

## YOUR'RE FIRED

WILLIS 4/7/10

Acts1:4-8

We are continuing today our focus on the fire of God. Our primary text for the year has been John's prophetic word in Luke 3 "I have baptized you with water but one is coming mightier than I and He will immerse you with Holy Spirit fire."

- This forth telling by John of future intention reveals, **fire is not some kind of Charismatic side show to be liked or disliked.** The fire of God is more than a CCK theme or ministry preference.
- The fire of God is the central way of God. The Church of God is the fireplace of God. The people of God are to be the furnace of God.
- **We are to be the burning ones...ignited from the fire, empowered in the fire, directed by the fire and distinguished through the fire.**

Like water is to the physical body, so fire is to the spiritual. Holy Spirit is fire, so fire is to be our surrounding environment. They say the body is 70% water yet we do not exist as a puddle. Though 70% water we still have the appearance of skin and bone.

- In the same manner, **the spiritual body is to be 100% fire. Heb1:7 "He makes His ministers flames of fire." Though 100% fire we have the appearance of skin and bone.**
- We are told the physical body can survive for more than 30 days without food but only 7 days without water. In the same manner how long can the spiritual body survive without fire?
- Perhaps when Paul instructed Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" it had more to do with spiritual survival than it did gift expression.
- A low burning ember is not the immersion of fire Jesus came to bring. So Paul exhorts Timothy to fan that gift into a flame. **If spiritually speaking we are to be 100% fire, we cannot exist as an ember. We are designed by God to live as a burning flame.**

I want to speak to us today about the way of fire. I want to draw the connection between the love of God and the fire of God. The love of God and the fire of God are one in the same. "Our God is a consuming fire" and our "God is love."

- **The fire of God is the love of God and the love of God is the fire of God.** The two cannot be separated for Holy Spirit is fire and is love. Jesus came to immerse us in the white hot fiery love of God.
- So fire is not a separate action from love nor is love void of fire.

**When God answers by fire He answers by love. When man fans into flame the fire of God he fans into flame the love of God.** It is because of love God sends the fire and when fired by the fire of God, love is the first thing we feel.

- Once we understand the way of fire and how much God responds by fire, we understand just how loving God is for immersing us in the fire.

Fire in the Kingdom of God is not for the purpose of mood. In the natural there are 2 camps in relationship to fire. The first are those who heat by fire, cook by fire and survive by fire. The second are those who entertain by fire.

- I would suggest the immersion of fire has more to do with survival than it does entertainment. **Jesus is His own atmospheric system, He doesn't need fire to just set the mood.**
- The fire of God comes to work not to entertain. When the fire works it is very entertaining but the primary purpose of its immersion is to do the works of God.

WE see this illustrated in our text this morning. Three years earlier John came saying Jesus would immerse them in Holy Spirit fire. Now three year later Jesus is about to ascend so He instructs His disciple to wait in Jerusalem until they receive what the Father had promised.

- In other words, "I am about to go to my Father so don't you leave this place until you get immersed in Holy Spirit fire."
- Come Acts 2:4 that is exactly what happened. Jesus ascends and Holy Spirit descends. When He descends, He descends as literal fire. **Fire is not just a figure of speech or a metaphor to illustrate a point. Holy Spirit is fire. To receive God is to get fire.**

Jesus is the fire around us; Holy Spirit is the fire within us. As the fire around us Jesus is Sovereign and does quite well without us. But as the Holy Spirit within us, this is a fire that must be kindled afresh daily for it to burn with the intensity of desire.

- Because fire is to the spiritual life what water is to the natural life, the scriptures exhort us to:
  1. **"Fan into flame the gift of God..." 2Tim1:6**
  2. **"Be aglow and burning with the Spirit..." Rom12:11**
  3. **"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit..." Ep4:30**
  4. **"Do not put out the Holy Spirit's fire..." 1Thes5:19**

If fire were just for mood its loss would not be that great but being fire is for the purpose of work, to put out the fire of God is to lose the work of God. **The fire of God is not a side show that comes to entertain; the fire of God is the presence of God that comes to work.**

So Paul instructs us “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire” because God works through the fire. (We already saw God reveals by fire; refines by fire and purifies by fire) now let’s look even deeper and see what God does by fire.

1. **God Speaks by Fire: Ex3:1-4 Put out the fire of God and you mute the voice of God.**  
This doesn’t mean God quits speaking. It simply means we are unable to hear what He says.
  - Fire is a spiritual language we must learn to speak and understand. **Passion, devotion, surrender and pursuit are the characteristics that enable us to speak and understand fire.** As we avail ourselves to the immersion we begin to hear the sound.
  - **Jer23:28 “Is not my Word like fire declares the Lord...”** Fire is like an intuitive language. It is an unspoken sense language that as we burn we are able to understand what the Lord is saying. The hotter we burn the more of His words we understand.
  - **Jer5:14 “Behold I am making my words in your mouth fire.”** The more we are able to burn with the passion of God, the more we are able to understand and speak the words of God.
2. **God Answers by Fire: 1Kings18:24 Put out the fire of God and you cut off answers from God.** This doesn’t mean God quits giving answers, it just means we are unable to hear the answer He gives until we cultivate the fire.
  - Fire is the medium through which God answers. Fire is the spiritual language through which God has chosen to speak.
  - **Fire is the atmosphere in which faith grows. Fire is the atmosphere in which risks are taken. So when fire is cultivated faith will grow, risks will be taken and God will answer.**
  - Unbelief cannot grow in an atmosphere of spiritual fire. Where fire is cultivated faith will be now. Where fire is cultivated answers will be readily discerned.
3. **God Empowers by Fire: Acts1:8; 2:3 Put out the fire of God and you forfeit the power of God.** “God is a consuming fire” so in the fire we get the power. Power is not a separate entity we seek. In seeking the consuming fire of God we get the power.
  - When Holy Spirit came as promised in Acts 2, He came as fire. Jesus said, wait for power and when that power came it came as fire. **Our desire is to be immersed in Holy Spirit fire for in the fire we are empowered to become...**
  - We become witnesses, we become those to whom God speaks, we become those who God answers...we become passionately empowered witnesses who have the “goods” to represent Christ to a perverse generation.
  - Someone recently said “I don’t like this message about fire.” What I am trying to say is, fire is not a smorgasbord message we like or dislike. Holy Spirit is fire.
  - **Jesus came to immerse us in fire for when we get immersed in fire we get immersed in God.**

So my closing word to you today is “**YOU’RE FIRED.**” Get fired for God and you’ll get it all.

