

WHERE IS YOUR FIRE?

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:

WHERE IS YOUR FIRE?

Bible Text: **Matthew 3:11**

Prayer

Heavenly father in the name of Jesus Christ. We Thank you and praise your name for everything that you have done for us. As we start our Bible study, Lord Jesus Christ provides and equip us to understand your words and let the Holy Spirit be upon us all with your revelations and secrets in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Introduction

Please let us humbly follow today's teaching as the Holy Ghost is about to speak directly to everyone.

I don't know why the Holy Spirit changed today's study immediately. I wanted to start and asked me to teach what I did not prepare for. But I trust His leading for His messages meets the needs of men per time. This is why I would like you not to joke with it at all but pay rapt attention as He takes us through.

Bible Text

Matt.3.11 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Study

From this portion of the scriptures, we can read what John the Baptist told those who came to his baptism. He was busy in his mission, which is to baptize the people unto repentance. These

men saw how great he was, but to their shock, he told them that there is someone coming after him who is mightier than him. From this, he was making it clear to them that no matter how great they think he is, no matter how much reverence and honor they give to him, he is still of no value compared to the one who is to come after him.

From this, he was preparing the hearts of the people down to receiving the Messiah. He talked about how unimportant he is to the one coming, which everyone must put an eye on, looking unto Him as the Author and the Finisher of their faith. He said, the coming Savior would baptize all those who believe in Him with the Holy Ghost and with fire!

Why did John say this? He knew that it's not all that is in repentance; there must be a driving force which works beyond repentance to keep a man in his repentant state. I mean, it is not enough to repent but to remain in that state without going back to what you have repented from. And this is what John was telling the people that would happen to them.

They will not only repent but will also receive power to keep them sinless. This is why no religion on earth can make a man live a sinless life because the Holy Ghost who gives the power is unavailable to do so. **Acts 1:8 KJV But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:..** So, one of the reasons you receive the Holy Spirit is to empower you to maintain your state of repentance.

John further states that the Lord will baptize us with the Holy Ghost and with fire. We can wonder why he does not baptize us with water but fire. This is because of the driving force that comes with fire to purify in preparation for the kingdom of God.

What is fire? According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is the phenomenon of combustion manifested in light, flame, and heat. From this, we can see that fire has to do with hotness, a particular degree of heat. And if we will be baptized with fire, then it means there's a degree of spiritual hotness that we'd receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.

John was saying that the baptism by water is simply an outward show and sign that they have repented, but there's more that they must receive. And it's the baptism of fire; this baptism goes deep into the life of a man and purges him by a particular degree of spiritual heat from all filthiness. It has to do with the inward aspect of holiness which then transcends to the outward show of it and proves it.

Isaiah 4:4 KJV When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

Isaiah prophesied that the Lord will wash the sins of the daughters of Zion and purge the blood of Jerusalem by the spirit of burning. This implies that there are impurities in human blood rooted in carnality, which are purged out and cleaned by the fire of the Holy Spirit once it is received. The cleansing continues the more we allow the Holy Ghost to have His place.

The fire that comes with the Holy Ghost is very essential in the life of all those who want to live a holy and righteous life in this present world. Many have received that fire but have lost it.

Something spectacular happened in the upper room on the day of Pentecost to the apostles and the members of the church. When they were waiting for the promise of the Father, Jesus Christ, the baptizer with the Holy Ghost and fire, did it. **Acts**

2:3-4 KJV And there appeared to them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

From what happened on the day of Pentecost, it is clear that once a man is baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire, something changes in such a man; he ceases to be ordinary. There are some things that happen to the spirit man of a man once this happens to him. In fact, people begin to see that he's no longer the same. Those in the upper room could not even tell what was happening to them when they began to speak in other tongues, for there was a strong move of God's fire upon them.

All those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ would be purged by fire, which will make them doers of good works, living lives that please God. **Mark 9:49 KJV** For every one shall be salted with fire,... God wants to make us holy, and as a result, He releases His purification fire into the lives of His children to burn down things that will stand in His way. Because fire comes with heat and flames, it is not always easy to endure the process of refining; this is why many people run away quickly because it requires so much from you.

Yet, God sits as a refiner of gold to refine you with His fire so that you can appear righteous before Him, fit for an honorable service. **Malachi 3:3 KJV** And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

The moment you try to carry the fire of God, many things begin to happen to you. You will observe that your interests would change, your goals might be adjusted, your reasoning will become different from others, your attitude towards

circumstances will change, and even your approach towards situations would be guided by God. At that point, all that will matter to you will be God and how to please Him because the love of the world has died, and the song you will continue to sing is the saying of Apostle Paul. **Galatians 2:20 KJV** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Interestingly, all these things were experienced by all true believers who waited before the Lord, those who started well, those whose focus was heaven, and the reason for their coming to Christ was not because of what they stood to gain from Him, but how their lives can proclaim Him.

The fire came upon you mightily, though you did not see it physically, but you waited in prayers, fasting, and the study of the word of God. This was why you were able to preach even on the bus; you were not ashamed of Christ at any time. You were boldly and happily talking about Him at any given opportunity. But where is your fire now?

Do you remember those times when you'd sit alone and sing different wonderful hymns to the Lord, making melody in your heart to Him? What about those days when you'd go for prayer programs and pray without minding anyone watching you, with all seriousness? But now, you've become a big man and woman who hardly attend prayer meetings; such programs are now for small boys and girls. Where is your driving force, where is your fire?

What about those days when you'd speak in tongues for hours and not feel satisfied, always feeling like continuing because you were enraptured by the omniscient presence of God, seeking

after fellowship with Him? But now the story has changed; when last did you experience it? The fire is dying already; where is your fire?

Remember those times when you sang in the choir or a special number, and there was always a strong move of the Spirit of God because you were right with God and very close to Him? People fell under the anointing, but now, nothing of such happens again. Where is your fire?

Shall I speak about the gravity your prayers carried in the realm of the spirit, becoming a threat to the kingdom of darkness? Every night, you woke up to pray and gained stature in the realm of the spirit. But now, you sleep 24/7, and your prayer life is weak and so cold that bugs are already laying eggs in it. Where is your fire?

Let me remind you of how well people respected and honored the grace of God in your life because of your ways of life and conduct. They saw you standing uprightly in the Lord, becoming the envy of many. But now, your character is questionable, and people no longer regard you because you are no longer different from them with your lifestyles. Where is your fire?

Should I remind you of those days when you moved from one personal retreat to another because you were so bent on knowing the Lord, but now ministry has taken it away from you? You claim to be too busy for the Lord. Where is your fire?

You loved everyone, including the poor, and gave to them willingly. You supported ministers of God and ministries financially and prayed for them because you found joy in doing so. But now, you can't even remember when you last remembered such people. All you know now is "me, myself, and I." Where is your fire?

What about many other experiences you had in the past? How are they now? The fire is dying already. What a pity! You are already sleeping! Wake up! Satan is after you! Be vigilant!

Do you know how you lost the fire? I will tell you!

Do you remember the day you allowed Satan to put his words in your heart to disobey God, and you did not shun him instantly but obeyed him to manipulate figures at your workplace, to lie to your spouse, to engage in examination malpractice? He told you that dancing a little to worldly songs is not really bad, so you gave in.

Satan told you that you need to compromise a little in your dressing so that you will attract a suitor, and you obeyed him. You placed your needs above Christ. Because of hunger, you began to use false weights. These were the things that contributed to your carelessness. You are dying already; can't you feel it?

You started dying when you began to miss your quiet time because of ministry and even your jobs. You would work from morning to night, then claim that you are too tired, so you didn't have time for God's word and prayer. You now complain of ulcers and can no longer fast till 12 pm.

You can no longer do without sex. You get so tired of praying at midnight but not tired enough to have several rounds of sexual intercourse with your spouse. That was how you began to lose your fire. Your spiritual altar is now very cold like a refrigerator. What is happening to you, my brother and sister?

Psalm 104:4 KJV Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: God's intention is that you walk about like a flaming

fire! But you are now a fire extinguisher, killing the little fire other people carry by your seductive mode of dressing, ungraceful speeches, bad characters, and others. What's wrong with you? You now enjoy pornography, whereas the day you allowed lust in your heart was the day your fire started dying!

Even your Bible study life is nothing to write home about now. Attending church services now looks boring to you. Ah! You struggle and struggle with spiritual things.

Now let me tell you the way out! **Revelation 3:3 KJV** Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Remember! Remember! Remember! How you received the gospel! Remember that you were less concerned about what this world has to offer. Remember that this world is more than seeking for a spouse or a job or living wealthy. Remember that heaven is the ultimate. Also, **Revelation 2:5 ESV** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Remember where you fell. Was it when you entered that ungodly relationship? Was it when you took up that job that has now turned to your God? Remember where it was when you started watching secular films or surfing the net 24/7, the first thing you now do is to go online before having fellowship with God! Remember it!

[Now repent! Repent! And do the first work. Go back to those things you were doing then, how you applied discipline in your walk with God. You would not eat physical food unless you had eaten the spiritual meal. Go back to your resolutions, ask God for

mercy, request your fire back. The Lord wants to ignite it once more!

Be determined to take your spiritual life more seriously than anything else. Don't fall to the deception of the enemy again!

Return to your prayer life, study, and fasting. Begin evangelizing again. Tell the Lord to send His rekindling fire down into your life once more. Look unto Jesus Christ, the author, and the finisher of your faith. Cry out to Him that you need refreshing! Don't die like this; you can get back on track only if you are ready.

I decree upon the life of all those here whose fire is dying already, those who have lost their fire, that the Lord Jesus Christ will rekindle His fire in your life right now in Jesus Christ's name!

Do have a lovely night's rest.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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Contacts:

+2347067511039

+2349028350180

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Edited & Compiled by

Dorcas Aloba

Joanna O. Obalana

Media Team

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