

Fire of the Holy Spirit Part 2 – How to Receive the Fire of the Holy Spirit

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Last time I talked about the nature of the Fire of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit refines and purifies. The Holy Spirit illuminates, and the Holy Spirit brings comfort. The Holy Spirit consumes, for our God is a consuming fire.

When we say that a person is on fire for God, we are talking about a spiritual fire. We are talking about the person and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and because of His presence in these believers, they produce passion, righteousness, spiritual momentum, heartfelt worship, passion for lost souls, and the cultivation of a lifestyle of prayer. The fire of God fuels all these things.

Only God can start the fire. The priests are the keepers of the flame, and that is what we as believers are supposed to be; we are keepers of the flame. We are given that fire, we are given that presence and we are to cherish that presence. We are to keep giving that presence influence in our lives.

For the fire to come down, there must be an altar and a sacrificial object. An altar is a place where you meet with God, a sacrificial object is you, as a living sacrifice to God.

This week, I would like to share about how to receive the Fire of the Holy Spirit.

How do we do that?

I am going to give you 3 tips that are collectively known as the Triple AAA way to receive the fire of God. It is just to help you remember, and the three A's are Ask, Acknowledge, and Act.

1. Ask

You must invite the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Remember that only God can set your soul ablaze. Only God can give you a love for Christ. Only God can give you a love for one another.

Romans 5:5

⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured out into our hearts** through the **Holy Spirit**, who has **been given to us**.

In this verse, we see that the Holy Spirit is a gift, not something you earn it. We received this gift at the moment of salvation. The word "through" indicates that the Holy Spirit is the Agent of God's love to the believer. God gives the Holy Spirit to us guaranteeing that we have not misplaced our hope. His love will not fail us. It is the action of the Holy Spirit that gives God's love to us.

Luke 11:13

¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

We as evil parents (compared to God) will give gifts to our children because we love our children, and we want them to be happy. Will not our Heavenly Father who loves us much more than how we love our children not be willing to give us the Holy Spirit if we ask?

When we invite the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we are talking to a very real person who will respond to such requests.

You can say to the Holy Spirit, “Holy Spirit, I want you to help me be on fire for Jesus.” or, “Holy Spirit, I want you to give me a greater love for the Lord.” You can ask Him for greater passion for the things of God.

You can ask Him to help you to fall in love with prayer and the Word. All of these are birthed out of His presence. Remember the fire of God is found in the presence of God, but first, you must ask Him to do it, you must invite that influence.

I am not just talking about speaking it aloud. I am talking about asking Him, by way of surrender. I am talking about inviting Him by humbling yourself before Him and making room for Him to do what only He can do.

The Greatness of a Man’s Power Is the Measure of His Surrender

When J. Wilbur Chapman was in London, he had an opportunity to meet General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, who at that time was past eighty years of age. Dr. Chapman listened reverently as the old general spoke of the trials and the conflicts and the victories. Then the American evangelist asked the general if he would disclose his secret for success.

“He hesitated a second,” Dr. Chapman said, “and I saw the tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks, and then he said, ‘I will tell you the secret. God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, men with greater opportunities; but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart, and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army today, it is because God has all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life.’”

Dr. Chapman said he went away from that meeting with General Booth knowing that, “the greatness of a man’s power is the measure of surrender.”

2. Acknowledge

Acknowledge God's presence in your life

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJ)

⁷For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.

This verse says you will become what you think. In the same way, if your thinking isn't on fire, your actions won't be either.

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

This is talking about coming against those things in our minds that contradict the word of God. Whenever a thought enters my mind that goes against what the word of God says, it is my responsibility to grab hold of that thought and cast it out.

This is because you can choose your thoughts, because thoughts are the actions of the mind. You can pull that thought down by overcoming that deception with the truth of the word of God.

For example, if a lie comes to your mind that says, "God has abandoned you", then you take the truth of God's word and say, "He will never leave me nor forsake me." With that truth, you disarm the deception.

I would say one of the main reasons why believers struggle in their spiritual life is because they don't understand how to discipline their minds and their thoughts. A lot of believers think that someone will come along and lay hands on them and discipline their minds for them. You have to realise that your thoughts are your responsibilities. You choose your thinking.

No matter how you were raised, regardless of what your background might be, whatever your culture is, whatever your political beliefs are, whatever they taught you in school, whatever your mom and dad believe, whatever your pastor told you, whatever comes into your mind, it is your responsibility.

Yes, I believe there will be some influence on your life but unless you take up the responsibility, you will not be able to have breakthroughs.

If you are thinking that there is no Fire, your actions won't be on fire either. You can't serve if you are battling guilt. You can't worship in truth if you are battling doubt.

I understand that we can still serve and worship, but I am talking about doing these things with passion, with momentum, with life, with strength, with energy. You can't last long,

you will get tired and in two or three years you will leave the church. Why? Because you were so weighed down by your negative thought patterns.

Don't overthink, don't be distracted, don't believe the lies of the enemy, just acknowledge God's presence is in you. Once you have come to embrace this truth, the truth will set you free.

3. Act in faith.

Do something with what He gave you.

James 2:14-17

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

In the context of James, in the few verses that I just read to you, this is obviously talking about saving faith. It is the true faith which isn't created by works, but it is demonstrated by works. If faith is genuine, it is alive, because genuine faith is from the Holy Spirit.

But we can have the principle applied to our everyday life and the principle is that faith without works is dead.

There's something to be said of action, and I am not talking about faking it till you make it. That is not a healthy way to live, but you have to find true peace with God, you have to find true breakthroughs, spiritually, and inwardly. I am talking about the effect that failure to act can have on inviting the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The Power Must Be Used

A young missionary, Herbert Jackson, was given a car to help him in his work. The car was a major asset, but it had one difficulty—it would not start without a push or a jump-start. Jackson devised a system to cope with the car's inability to start. When he was ready to leave his home, he went to a nearby school and asked permission to bring some of the children out of class to help him push-start his car.

Throughout the day, he was careful to always park on a hill or to leave his engine running when he stopped for short visits. For two years the young missionary used what he believed was an ingenious method to enable him to use the car.

When poor health forced the Jackson family to leave the field, a new missionary arrived to lead the mission. When Jackson explained to the new missionary his methods for starting the car, the young man opened the hood and began inspecting. "Why, Dr.

Jackson,” he interrupted, “I believe the only trouble is the loose cable.” He gave the cable a twist, pushed the switch, and the engine roared to life.

For two years, Dr. Jackson had used his own devices and endured needless trouble. The power to start the car was there all the time—it only needed to be connected.

You would be amazed at how on fire you would be if you just listened to God, just obeyed God. Do what he says and that ignites something in you.

So, how do you receive the Fire of God?

1. Ask: You must invite the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

2. Acknowledge: Acknowledge God's presence in your life.

3. Act in faith: Do something with what He gave you.

When God, the Person of the Holy Spirit is welcomed to influence in your life, your life will be on fire for the Lord, there will be a passion to live for Him and influence people around you.

The next part I would like to share is how to sustain the fire.

You don't have to go up and down or back and forth in your faith. You don't need to be good one week and then bad the next or have a personal revival on Sunday, only to fall into sin on Monday. You can stay on the course, you can be consistent, and you can live the victorious Christian life throughout your life.

How do we sustain the fire?

First, we must understand that by doing the spiritual basics you can avoid spiritual crises.

Imagine, I go to the doctor because I am not eating, I am not sleeping or I am not exercising. I go to the doctor and say, Doctor, I just feel terrible, something just feels wrong with my body, my mind isn't sharp, my body is tired, I am aching, I am in pain, I am weak, I don't understand what's going on. If he is a good doctor, the first questions he is going to ask me are the basics, because he wants to rule out the simple things first.

He would ask things like How is your sleep? How is your diet? Do you exercise? Why do doctors ask these questions up front? They want to see if you are doing the basics, because not engaging actively in the basics can automatically lead to many problems. So, before they jump saying, “You need surgery, or “It could be this disease or that disease,” or “Here is the medication we think you should take”, they have to first assess and see if you are doing the basics. The same thing is true with our spiritual lives. If you do the basics, you can avoid spiritual crises. Some people would say to me, I am tormented, I need deliverance, I need help, I am this, I am that. But oftentimes when they are asked, “How is your walk with God? How's your prayer life?” They say, “Oh, it has its ups and downs and I pray on and off. “How's your devotion to the word?” “Oh, I could do

better there.” “How is your lifestyle of worship and repentance?” They would say, “Oh well, those areas could use some work.” I would say. “OK, let's do these basics first, and then we can look at other solutions, if the basics don't work.” Guess what, most of the time when they go to do those spiritual basics, it fixes their issues. You will be amazed at how many of what you think are major spiritual issues would be resolved in a matter of weeks if you simply did the spiritual basics. You would be astonished, you would be amazed, you would go “Oh, my goodness, was it that simple? Simple, yes. Easy? Not always. You would be amazed at how many things cease to become issues if you simply did the basics.

You can avoid the spiritual crisis by doing the spiritual basics. Yet, people want to see a famous pastor come to us with a special oil and lay hands on us, with this special oil we are going to fall on the floor and shake under the power, which I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe that it could happen in our meetings someday. I believe people getting set free from lying on their hands. I believe in the power of God. But often we try to blame demons for what's actually a lack of discipline.

Often, we try to blame everything but refuse to admit that the real problem is simply disobedience on our part. People say, “Lay hands on me and make me obedient to God.” “Lay hands on me and make me disciplined.” “Lay hands on me so I can do the right things.” We want a quick fix. We want to go have the chills in some worship service, we want to have that special oil poured over our head, we want to have hands laid on us and instantly experience everything we should already be experiencing if we were practising the basics. I believe in that, there's a place for that but even if you did obtain a breakthrough in that way, and then you went back to living your life as you lived it before without implementing the spiritual basics, you would find yourself in the same issue again, which is why we repeat these cycles of chaos. We repeat these cycles of bondage, these cycles of immaturity, these cycles of confusion. We go from event to event conference to conference live stream to Live stream, YouTube channel to YouTube channel book to book all while never changing our behaviour, hoping that someone else will do the spiritual work for us. You can avoid spiritual crisis if you do the spiritual basics.

These are the 7 basics that we need to follow.

1. Live a lifestyle of repentance
2. Protect your purity
3. Evangelise and serve
4. Cling to Jesus
5. Stay in the Word
6. Immediately respond to the Holy Spirit
7. Surround yourself with others who are on fire for the Lord

I will share these further with you the next time.