

Do you struggle to keep the fire of the Holy spirit burning in your heart the way it may have burned earlier in your life?

- Do you sometimes feel like all that's left is a few glowing embers?
- Perhaps even those embers are dying out and have become cold

We will discover how to stoke the embers of that fire so that it begins burning red hot in your heart again, as well as the keys to sustaining and growing the intensity of that inner fire

The fact is that when fuel of any sort is depleted, fire will eventually go out

“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” (2 Timothy 1:6, NKJV)

- “*stir up*” – the original language refers to repeating and earlier action or doing something again
- To be enthusiastic, fervent, passionate, vigorous, wholehearted, or zealous

Remember that at the time of this writing fire was a life-giving force

- It was used on every hearth to cook and to keep people warm
- It was used in matters divine and supernatural
- It was used as a force to defeat one's enemies

Fire was so central to one's life that it was considered essential for life itself

Paul was commanding this young pastor to reach within himself and to begin to rekindle, or kindle anew, the fire in his heart

- It is probable that Timothy was surrounded by a great deal of chaos and confusion because of persecution
- He was probably physically and emotionally exhausted
- His own spiritual fire was beginning to wane

In other words, Timothy needed to open his heart, look inside to determine the condition of his inward fire

- Then take action to stir up the gift of God on the inside
- It would not happen accidentally
- He would have to be intentional and proactive to keep the fire burning

You and I are called to constantly stir up the embers and fuel the fire so we will remain a blazing inferno for Jesus

“This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.”

(2 Timothy 1:6, NLT)

- What would the world be like without fire?
- The short answer is, very primitive
- Long before gas and electricity were invented, people were dependent on it
- We would only have the moon and stars for light at night
- It was needed to create tools and make weapons

The energy produced by fire was essential for constructing buildings and making machines fueled by the engines of the industrial revolution

Today we still use fire to create technology and to make the world a more comfortable place to live in

- Fire still burns coal and oil to make electricity
- Without fire there would be no electricity, no warmth, and no cooked food
- Shelter, agriculture, and technology would be impossible to create
- Metal is shaped by fire to make wires and phones and any number of things that make our life more comfortable

We must have fire for survival, development, and progress!

Like wise we must have a spiritual fire if we are to move forward in the advancement of God's purposes and the fulfillment of His great plan

“Spirit-filled souls are ablaze for God. They love with a love that glows. They serve with a faith that kindles. They serve with a devotion that consumes. They hate sin with fierceness that burns. They rejoice with a joy that radiates. Love is perfected in the fire of God.” – Samuel Chadwick – Wesleyan Minister

“My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great.” – John Wesley – Founder

- It is vital that we continue to stay ablaze with the Spirit and power of God!
- That's why it is essential to understand the different types of spiritual fuels to remain burning strong with a Fresh Fire!

“Do not quench the Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19, NKJV)

- “*quench*” – to extinguish, smother, suppress, douse, put out, snuff out, or quell
- Used most often when referring to dousing a fire with water to extinguish it
- If we ignore the Holy Spirit’s voice long enough, or often enough, we eventually become hardened to His voice
- It is like His voice evaporates or dries up

When we allow this, we separate ourselves from the life-giving power of the Gospel that is meant to unveil and reveal the condition of our hearts

We must adopt the attitude that we are going to start and continue fueling the fire of God

As we continue to use the fuel God provides our inner man will ignite and burst into flames

Can you detect where you have given inadequate attention to your spiritual fuel supply?

- Have you allowed the word of God and prayer to dwindle because of preoccupation with worldly activity?
- Have you become nonchalant in your regard to the voice of the Holy Spirit?
- Inconsistencies in spiritual practices and discipline produce a dullness that may go unnoticed
- When the time comes for us to allow the power of God to manifest in some area of our lives, it is non-existent
- We cannot live on the memories of yesterday’s fuel

The Bible itself is not only fuel but fire

““Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

(Jeremiah 23:29, NKJV)

- When God’s word Blazes in the human heart it drives out darkness
- It provides illumination and brings warmth and fervor into places that have grown cold
- It burns away dross, and spreads its flames into the lives of those who are touched by its power

“Then I said, “I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.” But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.” (Jeremiah 20:9, NKJV)

- Have you ever sensed God’s word like a burning fire shut up in your bones?
- Have you ever felt its flames ignited within your spirit as you read it?
- Have you ever sensed Holy Spirit melting away hardened, calloused, indifferent places in your soul?

The Road to Emmaus

“So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.” (Luke 24:15, NKJV)

“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

(Luke 24:27, NKJV)

“Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.” “And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?””

(Luke 24:31,32, NKJV)

- *“burn”* – to ignite set on fire, or be consumed by fire

This verse actually carries the following ideas

- *“Did not our hearts feel ignited within us as he talked with us...?”*
- *“Did not our hearts feel set on fire within us as he talked with us...?”*
- *“Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked with us...?”*
- *“Did not our hearts feel consumed with a burning blaze within us as he talked with us...?”*

While Jesus *“opened the scriptures”* to these two disciples, the living Word entered their hearts and burned like fire

- The Bible is alive – It speaks to me
- It has feet – It runs after me
- It has hands – It lays hold of me

“In our prayers, we talk to God; in our Bible study, God talks to us, and we had better let God do most of the talking.”

– D.L. Moody – American Evangelist

If we silence our minds and let the words of the Bible enter our spiritual ears and hearts, those words will come alive, ignite, and burn on the inside of us

The Bible is like a fire in so many ways

- It brings warmth and comfort in times of difficulty
- It melts away stubbornness and unbelief like a fire melts wax
- The way fire burns garbage the word of God identifies, ignites, and consumes debris that needs to be expunged from a person's life
- It ignites new life in areas we have grown indifferent and resistant to God's will

As the fire burns off the chaff, so God's word burns through every area of our heart that hinders spiritual progress and growth

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

(Matthew 3:11–12, NKJV)

- We must choose to yield to the fiery effect of God's word working in us
- It is not always comfortable
- It blazes so strong that it incinerates those things that are displeasing to His Spirit and need to be removed

We must allow the word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency, and overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior

- When everything is all said and done, only the word of God has the power to truly transform a life

Fire Purifies, Illuminates, and Empowers

Fire is a Purifier

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.” (Psalm 119:9, NKJV)

“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.” (John 15:3, NKJV)

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1, NKJV)

When the Bible is given entrance into the heart and acted upon, by faith, it takes on the characteristic of fire as it begins to do its purifying work in us

Fire Illuminates

“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105, NKJV)

“The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” (Psalm 119:130, NKJV)

When the word of God is heeded, embraced, and believed, it continuously shines its brilliant light unto the dark, murky places of our lives

- It brings understanding and enlightenment
- It irradiates ignorance and dispels spiritual darkness

The Bible provides freedom for the mind, strength and resolve for the will, healing for the body, vision for a bright future, and light for the path ahead

- The Bible can bring new life to hearts
- Establish order to confused minds
- Refresh souls that are being rocked by emotion

When the word of God is believed on and decreed from a person's mouth it has a life-changing, yoke-destroying effect, that even the devil cannot deny!

Fire Empowers

Even as fire empowers the mightiest engines to operate, so the Word of God supernaturally energizes and empowers us to rise above ourselves and master whatever challenge we are facing

“Where the word of a king is, there is power; And who may say to him, ‘‘What are you doing?’’” (Ecclesiastes 8:4, NKJV)

“My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word.” (Psalm 119:28, NKJV)

- God's Word energizes a person who would otherwise feel physically or emotionally weak
- God's word will impart supernatural strength into our lives

“Ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are merely playing at Bible study; and therefore ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are mere weaklings, when they might be giants.”

R.A. Torey – American evangelist, writer, pastor (1856 – 1928)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

“He was in the beginning with God.”

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1, 2, 14, NKJV)

- Jesus is the word made flesh
- When we allow the word of God to blaze on the inside of us we are literally coming ablaze with Christ Himself
- We should continually assess how we are honoring or dishonoring the Word of God
- What kind of space am I making for the Word (Christ)?
- How well am I obeying what the word says

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

(John 14:15, NKJV)

- It is impossible to separate the word from Jesus
- How you treat the Bible is a reflection of your intimacy with Him

If you neglect the Bible because you don't think you have time for it you are actually saying you don't have time for Jesus Himself

- Jesus is the word!
- He was conceived by the Spirit in the womb of Mary as she received the Word of God into her heart – **Luke 1:38**
- He was the living Word made manifest – **John 1:14**
- He launched His ministry with the Word of God – **Luke 4:16**

Everywhere Jesus went he spoke the word with power and authority

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”

(Matthew 4:23, NKJV)

- “teaching” – refers to a systematic teaching of scripture

Jesus’ text were not focused on politics, economy, or other popular themes of the day (*although the Bible also deals with many of these topics*)

- When Jesus opened His mouth, it was the Word of God that flowed from His lips
- The Master Teacher seized every opportunity to open the Scriptures and nourish souls and spirits
- His entire public ministry was devoted to flooding men’s souls with the words of His Father
- This was exactly the model followed by the disciples in the book of Acts
- They continued to do what they saw Jesus do
- Therefore, since Jesus focused on the Word of God with miraculous results, the apostles had the same results

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” **(Mark 16:20, NKJV)**

- Jesus dedicated Himself fully to the Word and to delivering it to others
- The Apostles did the same thing in the Early Church

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

(Acts 2:42, NKJV)

- “*steadfastly*” – to persevere consistently
- Constant diligence and effort that never gives up

Carries such a strong meaning, signifying that the early believers were “*addicted*” to the teaching of the apostles

- If a person is addicted to something that person can’t get by without that substance for a period of time
- He feels the absence of it, or even feels sick from the lack of it
- A serious addict can’t live without the substance of his addiction
- The apostles teaching nourished them, healed them, and empowered them
- Their lives were radically changed as the Word was poured into them
- They became addicted to the powerful exposition of God’s Word
- So much so, they gathered daily to receive it!

God doesn’t just want us to take an occasional “*dip*” into the Word of God, He wants us to be like those early believers

The biblical pattern of the book of Acts also reveals that if we give the Word of God a preeminent position in our lives, we also put ourselves in a position for the miraculous to take place

The Word Produces Wonders

Never forget that the book of Acts is not merely a history book

“Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.” (Acts 2:43, NKJV)

Signs and wonders occurred concurrently with the early believers’ intense focus on the anointed proclamation of biblical truth

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31, NKJV)

- “shaken” – to shake, teeter, wobble, or reel
- The physical building and all those inside it shook, teetered, wobbled, and reeled as the power of God manifested
- This is not just a few people falling under the power of God
- An entire building was affected

“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.”

(Acts 6:7–8, NKJV)

As the Word of God spread not only was the number of the saints added to, there were also great signs and wonders among the people

The pattern in the book of Acts shows us that God's miraculous power is unleashed when His Word is declared by the anointing of the Holy Spirit

Satan knows that if he can coax believers to back off the Bible and stop declaring it with power and authority, the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit will diminish

- One always follows the other
- The anointed declaration of Scripture always goes hand in hand with signs and wonders following

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12, NKJV)

- God's word is a two-edged sword
- It will bring both comfort, and confront you
- God upholds all things by the Word of His power
– **Hebrews 1:3**
- Do you regularly fuel yourself on words of healing, wisdom, and prosperity from God's word?

The majority of what Christians need to know – or at least the principles needed to answer their questions – are clearly provided in the Bible

- God's answers belong to anyone who will open his or her Bible and just read it
- You won't get this from listening to preacher after preacher or reading book after book

Only the word can bring the answers people seek to be internally changed or to see supernatural wonders released in their lives and the lives of those around them

“Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.”
– A.W. Tozer

The verse-by-verse teaching of the Bible has often been replaced by motivational and inspirational preaching

- These types of messages have merit
- But if it is all we hear it eventually results in people remaining ignorant about the most basic Bible truths

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” (Hosea 4:6, NKJV)

Let me ask, since the Bible is itself a fire that ignites us, and fuels us, triggering a divine release of power in our lives, what place in your life are you giving to the Bible?

Give God’s word permission to make your thoughts agreeable to His will so He can set you on fire as you walk together

Like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, you will find the words of the Bible to beginning to burn inside of you as you purpose to take it deeper into your spirit