

Go with the Flow (Part 2):

The Fire Within Us

God's fire in Scripture

- Burning bush and Moses
- Pillar of fire
- Fire on Mount Sinai
- Fire from the presence of the Lord
- Elijah on Mount Carmel

2. God's fire in us

- John the Baptist said of Jesus, “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Matthew 3:11-12)

3. Why does God want us to be filled with His fire?

- To refine us
- “Each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.” (1 Corinthians 3:10b-15)

3. Why does God want us to be filled with His fire?

- To empower and motivate our witnessing to Christ
- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)

3. Why does God want us to be filled with His fire?

- To enable us to be zealous for God
- “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)

4. Can the fire of God go out in a Christian?

Some of the ways that we can bottle up or smother the effectiveness of the Holy Spirit include:

- Allowing sin to fester
- Ignorance
- Trivialising of relationship with God
- Bad company
- Being double-minded
- Being an invisible Christian
- Not giving up control

4. Can the fire of God go out in a Christian?

- No time
- Afraid of change
- Fear of man
- Believing enemy lies

5. Fanning into flame the fire of God within us

- Go with the flow of the Spirit

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”
(Galatians 5:25)

The more we live by the Spirit and keep in step with Him, the greater the freedom we will have in God, the more we will reflect the Lord’s glory, the more we will be transformed into our Saviour’s likeness, and the greater His fire within us will be.

“Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2
Corinthians 3:17-18)

5. Fanning into flame the fire of God within us

- Avoid sin like the plague that it is
- Worship God acceptably with reverence and awe

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

- Feeding on God’s Word

5. Fanning into flame the fire of God within us

- Feeding on God's Word

“Is not my word like fire’, declared the Lord, ‘and like a hammer that breaks rocks in pieces?’” (Jeremiah 23:29)

- Denying yourself, taking up your cross daily and following Jesus (Luke 9:23)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

5. Fanning into flame the fire of God within us

- Aim for the highest and best in God

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

5. Fanning into flame the fire of God within us

- Don't hesitate to go to God for help whenever you need it

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” (2 Peter 1:3)

Conclusion

Our responsibility is to fan into flame the fire of the Holy Spirit by always making the choices in life that God wants us to make. We cannot produce the fire, but we can maintain the glow. We can rake out the ashes that are smothering the fire by getting rid of the sin in our life; and then fan the flame into life by starting to live as God wants us to live. To maintain this fire, we need to remain obedient and open to God. We also need to increase the air supply to the flame by prayer and praise, spending time in His presence and building relationship with Him. Then we can add more fuel, a little at a time, by reading and studying Scriptures. Finally, we get the fire within us really blazing by maturing into a servant of great faith who does whatever God asks of us, no matter how impossible. This is what the Holy Spirit wants and is working towards in all of our lives.