

More Fire, Lord!



As we have considered the Fire of God's Love, we have been seeing a progressive plan on the part of the Father. He has purposed to prepare a Bride for His Son, one to whom the Son will be joined sublimely, one who will be so surrendered to Him, one He will purify and make beautiful, a suitable companion for Him, a true reflection of His love. And through her the world will know that the Father sent Jesus (John 17:21)

Now we read Jesus proclaiming to His disciples in Matthew 5

14" ***You are the light of the world.*** A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, **let your light shine** before men, **that they may see** your good deeds and **praise your Father in heaven.**

In what manner are we to let our light shine? Mind you, "our light" **IS** Him. This is not us trying to come up with an evangelization program; this is not us trying to devise a clever way to convince people Jesus is the Messiah. This is HIS LIGHT – shining in such a way, flowing

through us with such Divine attraction that others as it were, pass by us and are drawn to Him. Listen to Jesus.

John 14:12 "I assure you: **The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these,** because I am going to the Father.

HOW CAN THIS POSSIBLY BE? HOW CAN WEAK MORTAL HUMANS DO WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID? HOW CAN WE EVEN BEGIN TO DO "EVEN GREATER WORKS" THAN HE? By surrendering to His power in our lives, by allowing Him to do His full will through us Himself. This is breathtaking.

Before He left the earth in bodily form, He breathed on His disciples, imparting to them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

John 20:22 After saying this, He breathed on them and said, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**"

He then instructed His followers to wait for God until He sent the Promise of the Father, the Dunamis, (literally means 'Dynamite') the Power of the Holy Spirit when they would be endued with the same power Jesus had.

Luke 24:48-49

And look, I am sending you what My Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high."

They followed His instructions and went back to town and entered into prayer and waited until the Holy Spirit was poured out.

Acts 1:12-14

1:12

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olive Grove, which is near Jerusalem--a Sabbath day's journey away.

1:13

When they arrived, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

1:14

All these were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the

mother of Jesus, and His brothers.

May I call your attention to a critical little sentence above – a critical condition that preceded the outpouring of God’s power:

1. Notice from Acts 1:14 **they were UNITED.**
2. **They were UNITED CONTINUALLY.**
3. **They were UNITED CONTINUALLY IN PRAYER....**

This does NOT mean they agreed about everything. This DOES mean that they focused on Him, they focused on faith-filled prayer, probably around the clock or nearly so, and even with fasting to await this Promise from Him. Consider that they had never seen this before, they had never experienced it before. They were simply told they had to have it to “do what I have done”. So they did it as is so beautifully noted in that wonderful verse 14. **THEY WERE ONE.**

Then came that wondrous day when their world was suddenly turned upside down, the day of Pentecost! Someone recently commented that in reality what happened that day was that God turned an upside-down world right-side up! He became King and Lord! He poured out His passion and His fire! He commissioned followers who up until that time had the courage of a church mouse! He turned real flip-floppers into blazing torches of followers of Jesus! No more than 144 people changed the entire known world! Oh yes, they were changed!

Something that really struck me when thinking about that day was that while it was really a totally new experience for those gathered in the upper room, efforts to communicate that moment by artists have been even more challenging. As Luke could only use feeble words in describing the visible descending of the Spirit as “cloven tongues of fire which came to rest on each of their heads,” so artists have captured the one frame to portray the Act of the Holy Spirit that day by picturing just that: little tongues of fire hovering over each one gathered.

In truth, when the Father poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit that day, I believe He pulled out of His heart His passionate burning love for His Bride and with a great rushing noise as of a mighty wind branded the hearts of those believers with His power and His love. Yes, it began with a visible fire atop their heads. It concluded with a blazing inferno in their hearts! It is my personal belief that each person received as much of God as he or she could without being simply killed by His holy majesty. I think could any of them have received more, they would have. This is not confirmed by Scripture, it is simply what I think may well have happened. It is similar to Paul’s comment that “to each is given a measure of faith.....” To each was given all he could withstand of the Power of God’s Holy Spirit!

And off they went! Signs! Wonders! Power! Preaching! Miracles! Conversions! Glory to God! His Bride (the Church) was birthed into existence, and then inaugurated to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!

This was *always* God's plan for his Bride. This is *still* God's plan for his Bride! And you and I are this Bride of His! How are we doing? How are you doing? How is the Church in America doing? Wow! When I consider my lack of power, when I ponder how unyielded I am at times, my carnal efforts in place of His power - - I am appalled.

God is moving powerfully in parts of the world. In Africa, South America, China, in many places God is bringing true revival to His church. The United States has yet to see such a move of God in our time. And yet this is the cry of His heart! He desires to turn aright our upside-down world. He is breathing upon dead wood. He is re-firing His Bride, making her clean and powerful and beautiful. She is beginning to look like Him and act like Him and defer to Him in all things. Oh, that He would breathe so on us.

His Bride is beginning to understand that there are a few keys to coming into the fullness of her purpose in life, her eternal calling to be His Bride. Some of these are

1. Getting a new revelation of His heart for people to come into relationship with Him.
2. Understanding on a deeper level that He has purposed to manifest His Love to the world through His Bride here on earth.
3. Being convinced that we as the Bride of Christ cannot function at all without the empowering of His Holy Spirit, and that again and again and again.
4. If we will allow it, He will so fill us with Himself that we will become utter signs of contradiction in a world that thinks it has all of life figured out. Not only will the Fire of the Holy Spirit of Jesus flow out of us, but so will His Living Waters course through us like springs in the desert, like bubbling fountains of refreshing, streams of living water. Listen again to the Word of God.

John 7:38

The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.

Ezekiel 47:1-12

I Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was

flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. 2 He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. 3 And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. 4 Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. 5 Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. 6 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. 7 When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. 8 Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. **9 And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.** 10 It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. 11 But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. 12 Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."

While this Ezekiel Scripture points to events yet to come, surely they also point to the Living Waters of revival the Lord is pouring out in these critical days.

Are you hungry? Are you thirsty? Do you ache to be really on fire with Him? Do you long to see revival come to your church, your family, your country, your world? Let the Author and Perfector of revival begin with you. I am going to do this too.

Fire! Water! Holy Spirit of Jesus, come! Let's start out with just one person. Let's start out with the only who over whom our redeemed spirits have control. Us. Let just I say to the Lord in a fresh surrender

"Here am I, Lord. I come to You poor, blind, wretched, naked, and miserable. (Rev 3:17) I come to you in repentance and surrender. I come to buy from you gold refined in the fire (Your fire of Holiness) so that I may be rich, and white clothes of Your righteousness so that I may be dressed and my shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on my eyes so that I may see. Lord, You love me, purify me. Transform me. Melt me. Mold me in Your image! I give You absolute unconditional rights to all of me. Send Your latter rain of revival upon me! Send Your fire, Lord! I bow before You in utter consecration. Father, I ask this in the Name of Your Bridegroom Son, Jesus, and in Your Holy Spirit. Amen."