

BUILT TO BURN

WILLIS 1/31/10

ACTS 2: 37-47

I have entitled what I want to share with you today “Built to Burn.” **Generally speaking houses are built to withstand the burn but when it comes to the spiritual house God builds, He builds His House to sustain the burn.** (The intent is Burning Ones planted in a Burning House)

- This being the day we lay hands on and Commission several new Home Group leaders, I felt led of the Lord to make the connection between the Baptism of fire that Jesus came to give and small groups.
- You might think I am really stretching it to make those two connect, but I think **there is a clear connection between sustaining the fire God brings and supporting the small groups God ordered.**
- As I said a few weeks ago, “Lone logs in the fire seldom burn.” Logs that burn and logs that burn hot are logs that have been grouped together. Few things burn in isolation.
- **Burning requires joining. It is the individual that catches fire but it is the group that stays on fire.** The small group is the God ordained means to keep the fires burning.

It is for this reason we see Holy Spirit ignite the individuals in Acts2:3 then join them house to house in Acts2:46. Without the joining of v.46 the fire of v.3 would have gone out. So as Holy Spirit comes to take the reins of leadership, we see a definite progression:

- **He fires them, empowers them, increases them, joins them, unifies them, equips them, favors them, and then uses them.**

House to house was simply one of the ways Holy Spirit chose to sustain the fire and perpetuate the burn. We don't see this house to house, small group component in the Old Testament. Certainly we see the Synagogue and the Temple but not the small group meeting house to house.

- **Once Holy Spirit takes the reins He fires the individuals up then builds them House to House to sustain the burn.** He builds them into small groups of burning ones because lone logs that burn alone lose their heat and are unable to change their environment.
- Understanding “first the natural then the spiritual,” I asked Nathan our Physics teacher to explain why lone logs don't burn complete or produce much heat.
- He said, “It is because a lone log can only heat the immediate area around it consequently by itself it loses energy.” He went on to explain:
- “A lone piece of wood cannot create an atmosphere of heat whereas wood bundled together actually create a micro environment where heat is conserved and passed to each other increasing the overall temperature.”

- “Together logs create air flow pockets, by lifting each other up and allowing oxygen to access more surface area, they burn hotter. Three or more pieces together form sheltered pockets of glowing embers that reflect heat to each other thereby sustaining the burn.”
- “Logs grouped together reduce the surface to volume exposure to cold air and increase the surface to volume area for hot air, each stick reinforcing the others ability to burn hotter and more complete.”
- Holy Spirit knew what He was doing in putting His burning ones in small groups that met house to house. **These small groups bundled together reduced their exposure to cold air and reinforced each other’s ability to burn hotter and more complete.**

We read in v.44 “And those who believed were together and had all things in common.” If you read your footnotes you see that some ancient manuscripts leave out the word “were.” Some of the Scribes simply wrote, “Those who believed together had all things in common.”

- The point being, believing and togetherness were not separate acts. To believe was to be together and to be together was central to their believing. **Together, was the culture of the first Church because this was a Church built to burn.**
- Special note was taken by Holy Spirit to mention “those who believed were together” and no mention is ever said that those who believed were not together. We never read, “Those who believed stayed at home...”

It was the small group that kept them fired. Through the small group they were positioned for power. In the small group they increased in number. The small group was their joining and their unifying, consequently they found favor with God and were used.

- **Devotional fires burn fine without the group but the pattern of the Lord for functional fires...for influential fires...for fires that equip and bring corporate increase, is the small group meeting house to house.**

So as we look to the manner in which we are to “Burn for the Goal” let’s remember the significance of the Home Group. More than a Church structure or a School requirement, the Home Group is a God ordained fire sustainer.

Through the small group we see the House God builds is “Built to Burn.”

