

“The Holy Spirit and Fire”

Luke 3:16 Jesus said, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than me will come...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

- Consuming Fire.
- IF you light a match and set a piece of wood on fire, the fire will penetrate the wood. That’s what the Holy Spirit does in our lives. He goes beyond surface appearances to the root of our beings. The Spirit doesn’t put Band-Aids on anything. He goes to the core of your problems to provide help.
- Likewise, preaching that is anointed by the Holy Spirit is fiery preaching. That doesn’t mean beating people down or condemning them; rather, it means ministry that penetrates the heart, reveals sin, and vividly shows the need for Jesus Christ!!!!!!
- Remember that day, after the day of Pentecost, when Peter stood up and preached that first sermon full of the Holy Spirit’s power. And after Peter was finished the people said, “What shall we do?” Teaching aids are good and useful, but without the Spirit’s fire, hearts will never be humbled and broken before the Lord.
 - In Jeremiah 23:29 God asked, “Is not my word like fire?” The Word preached with the Spirit’s fire cuts through the clutter and deals with the troubled condition of our hearts!!!!
- The Spirit’s fire always cuts to the chase and deals with the hindrances that keep us from the blessing of God.
- The temptation today in Christianity is to make our message so palatable to the masses that we lose the element of fire. We create services filled fluff and candy. But that will not extend the Kingdom of God and see Jesus glorified!!!!!!

- Junk In The Bonfire

- Catherine Booth, wife of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army said, "I travel around the country, and I hear a lot of eloquent words and many sermon masterpieces. But what my soul longs for is burning words."
 - Catherine wanted anointed messages that penetrated, stirred, and produced brokenness of heart.
- In Malachi 3:3, the prophet Malachi wrote, "God will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver."
- When the Holy Spirit searches our hearts, He is a purifying fire. Just like good fires burn out impurities, unworthy things are burned out of our lives when we allow the Spirit to do its work.
- Fire burns everything that is worthless. Sometimes we just need a good Holy Spirit fire to touch our lives. Illustration: Anyone ever seen that show called "Hoarders?" IF given the chance to see the inner workings of your life, it might be revealed that you have hoarded up every hurt, offence, pain in your life that there is no more room in your life for healing or anything else. The Holy Spirit wants to burn it up and show you that there is a redeemed life under your hurts!! A restored life under all of that pain and bitterness!!!

- Catch The Fire

- When the Holy Spirit sets a person's life on fire, the Spirit doesn't stop there. The fire spreads, setting others aflame too. A growing number of people are longing for the Holy Spirit's fire.
- We can never do what the Spirit can do. No amount of human talent and energy will grow the spiritual Kingdom of God. We NEED to return to depending on the Spirit's fire, which not only quickens and penetrates but also illuminates our path.

- A Light In The Darkness

- Thank God that the Holy Spirit's fire also produces light, something we desperately need in a world full of difficult decisions and hidden dangers.
- The Spirit illuminates our lives and our choices so that we can see the path ahead and we can know what to avoid. Yet too often we don't ask for direction from the Holy Spirit when it comes time to make vital decisions.
- Illustration: Something Christian said during Adventure week while playing a game, "Talk to me so I can know what your voice sounds like."
- The Holy Spirit is God's only agent on earth. He was sent here to guide us!!!

- Stoke The Fire

- Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.”(1 Thess. 5:19)
- Paul tells Timothy to stir up the embers, to keep the fire burning. We need to do the same thing. For some of us, the embers are faintly glowing, and we need to tend to them, stir them up so they will burst into flame.
- Lastly, we need the fire of the Holy Spirit changing our lives and local assemblies. We need it spreading throughout our towns and cities, spreading so Christ can be glorified. May that be our prayer today? Send the fire, God. Burn, penetrate, change, renovate, illuminate. Do as you promised, as we wait in Christ’s name!!!!