

I've been using Bob Sorge's Book Secrets of the Secret Place as part of my personal time with the Lord. It is a collection of 52 meditations, written for the purpose of opening doors to an ever deeper intimacy with the Lord that can only be ignited and sustained in the secret place, the place of prayer. I was so moved by the meditation yesterday that I ask and received formal permission to post it here on my website.

So – please read this slowly. Check out each Scripture cited, and consider the unbelievable love your Beloved has for you.....

I also want to recommend this book as a most excellent addition to your own personal library. A Companion Study Guide is also available for personal reflection and/or journaling. The Study guide is also excellent for small group discussion. Bob's website is www.oasishouse.net I am deeply grateful for permission to share this treasure from another lover of the Lord. Enjoy!

The Secret of Burning

It's the secret place that lights our fire, that sets us burning. I'm talking about a white-hot, fiery zeal for the face of Jesus and for the concerns of His kingdom. Jesus came to kindle a fire on earth (Luke 12:49) by which He intended to set us ablaze with His very own passions and desires. To main its intensity, this fire must be constantly stoked by the intimate passions of the secret place.

You are destined for fire! You will burn for all eternity—the only question is *where*. The longing of your breast is to be a living flame, ignited with the exhilaration of beholding His beauty, worshipping Him with uninhibited abandon, and deployed into the world with self-controlled, calculated zeal that does not love its own life even unto death. You have something to live for because you have something to die for. You long to be a firebrand of holiness, which is why you'll never be satisfied with status quo Christianity.



God's word is a fire (Jeremiah 23:29), and His presence is totally engulfed in fire (Ezekiel 1: 4, 27; Daniel 7:9). When you approach God, you are drawing near to the great blazing inferno of the ages. To be set on fire, you must get close to God. *When you feel cold, distant, and "out of it" spiritually, it's time to retreat to the closet, place yourself before the fireplace of His word, and allow the intensity of His face to restore your fervency.* The secret to staying ablaze for Jesus is not in responding to altar calls (as good as those are); it's not in having someone lay hands on you and pray for you (as valid as that is); it's not in listening to a good teaching tape or the latest worship CD; the only sure source for staying white-hot is in devoting yourself consistently to the place-of-the-shut-door. It's the place where "the spirit of burning" (Isaiah 4:4) ignites your soul as you gaze upon His glory with an unveiled face (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Do you desire a greater compulsion for the secret place? Invite the Burning One, the Holy Spirit, to ignite the eternal flame of His fiery jealousy in your life. The Scripture says, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously" (James 4:5). The agenda of this yearning jealousy is that Christ's bride might be set ablaze with an exclusive and fiery passion for her Beloved. You can pray nothing more dangerously sublime than to say, "Holy Spirit, let Your burning jealousy have its consuming way in my life, until every competing affection and false god is completely burned away and until one raging, all-consuming passion fills my entire being—love for the altogether Lovely One, the Man Christ Jesus!"

The book of Revelation describes the Holy Spirit in this way: "Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God." (Revelation 4:5). I have asked the Lord that the same might be said of me, that I might be described as "burning before the throne!"

As a man who longs to burn for God, I have looked at Proverbs 6:27-28 differently from the typical approach. Primarily those verses are describing the harmful effects of adultery, but its secondary application is actually descriptive of the secret place with God:

Can a man take fire to his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? (Proverbs 6:27-28)

When you draw close to the fire of God's word, you are actually taking fire into your bosom—and the leprous, filthy clothes of your old life are being burned away. As you step into the fiery presence of His secret place, you are walking on hot coals—and your feet are being seared to walk in the way of holiness and righteousness and obedience. The answer to these questions is, "No! Take the fire of God into your being and everything about your life will be different!" It's impossible to embrace this living fire and not be changed! Oh Lord, I pull Your fire to my bosom with fearful delight.

John the Baptist was a man who burned for God! God took John into the solitude of the wilderness in order to kindle a heavenly fire within him. When he was finally released into

ministry, he was a living flame. Notice that in the following verses thrice Jesus asked, “What did you go out to see?”

As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: *“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet”*
(Matthew 11:7-9)

Jesus testified that the people didn’t go to John primarily to *hear* something, but to *see* something. Jesus described John as “the burning and shining lamp” (John 5:35). John was a man set on fire from heaven, a man who incubated his love for God through a steadfast commitment to solitude in the secret place, and thus he became a shining light for the entire nation to behold. The people came from all over to see this fire. People are always attracted to a great fire.

Do something dangerous. Get alone with God! His “consuming fire” will burn away all from your life, until all that’s left is love itself. This is our God, “Who makes....His ministers a flame of fire” (Hebrews 1:7). He’ll make *you* one, too, if you’ll let Him.

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Secrets of the Secret Place by Bob Sorge and other of his books are available at www.oasishouse.net