

Consuming Fire

A passion for Your Name



Gifts of God

- Gifts to us individually & collectively
- Gift of salvation
- Gift of the Message
- Gift of Faith



Gifts of God

- Gift of a passionate relationship
 - Covenant



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- First covenant God made with His people was with Abram and involved fire



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- Gift of a passionate relationship
 - Covenant
- First covenant God made with His people was with Abram and involved fire
- God took the role of the One assuming responsibility



God emphasizes fire

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- Moses sees the Burning Bush
- In the desert, God appears to His people as a pillar of fire by night
- John the Baptist says of Jesus:
 - “I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” *Luke 3:13*



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Acts 2:3



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- The Holy Spirit comes as fire:
 - “And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.”
Acts 2:3
- Paul writes:
 - “For our God is a consuming fire.”
Hebrews 12:29



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- Once the fuel is consumed, a fire must have more fuel or it dies out
- God has designed the passion of a relationship with Him to be fueled by a reciprocal relationship with humanity
 - Receiving God's love creates a burning love for Him in us
 - Love is the fuel



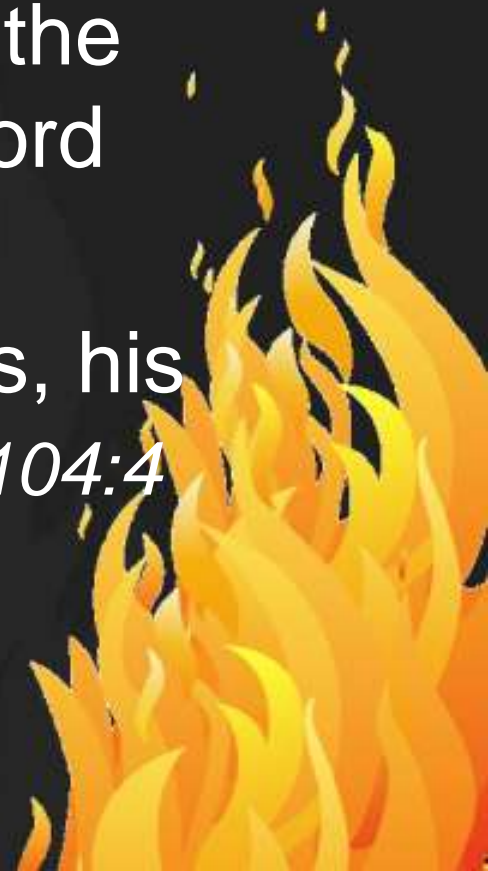
His people spread fire

- “As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.” *2 Chronicles 7:3*



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- “As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.” *2 Chronicles 7:3*
- “He makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire...” *Psalms 104:4*



His people consumed...

- “If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.” *Jeremiah 20:9*



And others consumed...

“Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’” But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, “O man of God, this is the king's order, ‘Come down quickly!’” But Elijah answered them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.”



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- Fuel
 - Life which has died to self burns best
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 - God is the source of the fire
 - If we try to produce it, we fail
- A forever change occurs
 - We change in so many ways



So let's assess...

- God as a consuming fire
 - Comforting or frightening?



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- “Closer to God” means closer to flames
 - Is it worth having this “burned like chaff”?



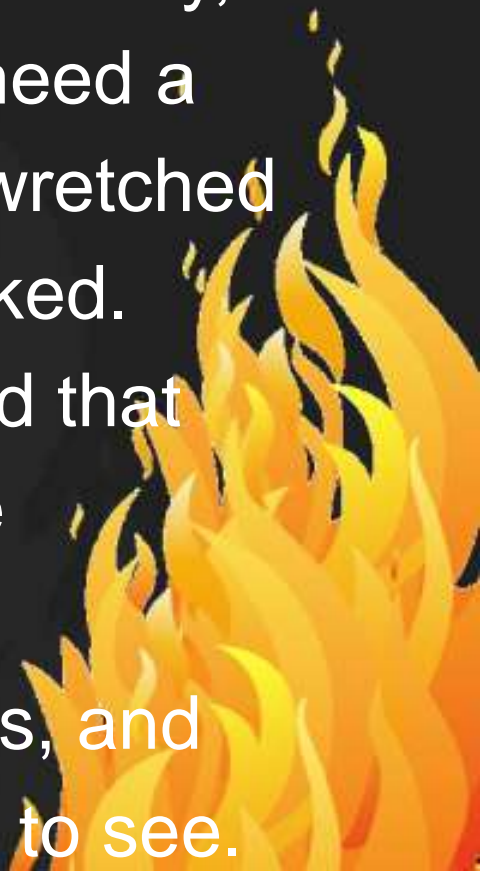
So let's assess...

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 - Comforting or frightening?
- “Closer to God” means closer to flames
 - Is it worth having this “burned like chaff”?
- Are you willing to be “on fire”?
 - Humble zeal, not destructive
 - Or do you settle for smoldering coals?



One last burning image...

“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.



One last burning image...

”I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.”

-Jesus speaking to the Church in Laodicea

Revelation 3:15-21



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- Fast Fridays

