

Week 2: A Power We Must Receive - The Comfort of the Holy Spirit

Day 9: Fire-Works

The Passage: Acts 2:1-11

The Focus: "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:2-4)

The Meditation: "Tongues of fire . . . came to rest on each of them."

Empowering Truths: I've often tried to envision the scene described in Acts 2. Imagine it with me: the roaring sound of a mighty wind without a whisper of air moving. A levitating bonfire in the middle of the large hall but with no heat or smoke. Then the bonfire splits into 120 individual flames that float across the area stopping just above every disciple's head. Young, old, man, woman, apostles, new disciples, best educated, illiterate, most righteous, least righteous . . . everyone gets a flame. Yet not one singed hair.

Next, the sound of up to 120 different foreign languages from various tribes and nations miraculously fills the air. A large crowd begins to gather, since by this time they are probably on or near the southern stair entrance to the temple. Individuals in the multi-ethnic throng cry out, "I hear my language. They are praising God and Jesus his Messiah in my dialect. How can this be?"

Then Peter stands on the temple stairs and begins to preach in Greek. In the message he explains the fire on every head this way, "God said he would pour out his Spirit on all people. This is it!" By the end of the day you see three thousand new followers of Jesus baptized in the numerous mikvoth—the ritual baths on the south side of the temple.

This is what happens when 120 believers are filled with the Spirit and catch on fire. So the empowerment question of the day is: Are you living with "fire on your head"? Are you seeing the "fire on the heads" of the people you lead?

The same Spirit of Acts 2 is accessible for all who believe today. There is not a special class of Christian. No chosen gender, nationality, or economic group. You can be as pure as Mary or as sinful as Saul and still receive the same "fire-works" of the Spirit. The Spirit's fire is available by grace through faith.

We saw what the "fire-works" looked like on the day of Pentecost, but what about the next fifty days or five hundred days? For that picture we just keep reading Acts 2. There we see radical devotion, joy, fellowship, worship, generosity, miracles, compassion, home meetings, public gatherings, food (lots of food), community service and community favor, and souls getting saved.

These are the "fire-works" we are looking for. Yet in the American church we train people to hand out bulletins while Jesus trained people to cast out demons. We fail to see the powerful spiritual potential in the lives of "ordinary" people when they get "fire on their head."

Though we may not see it as they did on Pentecost, we can live "under the fire" daily! Lukewarm won't work any longer. We must become earnest for the spiritual flame that will light the fire in others.

Power Truth: The same Spirit of Pentecost is available to every believer who will dare to believe and live under the "fire."

Our Prayer: Holy Spirit, fire of the Lord, rest upon my life. Forgive me for underestimating what you can do through me. Ignite me with fresh passion for your mission. Quicken my faith to believe you for more supernatural manifestations of your truth and power through me and through other believers. I refuse to settle for less than your "fire-works" For Jesus' sake!