

The Fire of God

Part 2

The purpose of these 2 messages is to encourage you to live passionately for God, to elevate your spiritual temperature, so you will not succumb to a sub-standard lukewarm, distant, relationship with God.

Opening text:

2 Timothy 1:6 (AMPC): *That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands...*

This wonderful fire of God is a 'gracious gift' - it comes through grace. However, once received, it becomes our responsibility to make sure that it doesn't go out or stays dormant.

We need to stir up that fire, making sure its flames burn bright and strong.

"To stir up", according to one dictionary means, to agitate, to provoke, to fire up, to ignite, to enkindle, to cause someone to feel a strong emotion and a desire to do something.

In the Bible, the Hebrew word "ur" means to awaken, to arouse and revive.

Peter used this word:

2 Peter 1:13 - *Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*

1 Peter 3:1 - *Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),*

We need to stir each other up, making sure we stay awake, revived and on fire!

Isaiah 64:7a - *And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You;*

We need to stir ourselves up and take hold of God!

The Bible specifically mentions 3 areas we need to stir up in our lives:

1. Stir up the fire of God in you (as we saw before)

2 Timothy 1:6 AMPC - *That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you*

Romans 12:11 AMPC - *Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.*

2. Stir up love

Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,*

AMPC: *And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities,*

Romans 5:5 says that when the Holy Spirit came to live in us, God's love was shed abroad in our hearts. That special love of God is there – however, it needs to be stirred up.

We need to love in every direction:

- a) Love the lost like Jesus (He loved us while we were still sinners)
- b) Love one another

1 Peter 4:8 - *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”*

Love is such an indicator of a fervent heart.

- c) Love God

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart,

As a seal upon your arm;

For love is as strong as death,

Jealousy as cruel as the grave;

Its flames are flames of fire,

A most vehement flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,

Nor can the floods drown it.

If a man would give for love

All the wealth of his house,

It would be utterly despised.

The quality of this love is tremendous. We need to love God like that!

We have to stir up this kind of love. It is a different love, strange to the flesh. Do not expect the agreement of your flesh when it comes to loving Jesus. You will have to stir yourself up! There are greater levels of love and passion for Jesus

3. Stir yourself up to serve

There is a purpose for the fire of God in us. There is a purpose for the gifts of God in us (they are tools, not toys): service. We need to stir ourselves up to serve God!

Romans 12:11 AMPC - *Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 AMPC -*And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities,*

We are not saved by our good works. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, because we are saved, we get involved in the works of God.

We need to live for God and serve Him stirred up in our hearts.

Exodus 35:21 - *Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.*

Verse 26 - *And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats' hair*

Exodus 36:2 - *Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.*

Conclusion

Stir yourself up to take hold of God on a daily basis. Don't allow that fire in you to go out; don't allow anything else to rob that affection that should be on Jesus alone; don't settle for a stagnant Christian life: stir yourself up and serve God!