



What about me? Part 6 CONSUMING FIRE



FIRE IN THE NT: Matt3:11-12, Acts 2:1-4

FIRE IN THE OT

Moses & the Burning Bush (Ex 3:2-5) = God SPEAKING

Pillar of cloud by day & fire by night (Ex 40:34-38) = God LEADING

Cloud & fire on Mt Sinai (Ex 19:16-19) = God's POWERFUL PRESENCE

Consuming fire of judgment (Ps 97:11-5) = God's CONVICTING / REFINING

WHAT DOES FIRE DO?

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| a) WARMS → Heat for comfort, food for eating | d) PURGES → Burns away rubbish, cooks away germs |
| b) ILLUMINATES → Light in darkness | e) ATTRACTS → Draws to its power |
| c) PROTECTS → Warns away imposters | f) SPREADS → Wind + fire is an awesome combo |

There's plenty in there that we NEED; plenty that the Holy Spirit DOES.

→ *How do each of those map onto what the Holy Spirit does in our lives? Which do we most need? How does He do each one?*

- * Above all, fire CHANGES things
 - * Peter changed at Pentecost because he had an ENCOUNTER with the FIRE.
- *How did Peter change? From what to what? How might the fire change you? How has the fire changed you?*

TWO WAYS FIRE CHANGES US

1. CONVICTION = The REFINER'S FIRE: A fire that CHANGES & PURIFIES.
2. PASSION = A fire BURNING in our BELLIES: Bringing POWER & PASSION that cannot be resisted.

A. CONVICTION

- * God is an ALL-CONSUMING FIRE + SIN cannot stand in PRESENCE of His glory.
- * Ultimately, His plan is to PURGE sin and unrighteousness from the earth.

Part 1 of that plan = The CROSS ... Dealing with the root

Part 2 = SANCTIFICATION by CONVICTION ... Burning it out

Part 3 = His RETURN as JUDGE and KING

There are many TOOLS of REFINING (Zechariah 13:8-9, 1 Peter 1:6-7)

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| a) WORD of GOD | b) Tug of Holy Spirit CONVICTION |
| c) TESTS & TRIALS | d) SUFFERING |
| e) TEACHABLE MOMENTS | f) PROPHETIC WARNINGS (think OT prophets) |

God's PURPOSE is to PERFECT (mature, cleanse, refine) and to do so, He uses Holy Spirit FIRE.

→ *"The hotter the temperature, the purer the metal" How does the picture of God the Refiner purifier us, the metal ore, explain what you are going through right now? Is God causing it? Is God at work in it? What might He be trying to accomplish? If you were God, what rough edges would you smooth off you?*

→ *What has God used in the past to refine your character? Any good examples? How do each of those six above a)-f) work?)*

What happens when you're baptised with fire?

1. The fire will CHANGE your DESIRE.
→ *What desires does He change? What becomes attractive and what becomes repulsive? What desires would you like the Lord to give you?*
2. The fire will CHANGE what you CANNOT
→ *"The fire of God can burn up in a second what you've been wrestling with for a lifetime." What have you been unable to change? How might the fire make that change? Ready to pray a bold prayer?*
→ *Do you resist or run from the fire? How? How do you co-operate with it?*
3. The fire of God can CHANGE a GENERATION (2 Chron 7:1-3,14)
→ *What might this look like in our context? How could it happen? What could God do? What part would we have to play?*

B. PASSION (Jeremiah 20:9, 23:29, Psalm 39:2-3, Luke 24:32)

- * When the Holy Spirit SETS YOU ON FIRE, He produces ZEAL, FERVOUR, PASSION for God
→ *What is zeal? What does God give us a passion for?*
- * Christianity without PASSION defaults to RELIGION.
- * Christianity with FIRE comes to LIFE: carries POWER, changes your MOTIVES, directs your DECISIONS

THREE THINGS ABOUT PASSION / FIRE

1. Passion / fire COMES from HOLY SPIRIT → Fire, not HYPE.
→ *What is hype? Have you seen it in operation? Is there a place for natural enthusiasm? What are the dangers of 'whipping something up?'*
→ *Maybe we need to give him something to ignite? What can we give Him that He can set on fire?*
2. People are looking for REAL, AUTHENTIC PASSION.
→ *Is this true? Why is passion compelling? What qualifies as phony? Why is the phony so off-putting? What does passion demonstrate to onlookers?*
3. Passion / fire both ATTRACTS & REPELS.
→ *Why is passion attractive? Who or what does it repel? Why does it make people uncomfortable? But why is fire actually the answer to their problems?*

THE WARNING: 1 Thess 5:19, Rev 3:15-19

How can we grow cold? BUSY-NESS, TIREDNESS, SELFISHNESS, WORLDLINESS, COMPROMISE ... many reasons.

→ *Any of those a problem for you Any others to add to the list? Why is cold bad and how do we then become hot again? Have you ever lost your fire? How did you get it back again?*

HOW TO LIVE HOT

1. PRAY for the fire (Luke 11:9-13)
2. GET IN the fire (Jeremiah 20:9)
→ *"A poker gets hot when it gets put in the fire." Where is the fire? How do we 'get in it?' How does God burn the flames in our hearts?*
3. FEED the flames (2 Timothy 1:6, Romans 12:11)
→ *How can we fuel the fire? How similarly can we extinguish the flames (1 Thess 5:19)*