion for reaching the lost.

The judgmental aspects of the fire of God compels believers to reach out to lost souls. If you spent five minutes in hell, how would your witnessing practices change? A realization of the seriousness of eternal punishment changes one's attitude toward the need for world evangelization. Suddenly, normal, everyday activities lose their significance and reaching out to the lost becomes vitally important. As Reinhard Bonnke says, "We must plunder hell, to populate heaven!"

The fire of God gives one the boldness to proclaim the Good News.

4. Fire imparts enthusiasm for being in God's presence.

Enthusiasm is a symptom of God's fire. The word "enthusiasm" comes from a combination of two Greek words: "*en Theu*" which means "in God." The early Christians coined the term "enthusiasm" to describe someone who was close to God. Those who remain in God will be enthusiastic, passionate, and intense. God is the source of all enthusiasm. It is easy to be enthusiastic if one is passionately in love with God.

From flicker to flame

The fire of God always changes lives. It will burn away impurities and leave shining gold. The true test of a church or a ministry is the hot, burning, furnace of God. Many are satisfied with a lukewarm life, and they have no desire for the supposed inconvenience or bother that fire can bring. They do not want to experience God's fire because of a fear of what it will expose in their lives.

Experiencing God's fire can be both powerful and life changing. Fire always changes what it touches. There is no need to fear God's fire! It may hurt at first because our fleshly nature tends to want to hold on to its habits and comforts, but in the end fire will purify and it will leave us clean and sparkling. It is much better to feel God's fire now in a purifying experience than to burn in the fires of hell for all of eternity.

I had a teenage friend who would stay outside of an anointed service because he was scared of the conviction of the Holy Spirit. He had heard that people would begin to trash their collections of bad CDs after being touched by God. Because he loved his music and he did not want to destroy the evil influences in his life, he held back from the blessing God had for him. His desire to hold on to evil instead of reaching for God prevented him from having a close relationship with Jesus.

God's fire brings freedom and liberty! It cleans out lives. It cleanses people from their past. Fire will burn out the junk and leave

the gold in your life. You will be much closer to God after feeling His fire.

Some bugs are irresistibly attracted to lights at night. In the same way, I believe people will be attracted to God when they see His fire and feel its heat. There is nothing better on a cold winter night than to sit basking in front of a fireplace, watching the flames. The world today is cold in many ways, so people will be drawn to God because of the warmth of His fire.

The purpose of fire is to release stored up energy. There are two types of energy, kinetic energy and potential energy. Every fuel source has potential energy, but fire is required to transform the stored up energy into kinetic energy. For example, wood is full of possibility, but fire is needed to release heat. In the same way, human beings are full of potential, but the fire of the Holy Spirit is required to change human potential into life changing energy.

Hot or not?

Some friends of mine used to play a game at the mall called “Hot or Not?” They would sit and watch all the girls passing by and they would vote on how “hot” the girls were on a scale from one to ten. Beautiful girls received a rating of ten and homely girls would get a rating of one. The question I have for you is this: if someone was rating you on how hot you are for God, where on the spectrum from one to ten would you fall?

I encourage you to become intimate with God, and I guarantee that you will become an on-fire, burning-hot, passionate, sold-out, electrified, aroused, stirred-up, enthusiastic, and excited world changer. Desire the fire!

“God is a consuming fire”
(Hebrews 12:29)

Chapter 3

God’s Consuming Fire

God is like a fire

Throughout the Bible, fire is used as a symbol to portray God. As I was writing this book, I asked myself, “Why is fire used to represent God?” After thinking about the question, I realized that God reveals Himself in the physical world as a fire, because the hot, intense, burning of a fire expresses, in a poor way, God’s true awesomeness. Just as a flickering fire mesmerizes the imagination, God staggers the thought processes of mankind.

There are two different ways the fire of God is used in the Bible. First, God’s fire can symbolize the power, the presence, and the anointing of God. Second, fire can also represent God’s judgment on those who are wicked. We will be exploring the judgmental aspects of fire in a later chapter. Here we will examine some of the places in the Bible where God revealed His presence as a fire. Each occurrence of the fire highlighted in this chapter has a lesson for those hungry for the fire of God, so pay close attention as you read.

Adam and Eve saw the fire of God in the form of a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. This flaming sword was defending the garden because of the sin of Adam and Eve. God’s fire protected the first man and woman from eating from the tree of life, which would have caused them to live

forever in the midst of their sin. God's fire will protect a Christian from sin.

Abraham saw God as a smoking firepot and a blazing torch. The Lord desired to make a covenant with his servant. He instructed Abraham to prepare a sacrifice of a heifer, a goat, a ram, a dove, and a young pigeon. These animals were to be a symbol of an eternal covenant between man and God. In the ancient Middle East, when two men made covenants, they would sacrifice these animals and then they would walk between the pieces to symbolize their covenant relationship. Abraham obeyed God by cutting the animals in half, and God appeared to Abraham. *"When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram..."* (Genesis 15:17-18). God's fire sealed the covenant between Abraham and God. Today God still makes covenants with mankind through Jesus Christ; these covenants are sealed when the fire of the Holy Spirit comes to burn in our lives.

Moses saw the fire of God within a burning bush. Moses was out in the middle of a desert, watching his father-in-law's sheep, when suddenly he saw a fire. *"There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.'"* When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, *'Moses! Moses!'*... (Exodus 3:2-4). Moses found his destiny when he discovered God's fire. You will find your destiny when you discover God's fire.

The children of Israel saw the Almighty as a pillar of fire that led them by night (Exodus 13:21). This pillar was like a huge night-light. God's fire led the children of Israel for forty years in the desert. The same fire that led the Israelites will lead us today.

The children of Israel also saw God come down on Mount Sinai as a fire. After a three day period of consecration *"...Moses led the*

people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently” (Exodus 19:17-18). When the people saw God’s fire, they trembled in fear. There was thunder, lightning, and a loud trumpet blast which frightened them. They stayed as far away as possible and they told Moses, *“Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die”* (Exodus 20:19).

The people did not want to hear the voice of God. Even though they were interested in what God was saying to Moses, they did not want to hear God themselves. Later, Moses chided them when he said, *“The LORD spoke to you face to face out of the fire on the mountain. (At that time I stood between the LORD and you to declare to you the word of the LORD, because you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain...”* (Deuteronomy 5:4-5).

The people were content to stay in the valley. They did not want to ascend to the top of the mountain of Sinai. *“To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain....”* (Exodus 24:17-18). The Israelites saw the glory of the Lord, but only Moses experienced the glory of the Lord. Some people are content to sit in the valley and hear stories about what God is doing, instead of climbing to the mountaintop to visit with God themselves. It is possible to see God’s fire and to hear reports about it without actually experiencing the fire.

After the Israelites heard the voice of God, while the mountain was still ablaze with fire, they came to Moses and wailed, *“The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him. But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer. For what mortal man has ever heard*

the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived? Go near and listen to all that the LORD our God says. Then tell us whatever the LORD our God tells you. We will listen and obey” (Deuteronomy 5:24-27). The Israelites were scared they would die if they listened to the voice of God, and in a sense this is true. Today if we want to experience the fire of God, we must die to self, so Christ may live within us.

Here are some more encounters Moses had with the fire in his lifetime:

- * Being in the presence of God’s fire left Moses with a radiant countenance (Exodus 34:29).
- * Moses discovered God is a consuming fire (Deut. 4:24).
- * God spoke to Moses from the midst of fire (Deut. 4:36; 5:24).
- * God commanded Moses to destroy idols with fire (Deut. 7:25; 9:21).
- * God promised Moses that His fire would go ahead of the Israelites to destroy their enemies (Deut. 9:3).
- * God proclaimed the Ten Commandments to Moses out of the fire on the mountain top (Deut. 9:10).

The psalmist, while proclaiming the glories of the Lord exclaimed, “*Fire goes before him...*”(Psalm 97:3). The Almighty is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Fire still precedes the arrival of God.

Elijah the prophet saw the fire of God fall from heaven (1 Kings 18). He had challenged the prophets of Baal to produce fire by building an altar and calling upon their false god to send fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice. For several hours these false prophets danced, cut themselves, and prayed for fire to fall, but Baal did not answer. Elijah taunted them by asking if their god was asleep or on vacation. After they grew tired, Elijah set up an altar to the

Lord and placed a sacrifice on it, and then he had people drench the altar with twelve huge jars full of water.

When Elijah prayed, God answered with a bolt of fire. God's fire consumed the sacrifice and the altar, and it left a huge hole in the ground. False gods can not bring fire down from heaven. Only God Almighty can answer His people with fire. God's fire is what sets the true God apart from fake gods. Others may claim to have fire, but they are only putting on a show by dancing around their altar. In contrast, our God is real. We worship the God who answers with fire!

Elijah was also taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:8-11). This came at the completion of Elijah's ministry. The fire accompanied Elijah during his promotion to glory. God's fire will take you up to a new level.

Isaiah prophesies Jesus (the Light of Israel) will become a fire that will burn away all thorns and briars. *"The Light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briars"* (Isaiah 10:17). In a single day, Christ can burn away years of filthiness, contamination, and pollution in someone's life. His fire is the solution to pollution. Isaiah the prophet, in a moment of trouble, called for God to come down like fire. *"As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!"* (Isaiah 64:2). When one is in trouble, it is time to call for the fire of God to fall like never before.

John the Baptist baptized with water but he promised that someone was coming who would baptize with fire. *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire"* (Matthew 3:11). Jesus was the fulfillment of this promise. When we invite him into our lives, he will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Jesus proclaimed, “*I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!*” (Luke 12:49). Jesus brought the fire of God down to earth in a tangible form. Through Jesus everyone can experience the fire of God.

On the Day of Pentecost, the fire Jesus longed for was ignited by the Holy Spirit in the upper room in the lives of one hundred and twenty disciples. Tongues of fire came to rest upon their heads. That same day, almost three thousand people were saved. Signs of the Holy Spirit’s arrival are fire and changed lives.

Saul, the persecutor of Christians, was on the road to Damascus when suddenly he saw a bright light from heaven. The light was so bright, it blinded him. Was this light a tiny glimpse of God’s fire? Whatever it was, it changed Saul’s life forever. Saul became the man we know as Paul, who wrote the majority of the New Testament. In the same way, God’s fire will change our lives.

The servants of God are like a fire. “*He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire*” (Hebrews 1:7). The servants of God literally become infused with the fire of God and they shine bright like the sun. Those who serve God become flames of fire.

John the Apostle saw a vision of the risen Christ (Revelation 1:12-16). In the vision, the eyes of Christ were like a blazing fire and his face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. It is this same Christ who will return in the clouds, coming like a wildfire, sweeping the earth clean.

Get ready

As you can see, God has repeatedly revealed Himself to mankind as a fire. This earthly metaphor illustrates how intense and powerful He really is! When God reveals Himself as a fire, lives are changed. Get ready for the fire of God.

Fake: to imitate, to counterfeit, to falsify, to fabricate,
to make a forgery.

Chapter 4

Fake Fire

In the last chapter, we discovered that God's presence is like a fire. Unfortunately, some churches have been creating the illusion of fire and trying to pass it off as the real thing rather than taking the time to pay the spiritual price for real fire.

Amusement park fire

When I was a child, I visited an amusement park. On one of the rides a train went through a massive building on fire. It looked spectacular, but even at six years old I quickly realized the fire was not real. It was nothing more than red lights focused on tinfoil blowing in the wind. The flames looked genuine, but there was no heat. In other words, it was FAKE FIRE.

Unfortunately, some churches only have amusement park fire. They appear to have the presence of God, but it is all a sham. They entertain the congregation, but lives are not changed. In these churches a false anointing is carefully crafted as the pastor does gymnastics to get the service going. Theatrics serve as a substitute for power. The fire in the service is man-made; it is nothing but a cheap imitation or in other words, FAKE FIRE.

Fake fire in the tabernacle

This is the disastrous story of Aaron's two oldest sons, Nadab and Abihu, who were punished by God. They had been carefully trained to worship Him by placing a burning coal from the altar into their censers that were filled with a special blend of incense. As they waved the censers before the Holy of Holies, a sweet smell symbolizing praise and worship would float upward toward God. However, one day, instead of taking fire from the altar, they kindled their own flame within their censers and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord. In other words, instead of offering God fire from the altar, they offered unauthorized fire or we could call it, FAKE FIRE. In response to their transgression, fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed both of them.

Let us examine why their violation merited such serious punishment. First, you need to understand that the fire on the altar was sacred. It was used to offer burnt offerings to atone for the people's sin (Leviticus 1:7-9). Aaron also used the fire to protect himself when he went into the Holy of Holies (Leviticus 16:12-13). The fire upon the altar was extremely important to the Israelites because it was the means by which they realized atonement for their sins.

Second, the source of the fire upon the altar was God. God instructed Moses to start the practice of sacrificing burnt offerings and then He divinely placed His stamp of approval upon this form of worship by actually starting the fire upon the altar. This came at the climax of a magnificent eight-day dedication ceremony for the tabernacle.

The tabernacle was a stunning example of what a people in the middle of the desert could accomplish if they worked together in obeying God's instructions. The gold, silver, and bronze gleamed in the desert sun. The curtains around the tabernacle were of finely twisted linen with patterns embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn. The tent stood in the midst of the camp as a resting place for the presence of the Lord.

In the dedication ceremony, the multitudes watched as Moses brought Aaron and his four sons to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting and washed them with water. After Moses anointed them for their priestly duties, he dressed them in sacred robes of ministry. Aaron was given a breastplate covered with twelve precious stones and a turban with a gold seal inscribed with the words, “Holy to the Lord.” His robe was made of gorgeous blue cloth and it had gold bells and cloth pomegranates attached to the hem. The sons of Aaron, including Nadab and Abihu, were dressed in splendid robes made of fine linen. Their sashes were embroidered with blue, purple, and bright red yarn. The congregation hushed in awe as these men of God were set apart for divine service.



At the highpoint of the ceremony, Aaron stepped up to the altar and sacrificed a sin offering, a burnt offering, and a fellowship offering. Suddenly the glory of the Lord appeared to the people and fire came flashing from the Holy of Holies and miraculously ignited a flame upon the altar. *“Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it,*

they shouted for joy and fell facedown” (Leviticus 9:24).

Continual fire

This fire was so precious that the priests were commanded by God to keep the fire burning on the altar continually. It was to be a perpetual fire; it was never allowed to be quenched. The instruction to keep the fire burning is given three times in six consecutive verses. The repetition shows how important the command was to God. *“... the fire must be kept burning on the altar”* (Leviticus 6:9), and again,

“The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out....” (Leviticus 6:12), and once again, *“The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out”* (Leviticus 6:13). Each time the Lord repeats this command, he is more emphatic. The fire on the altar was sacred and it was not to be extinguished.

One can imagine the priests carefully watching the fire to guarantee it did not go out. They would have kept the fire going by placing a steady supply of wood upon the altar. Finding that much wood was not an easy task, especially out in the middle of the desert. Priests would have cautiously carried the altar from place to place by using poles inserted into bronze rings on the altar (Exodus 38:7). The entire time, the fire was kept burning. This was the fire that was used to worship God in the Tabernacle.

However, one day, a fake fire was used in the Tabernacle. God had given detailed, explicit instructions concerning worship, and Nadab and Abihu chose to disobey God’s directions. They went into the Holy Place, *“...took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD...”* (Leviticus 10:1). Other translations say they offered “unholy fire” or “strange fire” to the Lord. In response, God was forced to punish them. *“So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD”* (Leviticus 10:2).

Why did Nadab and Abihu disobey God? We do not know for sure, but a clue is given a few verses later when God commands priests not to drink wine or other fermented drink. Perhaps Aaron’s two sons had been celebrating and had gotten drunk, and in an intoxicated state had dishonored the place of worship. They kindled their own fire in their censers rather than using the fire that had come from God.

On that day, the smell of burnt flesh filled the Tabernacle. This was not the normal smell of a burning sacrifice; instead, it was the stench of humans who had disobeyed God. This tale about two young men who substituted man-made fire for God’s fire and paid

the price as they experienced divine judgment is tragic. Just recently, these two young men had been ordained to be priests in a beautiful ceremony. Their position was one of great honor and responsibility, but they dishonored it by offering FAKE FIRE.

This story contains a warning for the church. If we want to experience the fire of God, we must be holy. We cannot offer God an unholy fire anymore. Aaron's sons discovered that it is not wise to mess with God's fire. They had become so familiar with the Tabernacle that they forgot that it was the dwelling place of God Almighty. Instead of honoring the Lord, they casually joked as they drunkenly went into the Holy Place, and this brought judgment down upon their heads.

Where did Aaron's sons get the idea they could play with false fire inside the holy Tabernacle? Unfortunately, they learned to disrespect God's fire by watching their father. Earlier, Moses had ascended the mountain and experienced the real fire of God (Exodus 24:17-18). Meanwhile, Aaron was down in the valley casting an idol shaped like a calf by heating gold up in a natural fire (Exodus 32:4). Aaron's judgment for this sin came when he lost his two sons. Moses experienced the genuine presence of God, but Aaron was satisfied with a man-made idol fashioned with FAKE FIRE.

Three things to know about fake fire:

1. When fake fire replaces real fire, there will be judgment.

When Nadab and Abihu tried to substitute their own fire for God's fire, they experienced judgment. God's fire will judge unholy fire. The fire of God has a dual nature; it brings God's glory, but it also brings God's judgment. This judgment reveals what is truly in the hearts of man, and burns away sin. When an unholy fire comes in contact with the real fire of God, the fake fire will be revealed for what it truly is. It is time for the church to be held to a higher standard of holiness.

2. When the real fire appears, the fake fire does not impress anyone anymore.

The fire Aaron used to build his idol did not impress the Israelites once God's real fire fell. A fake fire never kept anyone warm. There is a clear difference between fake fire and real fire. When the real fire shows up, no one will be dancing around the cardboard fireplace anymore. No one who has experienced the real fire of God will ever be satisfied with false fire again. It is time to stop substituting the real fire of God for something that looks nice, but that has no heat. Divine dissatisfaction will cause the people of God to search for the authentic anointing. When true revival comes, no one will be satisfied with potluck suppers anymore.

3. Man-made fire only produces man-made idols

Aaron tried to create his own god by fashioning it in a fire he had built himself. Sometimes in the church we point at things we have accomplished in the natural and we say, "Look what God has done." But, meanwhile, we have been pounding on gold making idols. God did not do it; we did it by taking the people's gold and playing around with it while giving them something fake to worship. It is time for the church to renounce fake fire and to replace it with real fire.

There is no need for churches to be satisfied with counterfeit fire. God is more than willing to send His real fire to anyone who earnestly seeks His face. Will you be satisfied with the imitation, or do you want to experience the real thing?

*Fire of the Holy Spirit
Burn down on me.
Ignite the embers to red hot flames,
Bright enough for all to see.
- Michael Ott*

Chapter 5

Don't Be Lukewarm

“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” (Revelation 3:15-16). Jesus, the faithful and true witness, spoke these words to the church in the city of Laodicea. Apparently, the church had once been on fire for God, but they had cooled off. They had allowed the embers to chill, and the flames to die out.

Jesus condemned them harshly for forgetting his power. Someone who loses the fire of God is worse in God's eyes than someone who never even experienced the fire of God. This is because they have had a taste of God's fire, and they have lost it. Anyone who returns to the bland diet of the world after tasting the magnificence of God's glory deserves to be spit from God's mouth. This type of person has a form of godliness, but they deny the power of God. They talk about what God has done in the past, but they never see God move in the present.

Jesus goes on to tell them, *“I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire...”* (Revelation 3:18). Even though the Laodiceans had become lukewarm, there was a solution. Those who have lost

the fire of God can find it again. If you have become lukewarm, it is easy to burst into flames again. Jesus will meet you where you are, and reignite a flame in your heart. Jesus promised, *“If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me”* (Revelation 3:20).

It is vital to keep God’s fire burning hot in your life. As long as

a hot air balloon stays hot, it continues to rise. However, if the air inside the balloon begins to cool off, it will start to sink. The cooler the air, the faster it descends. If a balloon gets lukewarm, it will never fulfill its purpose. Keep the fire burning!



Fan God’s gift into flame

Paul urged Timothy, *“...I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands”* (2 Timothy 1:6). Notice, the fire originally came from God when Paul laid his hands on Timothy, but now Paul is instructing Timothy to make a conscious effort to keep the fire burning. If the fire of God is neglected, it will slowly wane and eventually be quenched.

After a fire is started it needs to be nurtured. Paul’s imagery suggests a tiny flame that must be blown until it is burning strong. Fanning a flame provides the oxygen that causes the fire to burn hotter. This oxygen is the breath of the Holy Spirit, blowing away cobwebs and causing dying embers to glow once again. The more a fire is fanned, the hotter it will burn.

Do not quench the fire

“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire” (1 Thess. 5:19). It is possible to lose the fire of God. This can be a slow, deadly process which

begins with apathy, proceeds to stagnation, and ultimately ends with the ashes of spiritual indifference. The King James Version says, “*Quench not the Spirit within you.*” Quenching the Spirit of God causes lukewarmness. Keeping the fire burning bright is the result of a decision we make to maintain our relationship with God. The Spirit is quenched when we take our eyes off Jesus, and begin to focus on the lies of Satan.

How Satan tries to put out the fire

Satan will attack the on-fire Christian with everything in his arsenal. If outright trials and tribulations do not work, he will employ subtle distractions and excuses to slowly quench the original fire. Here are some of the tricky techniques Satan will use to try to quench your sensitivity to the Spirit.

- 1. Busyness** If Satan can not make you bad, then he will make you busy. Sometimes people get so entangled in the web of life, that they stop spending time with God. Working, shopping, making dinner, going to soccer practice, and watching TV can make your life so hectic, that it is impossible to keep the fire burning. If you want to keep the fire hot, make God your first priority. “*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*” (Matthew 6:33).
- 2. Tiredness** I have a friend who was once on fire for God. He regularly went out witnessing, and he was excited about being a Christian. Sadly, he is now living in sin and never goes to church. When I asked him why he was no longer serving God, he told me, “I was tired of resisting all the temptations.” Some people become tired of going to church or of reading the Bible. This attitude produces apathy. “*...never tire of doing what is right*” (2 Thess. 3:13).

3. **Self-pity** When things begin to go wrong, Satan quickly attacks the emotions by whispering thoughts of insignificance and inferiority. As the on-fire Christian begins to listen, self-pity wells up and quickly strangles the fire. Self-pity occurs when someone removes their eyes from Jesus and starts focusing on their problems. Don't feel sorry for yourself. *"I can do everything through him who gives me strength"* (Philippians 4:13).
4. **Discouragement** A newly, born again Christian enthusiastically begins to share the gospel with others. When there is little or no response, it is easy to get discouraged. The original fire begins to go out, leaving nothing but a memory of the first fervor. Do not be discouraged, Jesus is with you. He promised, *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5).
5. **Worry** What am I going to eat tomorrow? What am I going to wear? Am I going to have enough money? These tiny, everyday questions can act as a fire extinguisher. Stop worrying, God will take care of you. *"...Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear..."* (Matthew 6:25).
6. **Distractions** The world around us demands our attention through cell phones, e-mail, television, music, newspapers, and advertisements. It is all too easy to be distracted from spending time with God. These distractions can quickly snuff out one's enthusiasm for serving God. Keep your eyes on Jesus instead of on distractions. *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."* (Hebrews 12:2).
7. **Strife** Jealousy, envy, and fighting - such is the currency of the devil's realm. Since the beginning of time, Satan has been stirring up strife. Wars, murders, and church splits all stem from this

deadly disease. The fire of God cannot fall when people are bickering with one another. The solution to strife is to walk in love with those around you. *“For where envying and strife is, there is every evil thing”* (James 3:16 - KJV).

8. Unforgiveness, Bitterness, and Hate Your spiritual passion for God can not coexist with your unforgiveness towards others. An old saying tells us that love is blind, but I think hate is even more blind. Hate can actually prevent you from seeing reality. When



you build a wall of bitterness around your heart, it cuts you off from God’s blessings and guidance. Unforgiveness blinds you to what life is really like. If you walk in unforgiveness, you walk in the dark. *“Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him”* (I John 2:10-11).

How to resist Satan

How can we resist these cunning strategies of the devil? First, we must recognize what the great deceiver is attempting to accomplish. Each of these potential fire extinguishers take our minds off of Christ and place the focus on ourselves. So, the solution is to be continually focused on God. If we submit to God and resist the devil, the Bible promises that the evil one will flee from us (James 4:7).

Second, we must be fervent in the Spirit. *“Never lag in zeal and in honest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord”* (Romans 12:11 - Amplified). We should never be lax in our relationship with God. We should maintain the same zeal we had

for God when we were first saved. We must always keep our first love for God by glowing and burning with the Spirit.

Third, we need to remember that God's presence is precious. Esteem and value the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Strive to never do anything that would quench the fire of God. There are several things we need to do to remain in God's presence. In the next chapter we will examine several keys to keeping the fire bright. These include: prayer, Bible reading, praise, and staying around those who are on fire.

Keep: to preserve, to maintain, to tend and to protect.

Chapter 6

Keep the Fire

Once upon a time, there was a family of monkeys living in a forest. When men came to the forest, the monkeys were intrigued by the fires the men built. As the men sat around their campfire, the monkeys would longingly watch the beautiful, sparkling fire. When the men went to bed, the monkeys would sneak down from the trees and sit around the fire to warm up in its glowing. The monkeys enjoyed the fire, but they did not know how to put logs on the fire to keep it going. Even though there was plenty of firewood available, the monkeys would allow the fire to slowly die out. How many Christians enjoy the fire of God, but they fail to do what it takes to keep that fire going?

We must preserve, maintain, tend and protect the hot, intense, burning, all consuming power of God. We can only keep the fire by staying in God's presence.

I thank God for my parents, Robert and Susan King. They are the reason I have kept the fire of God. Many teenagers have a period of rebellion in their lives when they stray from their godly upbringing. I was blessed by not having to experience the pain of backsliding. Ever since I was a child, I have loved and served God with everything within me. I attribute this to my mother's dedication to a practice we called "Morning Praise and Worship." Every morning, my mother would wake me and my brothers and sisters up and we would spend time worshiping God, praying, and listening

to powerful sermons on cassette tape. These daily times of worship kept the fire burning bright inside of me.

In the midst of busyness, tiredness, self-pity, discouragement, worry, or distractions; we must maintain our fervor for the things of God. This is accomplished by spending time praying, reading the Bible, praising God and associating with people who are on fire for God. Here are four logs we can throw on the fire to keep it burning bright.

Prayer keeps the fire bright

Prayer always precedes fire! Before the fire fell on the disciples on Pentecost, they had spent many days in prayer. *“They all joined together constantly in prayer..”* (Acts 1:14). Every great revival began when a core group of believers began to pray. Prayer always sparks divine intervention in human affairs.



No prayer equals no fire. Prayer is the link which allows us to commune with God’s Spirit. To be on fire is to be in prayer continually. We are exhorted to be *“faithful in prayer”* (Romans 12:12). If you want to catch on fire for God, first you must pray. If you want to stay on fire for God, you must continue to pray.

When one stops praying, it is like putting a stop to breathing. Your physical man must breathe in order to stay alive. In the same way, your spiritual man must pray in order to survive. Praying should be an automatic part of life. Prayer should come as easily as breathing. Without contact with God, the spirit man begins to die. Jesus instructed the disciples to *“always pray and not give up”* (Luke 18:1). Paul also instructs us from across the centuries to *“pray continually”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). How long

would you survive if you decided to take a couple of days or even a couple of minutes off from breathing?

Someone once asked the powerful minister Smith Wigglesworth how much time he prayed each day. Mr. Wigglesworth regularly saw unbelievable miracles occur in his services and he raised several people from the dead. This man wanted to know the secret to Wigglesworth's success. He probably wanted to discover the magic number of hours Wigglesworth spent in prayer each day. Wigglesworth surprised the man by saying, "I never pray for more than fifteen minutes at a time. . . but I never go more than fifteen minutes without praying." In other words, Wigglesworth had a continual relationship with God.

It has been pointed out that, "It is better to pray a little bit a lot, than it is to pray a lot a little bit." I believe the essence of being on fire involves being aware of God all the time and developing the habit of consulting Him about the little details of our lives.

Jesus is looking for followers who pray. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was deeply distressed about His upcoming crucifixion. He asked His disciples to pray, and instead they fell asleep. *"Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak"* (Mark 14:37-38).

Without prayer you will never stay on fire for God. Prayer is important at every stage of spiritual fire. Always remember the door to your prayer closet is also the door into the throne room of God. Prayer is the key to keeping the fire.

Reading the Word keeps the fire bright

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). When the psalmist wrote this verse there were no electric flashlights. The light he was referring to was a blazing, fiery torch and the lamp was a clay dish filled with oil which gave off light as

the wick burned. God's Word is the fire that leads and guides us on the path of righteousness.

"...His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot" (Jeremiah 20:9). Imagine a steam engine. An engineer builds a fire under a large boiler full of water. As the water heats, it begins to boil. As it boils it begins to build up huge amounts of pressure. If the steam is not released, the fire will cause the boiler to explode.

"'Is not my word like fire,' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:29). Jeremiah was so full of God's Word, he felt like a pressure cooker. He absolutely could not stay quiet any longer. The Word was in his heart like a fire. Hearing the Word builds up faith inside. *"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ"* (Romans 10:17).

God's Word will build up inside of a Christian, until he is burning hot! This heat causes the Word of God to literally explode out of an on-fire Christian. When a person has enough of God's Word built up inside, the Word will begin to be spoken. *"...For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks"* (Matthew 12:34).

The Lord told Joshua, *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful"* (Joshua 1:8). Joshua was successful in everything that he did because he meditated on the Word day and night. He was a mighty man of valor who relied on God's Word to lead a million people across the Jordan River in order to take the land of Canaan. Joshua declared, *"...as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD"* (Joshua 24:15). Joshua had the faith to declare this because he was full of God's Word. He knew the value of keeping the fire.

Praising God keeps the fire bright

Two men were thrown into prison even though they had done nothing wrong. They were cruelly whipped until their backs bled. Their

feet were forced into stocks. These discouraging events were enough to damper anyone's fire and leave them disillusioned and depressed.

Despite their troubles, the two men would not allow their fire to be puffed out so easily by the devil. Instead of despairing, they began to praise God. Even though they were chained up, surrounded by guards, and in a situation that looked hopeless, they rejoiced in God's goodness. *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them"* (Acts 16:25). The prisoners were not the only ones who heard, God was also listening to them sing praises and when God heard their songs, He began to tap His foot along with the beat. When God began to tap His foot, it caused an earthquake. The earthquake shook the chains right off of Paul and Silas. *"Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose"* (Acts 16:26).

The Bible tells us that the jailer and his entire family were saved that night. If Paul and Silas had not praised God, the jailer would not have been saved. When they began to praise God, it stirred the fire within them. In the midst of terrible circumstances, praising and worshiping God will keep the fire burning.

Praise prepares our hearts for fire. It will also rekindle a fire that has started to cool off. When we tell of the great and mighty things that God has done, it changes our attitude. We stop thinking about ourselves and we begin thinking of God's greatness. Praise enables us to keep the fire of God burning bright.

Being around people who are red-hot keeps the fire bright

Have you ever been around someone who throws water on your wood? The people you associate with will determine the level of your passion for God. Lukewarm people are often critical of radical followers of Christ. They attempt to bring people down to their level of indifference and mediocrity. As Billy Joe Daugherty says,

“Lukewarmers are not overcomers.” If you want to be an overcomer, stay away from those who are lukewarm. The fire of God has no fellowship with icicles.

The best way to stay on fire for God is be around people who are zealous for God. Fire is contagious. It is like an infectious disease that people can catch just by being near someone who enthusiastically serves God.

If you hang out with people who are always talking about reaching out to the lost and worshiping God, you will be motivated to act like they do. On the other hand, if you keep company with people who are cussing and watching bad movies, you will begin to imitate them. Your life will become a reflection of the people you spend time with. Do you want to be around people who light your fire or who wet your wood? You must make a choice.

Paul commanded the believers in Philippi, *“Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you”* (Philippians 3:17). A joining together of Christians will produce a synergy that will increase the temperature of the entire group. *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...”* (Hebrews 10:25). A group of believers joined together will accomplish great things for God.

Being in the presence of Jesus will definitely keep the fire bright. After his resurrection, Jesus walked with two men on the road to Emmaus and explained the scriptures to them. Afterwards, they asked each other, *“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”* (Luke 24:32).

You will become like those you are around. Stay near people who have fervency, energy, intensity, and enthusiasm for God and you will be on fire as well. Praying, reading the Bible, praising God, and mingling with fired up Christians are all essential ingredients for remaining in God’s presence.

*O Thou who camest from above
The pure, celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.*
- Charles Wesley

Chapter 7

Fire Burns Weights

I will never forget the first time I ever saw a hot air balloon. I was only a young child when my parents took me to a balloon festival. We arrived before sunrise to see huge trucks arriving with tightly rolled up hot-air balloons. The bright colors fascinated me as I watched men unroll the cloth and hook tiny baskets to the massive balloons. When a fire was ignited inside the basket, the blazing heat caused the balloons to slowly lift until they were tugging at the ropes that held them to the ground. Right as the sun came over the horizon, the ropes were released; bags of sand were thrown off the basket and the fire increased in intensity. The hot air balloons were suddenly freed from the chains of gravity and they began to fly!

Seeing a hot air balloon slowly float up into the sky is a beautiful sight. The morning sun hits the balloon before the spectator on the ground can see the dawn. Suddenly, when the sun hits the balloon, it seems to burst into color. Then the balloon goes up, up, up into the light blue sky until it appears to be nothing but a speck in the morning dawn.

In many ways, the path of a Christian is a lot like the flight of the balloon. The Bible says, *“The path of the righteous is like the*

first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day” (Proverbs 4:18). The path of the righteous climbs from glory to glory until its brilliance rivals the full light of day. Both the path of the righteous and the path of a hot air balloon continually rise higher.

As a balloon heats up it begins to ascend rapidly. This is caused by a blistering flame that quickly warms the air inside of the balloon. Once the hot air inside of the balloon is lighter than the cold air outside of the balloon, it begins to float because hot air rises. Without a fiery flame, the balloon would remain anchored to the ground.

In a similar manner, no one can ascend spiritually without the fire of God burning inside of him. The fire of God is the essential ingredient that allows each Christian to fly high. God’s fire will carry each Christian to a new level in his or her walk with God, *“For our ‘God is a consuming fire’”* (Hebrews 12:29).

The flight of a hot air balloon can also be hindered by bags of sand that hang from the side of the basket. These are weights that prevent the balloon from flying. Often weights like sin, doubt, or fear can prevent the children of God from advancing to the next spiritual level God has for them. It is time to drop the weights that are preventing us from fulfilling God’s purpose. *“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us”* (Hebrews 12:1 - KJV).

These weights must be eliminated completely. If the bags of sand are pulled inside the basket, no one can see them, but they are still weighing down the balloon. From the outside this will fool people, but the balloon will still remain close to the ground. If a Christian tries to hide sin instead of removing it from his life, he may look great to everyone else, but inside he is still corrupt. Hidden sin will prevent you from flying high. Sin must be removed before we can fly high with God.



The old man must
burn on the altar of
our dedication to God.



Living sacrifices

In the Old Testament, sin was symbolically removed when a lamb was sacrificed on an altar. Today, Jesus' work on the cross as a perfect sacrifice removes our sin. We can take advantage of his work by offering our "*bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God*" (Romans 12:1). When we put ourselves on an altar by dedicating our lives to God, the fire of God begins to burn inside of us. This fire destroys all sin and weight and leaves us pure and clean before God. The fire of God is like

the refiner's fire that removes all impurities from gold and silver ore. Anything that is not gold, will be consumed. "*...For he will be like a refiner's fire....He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver;...Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness*" (Malachi 3:2-3).

The problem with being a living sacrifice is that our flesh keeps crawling off the altar. Our sin nature does not want to die, but in order for us to advance to the next level God has ordained, the old nature must perish. When our sin nature tries to crawl away, we have to grab it and place it back on the altar as a sacrifice to God.

The old man must burn on the altar of our dedication to God. All weights, burdens, and sins are products of the old nature. Fear, doubt, anger, and pride are all symptoms of a sinful lifestyle. Now is the time to burn off all excess weight.

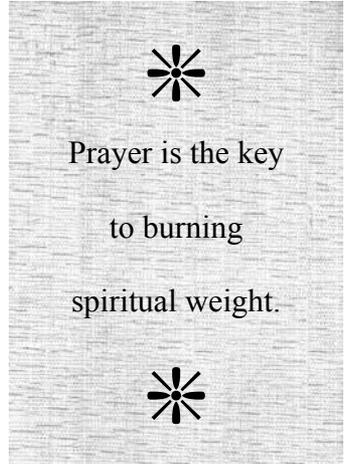
The weight of sin can pull someone straight to hell. We must put every evil deed and thought to death on the altar. "*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you*

must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:7-9). Weights and burdens can not exist in the presence of God's fire.

All of these filthy sins are weights that prevent people from attaining God's best. The weights must fall before you can soar. Repent of your sins and you will be free! *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* (I John 1:9). Jesus will give rest to those who are weary and heavily burdened. *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"* (John 8:36). Jesus will set you free!

In Pilgrim's Progress, the classic Christian allegory, the hero carries around a huge rock strapped to his back. The weight burdens him down on his journey until he reaches the foot of the cross, where suddenly he is set free from the oppressive load. When we arrive at the feet of Jesus, his fire supernaturally destroys every heavy weight.

When Jesus died on the cross, he took the weight of the world upon his back. Every sin, every sickness, every problem, and every burden was carried by Jesus that day. He flexed his spiritual muscles and threw all those weights away. Now we do not need to carry any weights any more.



God's supernatural weight loss program

In the past month, I have seen hundreds of advertisements for weight loss programs. Dieting is a fad that now permeates our appearance-oriented society. People want to lose fat fast, and weight loss programs cater to this obsession. Everyone is looking for a shortcut.

Many weight loss programs tell us we can lose dozens of pounds without exercising, while eating whatever we want. This highly illogical conclusion is supported by pictures that show someone who supposedly halved their waist size without any effort. In reality, weight loss requires us to exercise and to eat healthy.

When people are trying to lose weight, they have to sacrifice their favorite foods and their lazy lifestyle in order to get into shape. A sacrifice must also be made when we decide to get into spiritual shape. God's spiritual weight loss program requires us to eat right (the Word), and to exercise our spirit man (by praying). This exercise ignites the fire of God inside of us which burns off all the weight.

Weights can make you miss God's train

One of the first times my family traveled to Europe, we took tons of luggage with us. Since the purpose of our trip was children's ministry, we ended up bringing lots of extra stuff. Our packing got a little out of control. We decided we needed drama costumes, puppets, musical instruments, prizes, decorations, and object lessons. There were three of us carrying a total of ten suitcases.

In Europe all the trains run on an exact schedule. On one occasion we miscalculated the time we would need to travel to the train station. We arrived at the station with only five minutes until the train was scheduled to leave. Frantically, we grabbed our stuff and began racing for the platform.

We threw some of the suitcases on carts and dragged them through the train station as quick as we could. We dodged people and news stands. As we turned a corner, all the luggage fell off the carts. We just grabbed it and kept going. We were trying to run as fast as we could, but it felt like we were barely hobbling as we staggered and stumbled along with our luggage.

We arrived at the platform just in time to wave good-bye to our train. We missed our train because our luggage prevented us from

running faster. If we had packed lighter, we would have caught the train.

The luggage was a weight that prevented us from catching the train. Dragging cumbersome luggage around Europe taught us to hate dragging around unnecessary weight. Please, do not let any weights cause you to miss God's train.

Weights can make you lose the race

An Olympic runner slowly stretches as the biggest race of his life is about to begin. He thinks back over the years of training required for him to make it to this race. He remembers the days when he awoke early in the morning to go running. He recalls the special training diets and the difficult workouts he put his body through.

For years his only goal in life has been to remove every physical and mental weight that could prevent him from winning. Now he removes the last weights from his body. He will not wear a watch or a hat for the race. He strips until he is only wearing the lightest of clothing, because he knows that at this intense level of competition every little bit counts. If the runner does not remove the weights, he will not win the race.

Weights quickly become an annoyance. Imagine carrying a fifty-pound weight from a dumbbell set around with you for a while. The weight would tire you out, be in your way, and slow you down. Sinful weights work the same way by burdening people down and removing their freedoms. A mountain climber only takes what he needs in his backpack. Why? Because extra weight can make the difference between reaching the top of the mountain, and being forced to turn back.

"...Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1- KJV) Lay aside means: to put down, to eliminate, to separate, to sever all ties with, terminate, reject, banish, and to remove. There is a goal line to cross and a prize to be won. Weights

can act as impediments and obstacles that prevent us from attaining God's best, so every burden which hinders us from receiving our prize must be removed.

Weights can be removed from your life

A prisoner is stooped over hobbling slowly through dry dust. Warily he lifts his head and gazes at the sky wishing he was free. Fashioned to his leg is a shackle and a heavy chain attached to a massive weight. For years he has dragged the burdensome load everywhere he goes. It slows him down, wears him out, and saps his energy

Suddenly, he hears a voice that shouts "You are free." Trembling, he looks around for the source of the voice. It is a man, dressed in a white robe with a smile on his face. Hoping against all hope, the man asks if it is true. He feels hands releasing the leg irons from his ankles and he takes a few hesitant steps, then he straightens up, feeling like he could fly. The weight he has lugged around for years is gone and he is free! He runs leaping, and shouting, and praising God.

You can also be free from the weights of sin by sacrificing them on the altar to God. Allow the fire of God to burn away the sin in your life and you will be free.

“There is the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God; there is hell’s wide gaping mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor anything to take hold of; there is nothing between you and hell but the air; it is only the power and mere pleasure of God that holds you up.”

*- Jonathan Edwards “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
July 8, 1741.*

Chapter 8

Fire of Judgment

Right now God’s fire comforts and protects us, but a day is coming when His fire will bring judgment. This is why it is so important for us to spread His fire everywhere we go. If the weights of sin are not removed from our lives, we will face judgment.

There is still value in scaring people into heaven by preaching about the hellfire licking at their heels. In today’s tolerant society, we tend to downplay the reality of eternal punishment. In the great revivals of the past, mighty men of God would preach “hellfire and brimstone” sermons that would compel people to repent of their wicked ways. It is time to preach this truth once again. It is important to emphasize the love of God, but it is also vital not to ignore the truth about the coming judgment.

Everyone will experience fire

You will either experience the fire of God now; or you will experience the fire of hell later. No one can escape a testing by fire since fire is the standard God uses to judge between what is worthy and

what is unworthy. If you have built your life on a strong foundation you will be rewarded, but if your life is built on a flimsy foundation you will see it crumble. Good works will escape like gold through a fire but everything done with selfish motives will be consumed.

“If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames” (1 Corinthians 3:12-15). Everything man has built will be judged by fire; worthy works will endure and unworthy works will be destroyed. What kind of works are you building?

When will this testing by fire come?

Once there was a farmer who planted his field with good seed. He planted good seed in order to harvest a good crop, but the man had an enemy. The enemy came in the middle of the night when everyone was sleeping, and he threw bad seeds on the field.

When the seeds began to grow, both wheat and ugly weeds came up out of the ground. The farmer’s servants were horrified. They ran to their master and reported, “Master, there are weeds growing in the field. Shouldn’t we pluck them up now?”

The farmer was wise. He knew that weeds and wheat plants look similar when they are small. He realized the servants would accidentally uproot some of the good plants along with the bad. So, he told the servants, “Wait until the harvest, when it will be easy to distinguish between the good and the worthless plants.” When harvest time came, he commanded the harvesters to separate the wheat from the weeds and to put the wheat into the barn and to burn the weeds with fire.

When Jesus explained this parable to his disciples, the field represented the world. The good seed stands for those who serve God

and the weeds represent those who serve Satan. Jesus said, *“The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father...”* (Matthew 13:41-43). When the great judgment comes some will be sent to suffer in the pits of hell, and some will shine like the sun in heaven. The works of some will stand because they have built a solid foundation, but the works of others will be destroyed by fire.

Repent or burn

Everything we have ever done will be judged. John the Baptist preached a strong message about the judgment that is coming by fire. He warned, *“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire”* (Matthew 3:10). He highlighted the judgmental aspects of Jesus’ ministry, *“...after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire”* (Matthew 3:11-12). On Judgment Day, Jesus will command the chaff to be destroyed with fire.

Judgment by fire is coming

Hell is a reality. It is not a figment of the imagination, nor is it the place full of demons holding pitchforks made popular by cartoonists. Hell is an eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Those who do not accept Christ in this life will be thrown into hell where *“the fire is not quenched”* (Mark 9:48). In that place of eternal punishment there will be *“weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 22:13).

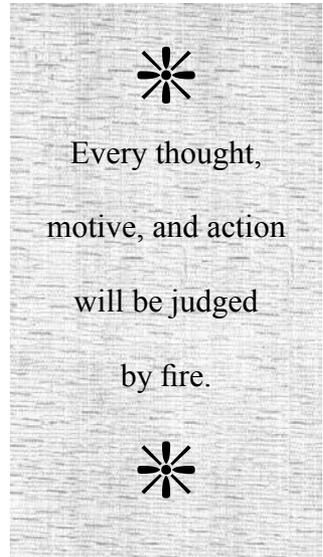
On the day of judgment, “we will all stand before God’s judgment seat” (Romans 14:10). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). Each of our actions and thoughts will be weighed in the scales of justice. The penalty for sin is eternal death in the lake of fire.

The truth is that each one of us has sinned. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The wages of this sin is death (Romans 6:23).

God loves you. He does not want you to experience the fires of hell. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). The penalty for sin is death, but two thousand years ago Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for your wrongdoing. He died in your place so that you would not be pronounced guilty. Jesus was your substitute. He was crucified on a tree so you would not have to die.

Jesus did not stay dead. On the third day He rose from the dead as a victorious King. Because Jesus had never done wrong, death could not hold Him. Today, Jesus is alive and is sitting at the right hand of God.

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:23). The only way to be saved from the fires of hell is to confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead (Romans 10:9). If you confess your sins



and accept him as Lord of your life, God will forgive you of every wrong thing you have ever done.

The choice is in your hands. Will you accept Jesus as the Lord of your life now, or will you burn in hell? Those who die in sin will “...*go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life*” (Matthew 25:46). God wants you to be saved from eternal fire. If you are saved, stay saved. If you are not saved, get saved. God is holding out the gift of eternal life to you, will you accept it?

Fire is never satisfied, it never says 'Enough'
(Proverbs 30:15-16)

Chapter 9

Is Fire Dangerous?

Is fire dangerous? This is an issue that must be addressed. Are those who are on fire in danger of harming themselves through burnout or at risk of hurting others with their enthusiasm?

Is burnout dangerous?

First, I would like to address the question of burnout. Burnout can be defined as: “exhaustion, stress, or tiredness which is caused by an excessive enthusiasm.” Often, those who work too hard without any rest will experience burnout.

Is someone who is on fire in danger of experiencing physical, mental, or spiritual burnout? The answer is “No.” God is the source of all fire, and He is infinite. As long as one’s source for the fire is God, one will never burnout. It is when people begin relying upon their own strength to accomplish things that they get tired. The key to avoiding burnout is to stay in the presence of God.

I discovered this truth during one period of my life when I was working extremely hard in the ministry. I was traveling and ministering two or three times each day and the harder I worked, the more exhausted I became. As I got busier, my devotional life began to suffer. I was not spending enough time praying or reading the Word. For a while I was in danger of experiencing burnout, but I discovered that if I spent time with God I was refreshed with supernatural

energy. Now, the more I minister, the more I pray. The best way to avoid burnout is to spend time with the infinite flame.

Is enthusiasm dangerous?

On fire people are enthusiastic, driven, motivated, and focused. Their single mindedness causes them to concentrate on one supreme goal. To those who are not on fire, this effect can be intimidating and frightening. Someone who is content with a normal life may feel threatened by the radical earthshaking actions and ideas of on fire believers.

There are those who would caution against the fanaticism that is produced by fire. Often these people want to control on fire believers by placing constraints upon them. For example, when those who are young are enthusiastic about serving God, older and supposedly wiser people will tell them that they can not accomplish anything until they have grown up, been educated, and gotten some experience.

In a similar fashion, red-hot Christians are often warned that “When a fire comes out of the fireplace, it is dangerous.” They are told that unbridled passion is alarming in the same way that a fire in the middle of the living room is hazardous. People with cool heads (and cool hearts) feel the necessity of controlling the fire. They may say, “It is fine if you stay on fire, as long as you remain under my control.” They try to use the fire for their own means by locking it up inside the constraints of a fireplace.

Every time someone is on fire for God, there will be a religious person who will try to control the fire. For centuries, the institutional church has tried to harness the fire of God by building a fireplace designed to contain the flames. This fireplace has been built in the shape of beautiful cathedrals, magnificent auditoriums, and celebrated seminaries. But often these buildings have served to shut up the fire of God instead of fulfilling their proper job of feeding it. The fire of God is not meant to be confined inside the constraints of

a building. Instead it is designed to race up and down streets winning people to the Lord.

The ones who accomplish the most for God are those who have an uninhibited ardor for serving Him. There is no need for artificial human constraints on the fire of God. Education is good, but it cannot replace enthusiasm. As Miles Monroe says, “You must get your learning, and keep your burning.” Mentors are wonderful, but they cannot replace a relationship with God. Doctrine is needed, but not at the expense of zeal; both are vital. Some tradition is important to hold on to, but room must also be allowed for creative new ideas. Fire should not be restrained, instead it should be encouraged.



It is time to take
the fire out of
the fireplace.



It is time to take the fire out of the fireplace! It is time for pastors to stop roasting their own marshmallows in the fireplace. It is time to let young people do what they are called to do. The proper job of the church is to feed the fire, not to put constraints upon it. We must take the fire out of the confines of the four walls of the church, and allow it to spread throughout the hurting world.

At the same time, there is a need for the church to provide direction for the fire of young people without restricting their enthusiasm. Perhaps the best picture for the church’s job would be a rocket ship. The walls of the rocket direct the orientation of the flames, but there are no limitations on how long the flames can become. The rocket has been pointed in the right direction by the Spirit, now the church can help the rocket maintain the proper heading without curtailing the fervor of those who are on fire for God.

As soon as we get the fire out of the fireplace, you had better hold on for the ride of your life. This rocket ship is not stopping until it reaches heaven.

Fire is dangerous

It is true that an uncontrolled fire can be dangerous. However, one must ask “Who is the on fire Christian dangerous to?” The answer to this question is “The on fire Christian is only hazardous to the devil.” This is because a Christian who is truly on fire is in close communion with the Spirit of God. He or she may appear to do something impulsive or presumptuous, but if it is truly of God it is only dangerous to Satan.

Whether an action is of God or not depends upon the results. The fire of God can not be used as an excuse to blame irrational actions on the Holy Spirit. Rather, it is an explanation for why men of God often step out in faith. Resisting the work of the devil frequently requires strong measures.

Wisdom must be used in discerning what actions are of God. Something that is appropriate at one time may not be acceptable at other times. For example, one time Elijah was being arrested by a group of the king’s men and he told the captain, *“If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!”* Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men” (2 Kings 1:10). At the time, this was the right thing for Elijah to do. Yet Jesus rebuked James and John when they wanted to do the same thing and call down fire upon a wicked village (Luke 9:54). The key to controlling the fire is to be led by the Spirit in everything you do.

Wet wood

If you are not on-fire yet, your wood is wet! Stop letting the excuses of others dampen your enthusiasm. Do not allow anyone to prevent you from igniting the fire of God in your life!

*A Life on fire, a life ablaze with God,
Lighted by fire of Pentecostal Love.
A Life on fire, on fire with love for souls,
Lit by Divine compassion from above.*

*Baptize each one with fire, most Blessed Lord.
Oh, turn us into burning ones in Thee.
Oh, set our hearts ablaze, Thou God of fire,
And let the world Thy Great Salvation see.*
- Author Unknown

Chapter 10

Fire Light

Recently I had the opportunity to see one of the greatest natural wonders of the world. I went with my family to view Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. We started at the top of the cave and hiked down into the depths of the earth. As we hiked, the guides told us stories about the original explorers of the cave. These brave adventurers would venture into the dark with nothing but a tiny lamp to show the way.

When we were more than a mile underground, the guide sat our group down and told us she was going to duplicate the conditions the original explorers had experienced. She went over to the light switch and turned it off. Suddenly, it was totally and completely dark. We could not see our hands in front of our faces or the person next to us.

After waiting in the dark for five minutes so our eyes would dilate, the guide pulled out a cigarette lighter and told us that the

small flame from the lighter was the same amount of light the explorers would have had. When she told us she was going to light it, I thought the lighter would light up her face or perhaps the area around her feet. We were in a huge room and there was no way the flicker of flame would affect the darkness much.

However, when the lighter was lit, suddenly we could see the entire room including the stalactites, the stalagmites, the roof, and the people around us. One tiny light illuminated the dark room. Imagine that the cave represents a dark world and the light is the fire of God shining into the pitch-blackness. The world may be a dark place, but one Christian flame in a dark place will light the entire area up! Evil is dark, but one person on fire for God can make darkness flee. By burning bright for God, we bring glory to our Father in heaven.

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine...

The Bible says, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16 KJV). Every Christian should be a shining light. Are you letting your light shine?

Realize that when Jesus commanded the disciples to be a shining light, there were no flashlights, neon signs, or fluorescent bulbs. The only light available was a burning torch, candle, or lamp. Jesus was telling His disciples to be bright flames in the midst of a dark world. This command was actually a command to imitate Christ's example since He is the source of all light.

Jesus is the light of the world

Jesus proclaimed, "*I am the light of the world*" (John 8:12). Those who follow Him will never walk in the darkness of the world, instead they will have the light of life. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness even when the darkness does not understand His light (John 1:5).

Have you ever seen a young couple enjoying a romantic evening under a bright full moon? The wife often whispers about how beautiful the moon shines. In reality though the moon does not shine; it only reflects light. The moon does not generate its own light; it can only reflect the light of the sun. In the same way, Christians only shine when they are reflecting the light of the Son of God.

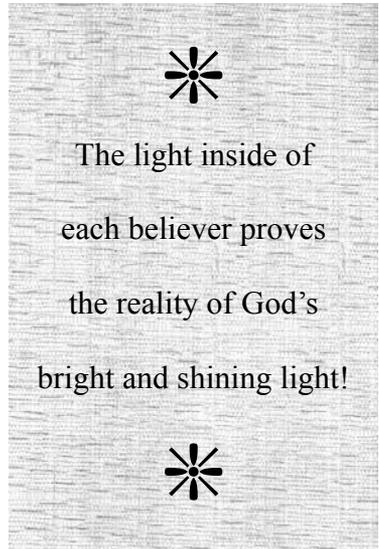
John the Baptist was called a “*witness to the light*” (John 1:8). What does it mean to be a “witness” to the light? Well, the moon is a witness to the light of the sun. Even when the sun can not be seen, the light the moon reflects proves that the sun is still shining. When Christians allow their lights to shine, they are witnesses to the true light. The light inside of each believer proves the reality of God’s bright and shining light!

God’s light is constant; “*it does not change like shifting shadows*” (James 1:17). He is our role model. We are commanded to “*walk in the light, as he is in the light*” (1 John 1:7). Those who walk in his radiant light will be sparkling “witnesses” of God’s truth.

What is light?

For years scientists have argued about the definition of light. Some experiments show that light is a series of particles, other experiments prove that light is a wave. Finally, there is one definition that many agree on. Light is the presence of power! Light is power. Every living thing on earth relies on the sun for power. Without light we would not be able to live.

Darkness is not an opposite power; it is only the absence of power. Therefore, if God is light and Satan is the prince of darkness,



God has all the power and Satan has none. Darkness cannot survive in the presence of light. As soon as light comes into a room darkness must leave.

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. This means that when you flip the light switch in your room, darkness leaves the room at 186,000 miles per second. When a Christian walks into a dark area, Satan must run. When the fire of God is present, darkness must flee.

Someone once said, "It is far better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." The church has been cursing the darkness long enough. It is time to begin lighting some fires. Instead of lamenting that our society is going down the drain, we should be out solving problems. By doing good works like feeding the poor, healing the sick, and saving lost souls, we bring glory to our Father in heaven.

Left behind

Jesus shared a parable in Matthew 25:1-13, about ten virgins who were waiting to participate in a wedding banquet. Each of the ten girls had a lamp. Five of them had extra oil for the lamp, but five had failed to bring sufficient oil. The bridegroom took a long time in coming and the lamps began to dim. When the virgins heard the wedding party coming, they quickly tried to trim the wicks. Those who had brought extra oil were able to keep a bright flame going, but the others were forced to race through the dark in search of more oil. The five who had burning lamps were allowed into the banquet, but the others were left out because they were too late.

Jesus meant for the bridegroom in this story to represent Himself and the banquet to represent His second coming. He warned His disciples to keep watch because they did not know the day or the hour of Jesus' return. The difference between those who made it into the banquet and those who were left in the dark was the lit lamps.

The oil represents the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit it is impossible to keep the fire burning. The only difference between

those who will make it to heaven, and those who will be left behind is the fire of God. Is your light burning?

E-mail from God

Two pastors were talking one day. The first pastor said, “Hey, isn’t technology amazing! Even God is getting involved. The other day God sent me an e-mail and in it He wrote that He was sending one to every single person who was on fire for Him.” The other pastor was surprised, “An e-mail from God?” The first pastor looked at him, “What? You mean you didn’t get one?”

If God made a list of everyone who was passionately sold out for him, would your name be on that list?

Fire: The phenomenon of combustion manifested in light, flame, and heat... burning passion

Chapter 11

Spread the Fire

Fire by its very nature spreads. A fire that is not spreading will go out. In the same way, a Christian that is not spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, will begin to cool down and eventually go out.

Fire spreads

When I was nine years old I saw a house on fire. With bells clanging and sirens screaming, firemen quickly pulled up in front of the house. After they unrolled their hoses they did something very interesting. They did not squirt water at the burning house right away. First, they used the hoses to wet down other houses.

I remember thinking, “Why are they squirting water on those houses? They are not on fire!” I concluded that the firemen were really dumb.

Later on I discovered that the firemen had a good reason for what they had done. Firemen wet down buildings that are not on fire to prevent the fire from spreading! First they contain the fire, then they put it out. The last thing firefighters want is an out of control wildfire!

The last thing Satan wants is an out of control wildfire! The fire inside of a Christian is actually controlled by the Holy Spirit. It only appears to be uncontrollable to Satan, because he cannot control it.

Satan tries to contain the fire by preventing its spread to other people. He seeks to quench the fire of God inside your heart. However, if he can not put out the fire inside of you, he will do everything in his power to keep the fire from spreading to other people. Satan does not want the fire of God to spread.

The devil prevents the spread of God's fire by isolating Christians who have tapped into God's supernatural power. This occurs when he cuts them off by building walls around them. Just like the firemen will first make sure that none of the houses around a fire catch on fire, Satan will begin to attack the people near the Christian who is on fire.

It is our responsibility to spread God's fire to the people around us. Once we are filled with a burning desire to know God better, we need to look for a way to spread the fire. We have been blessed with God's fire so we can be a blessing to others. We do not want a little campfire that will only warm us. No! We want a raging forest fire that will be a shining light that draws people irresistibly to God.

Fire on the day of Pentecost

The purpose of the Holy Spirit's fire can be vividly seen in the account of the day of Pentecost. John the Baptist had promised that Jesus would "...baptize...with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matthew 3:11). Jesus promised this baptism of the Holy Spirit to the disciples immediately before He ascended to heaven. "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...*" (Acts 1:8). He commanded His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit.



The disciples were waiting and praying in an upper room for many days. *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”* (Acts 2:1-4).

What seemed to be flames of fire rested on the head of each disciple! This fire was the visible manifestation of the presence of the Holy Spirit. One hundred twenty disciples were instantly empowered to begin spreading the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told the disciples they would become witnesses to the ends of the earth when they received the Holy Spirit! He declared, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

Fire must spread! The Holy Spirit’s fire gave the disciples the power they needed to take the gospel around the world. This heavenly fire gave the uneducated fisherman, Peter, the boldness to stand up in front of a huge crowd and begin preaching.

Peter began preaching with fire! Peter, quoting from the prophet Joel, proclaimed, *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days...”* (Acts 2:17-18). Joel also tells us that one of the signs of the last times will be fire (Acts 2:19).

Peter preached the good news that *“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”* (Acts 2:21). He told the crowds, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift*

of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off..." (Acts 2:38-39).

Three thousand people were saved as a result of Peter's fiery sermon that day (Acts 2:41). The story of Acts is the story of the spread of the Holy Spirit's fire. The fire inside of the individual disciples quickly became a wildfire no one could contain. The religious leaders of Jerusalem tried to stop it, but they failed. The Romans tried to stop the fire and they did no better than the priests. The fire spread and spread until the entire Roman Empire had heard the Word of the Lord.

Fire gave the disciples a boldness to witness. This same fire will also give you the boldness to be a witness. When you are filled with God's fire, there is no need to be timid in sharing your faith.

The Bible promises that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In addition, everyone who repents and is baptized will be filled with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit fills you, He will come with fire. This fire will begin to spread to the people around you. You will begin to see people saved, healed, and delivered as they come in contact with your fire.

The purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be a witness. It is vital to spread the fire once you have caught it. Fire must spread or it will go out. Fire will give you urgent, burning compassion to save the lost.



How fire spreads

Every substance has a temperature it must reach before it will burst into flames. Firemen call this temperature “flashpoint.” Every substance on this earth has a flashpoint. There is nothing on the face of the earth that cannot be marred, altered, or changed by fire. Every substance will burn at some temperature.

When any substance reaches its flashpoint, it will begin to burn. Paper ignites at 200-210 degrees Fahrenheit. Wood has a higher flashpoint. Steel and concrete must be extremely hot before they burn. Something hard (like steel) is more difficult to ignite than something soft (like paper). Every material will burn if it is hot enough.

Every natural substance has a flashpoint. In the spiritual world, everything has a flashpoint too. There is a point when the revival fire of God will cause a wildfire to break forth. Every individual heart has a flashpoint. Every city has a flashpoint. Every nation has a flashpoint. A spiritual flashpoint is the supernatural temperature a spirit must reach before it will burst into flames.

Every Christian has the potential to be the spark that will start a mighty revival! For a fire to start where you are, you need to be burning hotter than your area’s flashpoint. The passion inside of your life can suddenly cause your home or city to burst into flames.

Different places have different flashpoints. In the same way that a soft substance burns easier than a hard material, a soft heart will reach its flashpoint and start burning much quicker than a hard heart. This is why it is important to keep your heart soft toward God.

The Bible often describes people with hard hearts. Some hearts are hard and some are soft. Some areas are spiritually sensitive and some areas are cold. Some places only need a spark to set a fire going, and some places are going to need a blowtorch.

It is possible for a single, passionate, sold out, follower of Christ, to change the entire spiritual climate of an area. One pastor can change a city! One family member can turn an entire family

towards God. One church can change the world if they would only fan the dying embers into red-hot flames!

Revival fires will only burn to the degree that spiritual temperatures have surpassed the flashpoint. The key to changing the temperature from a lukewarm Christianity to a raging fire is prayer! Prayer always precedes the Holy Spirit's fire. Before the day of Pentecost occurred, the disciples prayed intensely in the upper room. Revival is going to require massive amounts of prayer from the saints.

Every fire burns hotter if it has more fuel. Every Christian who begins to pray for revival, tosses a new log into the fireplace. This is why we cannot rely only on our leaders to seek God, we must seek Him ourselves. For the wildfire to spread across the world, every Christian must be burning hot!

The more prayers prayed, the hotter the Christians saying the prayers will burn. The more you pray, the more fire you will experience. If you want to burn as hot as the flashpoint in your area, you must pray, pray, pray!



Flashover: when a fire reaches a high temperature that makes it impossible to quench.



Total, consuming, unquenchable fire

In some forest fires, fire will spread slowly through the underbrush. But if the wind picks up and begins whipping up the flames, the fire quickly changes. It begins to leap from treetop to treetop. It almost instantly becomes a roaring wall of flame which can move faster than a man can run and suddenly the forest fire consumes everything in its path.

The Holy Spirit appeared like a rushing, mighty wind on the day of

Pentecost. He blew heat into the fires that had been started in the disciple's lives. They suddenly became an unbelievable force that could not be stopped. A gust of the Holy Spirit's wind in your life will do the same thing. Once a fire starts burning strong nothing can stop it from spreading.

Firemen know they only have a limited amount of time in which it is possible for them to stop a fire. Once a fire has reached a certain point, firemen can only attempt to contain the fire and hope it runs out of fuel. Flashover is the term firefighters use to explain this phenomenon. Once a fire experiences flashover it becomes impossible to quench.

It is time for the church to experience flashover! Fire will consume, cremate, and incinerate every work of the devil. Once the church stops smoldering and starts blazing, it will accomplish great and mighty deeds for God.

Do you remember the nuclear meltdown in the Russian power plant at Chernobyl? The meltdown was caused when some plutonium accidentally overheated. The plutonium will burn for thousands and thousands of years. In an effort to extinguish the burning, radioactive material, the Russian army poured over 300,000,000 tons of concrete over the burning nuclear fuel but the plutonium is still burning. Basically it will burn for thousands of years. It is impossible to quench.

It is impossible for Satan to quench a burning Christian. The fire of God should continue to spread from person to person for thousands of years. The only one who can prevent the spread of the Spirit's fire is you. I exhort you, in the words of Paul, "*Do not put out the Spirit's fire*"! (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

*Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod:
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.*
- Amy Carmichael

Conclusion

Billy Graham once shared a story about an interesting tradition at Yosemite National Park in California, called the “firefall.” High upon a cliff, huge bonfires are kindled as the tourists watch in anticipation from the valley. After the flames reach a magnificent height, a loud voice shouts, “Let the fire fall!”

Immediately, the fire is pushed off the edge of the cliff, and a blazing “waterfall” of sparks cascades down the rock wall. Those who see this spectacular sight never forget it.

My prayer is that the church would begin crying out those same words, “Let the fire fall!” It is time for God’s fire to fall around the world. This will happen when God’s people begin to pray for the fire to fall.

Do you want God’s fire to fall in your life? If so, pray this prayer with me.

Dear Father God,

Ignite your fire in my life, infuse my heart with your passion, and burn away the impurities of my sin. I want to be a shining light that glorifies you before a dark world.

Holy Spirit, make me your fuel that I might burn bright, fill me with your power that I might burn long, and breathe your fresh wind into my life that I might burn strong.

In the Name of Jesus,
Amen.

About the Author

Daniel King and his wife Jessica met in the middle of Africa while they were both on a mission trip. They are in high demand as speakers at churches and conferences all over North America. Their passion, energy, and enthusiasm are enjoyed by audiences everywhere they go.

They are international missionary evangelists who do massive soul-winning festivals in countries around the world. Their passion for the lost has taken them to over fifty nations preaching the gospel to crowds that often exceed 50,000 people.

Daniel was called into the ministry when he was five years old and began to preach when he was six. His parents became missionaries to Mexico when he was ten. When he was fourteen he started a children's ministry that gave him the opportunity to minister in some of America's largest churches while still a teenager.

At the age of fifteen, Daniel read a book where the author encouraged young people to set a goal to earn \$1,000,000. Daniel reinterpreted the message and determined to win 1,000,000 people to Christ every year.

Daniel has authored fifteen books including his bestsellers *Healing Power*, *The Secret of Obed-Edom*, and *Fire Power*. His book *Welcome to the Kingdom* has been given away to tens of thousands of new believers.

Our Goal? Every Soul!



Daniel & Jessica King



Soul Winning Festivals





Soul Winning Festivals



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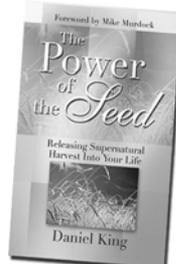
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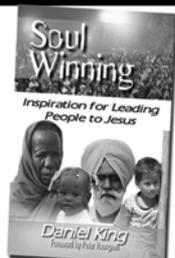
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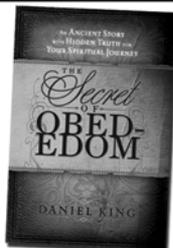
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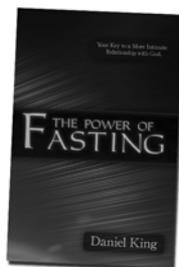
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To contact Daniel & Jessica King:

Write:

King Ministries International

PO Box 701113

Tulsa, OK 74170 USA

King Ministries Canada

PO Box 3401

Morinville, Alberta T8R 1S3 Canada

Call toll-free:

1-877-431-4276

Visit us online:

www.kingministries.com

E-Mail:

daniel@kingministries.com

