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Fire of the Holy Spirit Part 5—How to Sustain the Fire of the Holy Spirit – Ps David

In the past weeks I have been preaching on how to sustain the fire of the Holy Spirit after you received the fire of the Holy Spirit. Previously I shared that to sustain the fire of the Holy Spirit, you need to do these 7 basics.

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

Today I would like to share on Cling to Jesus and Stay in the world of God.

4. Cling to Jesus

How do you cling to Jesus? By keeping your prayer life intact. If you are not praying, you are like saying to God, “I can do it without you.” In order to cling to Jesus, you need to pray.

A pastor once said, “Every day without prayer is a boast to God.” What you are basically saying is, “Lord, I don't need you to do this.” Or “I got this Lord, I can do this on my own strength.” Or “There is not much I need from you through prayer.” That is basically what you are doing.

The Bible says in Colossians chapter 4 verse 2

Colossians 4:2 ²**Devote** yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Devote means: to give all or most of one's time or resources to a person or an activity. This is a continual process.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray **without ceasing**.”

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but **in every situation**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In every situation; this mean that you are to pray, not only when you remember to pray, or when you feel like praying, or when you are in need, but that you pray even when you don't feel like it, or when you just see something that God is to be praised for, you raise your prayers to Him.

John 15:5-8 ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If

you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

We need to cling to Jesus!

We can't do anything without Him and through prayer we cling to Him. When we get disconnected from him, we start to wither, and the truth is that we wither fast. The process of withering becomes very quick once you unplug yourself from the place of prayer. This is why you have to guard your prayer life without compromise. Make sure you are having fellowship with the Lord every single day. Every single day I would pray that He would be in control of my life in whatever I might be doing that day. I would pray, "Lord I commit my life to you again. Whatever I will be doing, I commit it to you."

Sometimes we can grow tired, weak, and distracted, or our flesh starts to take hold of our lives again. Isn't it strange that the moment you start to disconnect from prayer that old habits begin to return. Maybe you start to get snappy again, become moodier, or give in to anger more readily. You might start to see that people offend you more easily and you also doubt the things of God more. You might find yourself becoming negative, more worried, more lustful, and more prideful. All of these things start to take root the moment we unplug ourselves from the source. You have to cling to Jesus.

Yes, He will hold on to you, but there is something about just clinging to Him. On the days when I don't pray as long as I should, when I kind of just brush it off until later in the day, I often find such a day to be not a very good day and I have to remind myself that without the Lord, I can't do anything.

Dear brothers and sisters, you can accomplish more in a prayer filled day than you can in a prayerless week.

Martin Luther was once asked a question about what his plans for the day were. For his response, which subsequently became a famous quote "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer"

That is the dependency we must have. The proof that you believe in prayer is that you actually pray. Prayer is about clinging to Jesus at the start of your day. We need to cling to Jesus throughout your week; and sometime that is all we can do, just cling on to Him. Maybe you are dealing with issues on the flesh and are finding it hard but just cling on. Maybe you are dealing with doubt, just cling on. Maybe you are dealing with anxiety, depression, confusion and chaos, cling on. Maybe people might be standing against you, and you are worried about your future; well just cling on.

You might be despairing and saying "I need a miracle in my family, in my marriage and in my body"; in such situations continue to cling to Jesus. You might be wondering, "How do I grow my spiritual gifts?" "How do I grow in ministry?" "How do I start a ministry?" "How do I know if God has called me to this job or to that study?" in such situations continue to cling to Jesus. There is no secret, there are no gimmicks, there is no 12-step method. You just have to cling to Him and out of that what you need will be solved.

Let me give you an illustration. If I were to stack wine glasses on top of each other in a pyramid shape, which glass would I need to fill first if I wanted it to affect all the other glasses? Well, of course I would have to fill the top glass, and in filling the top glass, that top glass would overflow

and fill all the wine glasses below it. All those lower glasses can represent different things in your life, like finances, marriage, relationship with children, friendships, ministry responsibilities, work, career, school, you name it. Some of us have a lot of these wine glasses stacked up (as it were) in our lives, with each glass representing a different aspect of our lives.

If we are not careful, we will try to first fill the marriage glass, or we will try to first fill time with our children arguing that of course we need to spend time with our spouse and with our children. Or we try to fill the financial glass, we try to fill the career glass, we try to fill the academic glass, the emotional glass and so on. We try to fill all these glasses but the problem is, we run out before we can fill them all. The only way to effectively fill all of them is to start with the top glass. And that top glass is prayer, time with the Lord, time in His presence, clinging on to Him.

However, if you make the decision to fill that top glass first, it begins to trickle over into all the other glasses of your life. You don't have to worry about the other glasses, it will just flow to them. It will come naturally and will be solved. That doesn't mean you don't have to work on them, or you don't have to think about them, but it is so much easier to fill all the other glasses if you start with the top glass first. Don't be chaotic about pouring in all these different areas but pour on that first one and it will overflow to the rest. So number four is about clinging to Jesus like your life depends on it because it does.

5. Stay in the Word

For us to sustain the fire of the Holy Spirit, we need to read God's word daily. I can't stress this enough. But we are often distracted when we try to read the Word. Your flesh will fight you the hardest when you pray, but the devil will fight you the hardest when you go to read the word. The flesh is defeated by prayer while the devil is overcome by the Word. So, your flesh will struggle when you go to pray, but the enemy will assault you when you go to read the word. But remember what Hebrews 4:12 says.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The word of God is your first line of defence, because without the word you don't know what to pray, you don't know what you can pray, you don't know your authority to pray. Without the word there is no fuel for your prayer life, there is no revelation for your prayer life. This is why for many of us, our prayers are so short and weak.

The word is where it begins. I am not just talking about reading 'The Verse Of The Day' or watching a reel from some Instagram page. I am talking about being solely devoted to the word in such a way that you know it in and out. We as believers have to know the word. People of God, we have to know the word. Sadly, some of the atheists and Muslims know the Bible better than many Christians.

How do we combat this? It is through daily discipline in the reading and studying of the word, and discipline really is a choice that we have to make. It is not going to come through someone else laying hands on you or someone else doing it for you and it is like we are trying to eat spiritual food through others. Yes, we need to go to church to hear the word, but you need to take in the word for

yourself. There needs to be a discipline where you are reading the word on a daily basis, consuming it and not skipping the parts that you think are boring.

Think about the martyrs, those who lost their lives smuggling Bibles to the nations that severely persecuted the Christians. They would lay down their lives again if it meant that more people could have a Bible. Think about how in some parts of the world they can't even have a Bible where it is even illegal to own a Bible. Why? Because there is such power in God's word, and the devil does not like it. Yet those of us who can freely own and read Bibles just kind of skip portions of the word simply because we do not like those particular portions that we have read. Yet for those part that we so blithely discard, the people in countries where Bibles are not allowed would be moved to tears if they could just read the Bible in its entirety. There are some believers in the world who would be moved to tears if they could have a page of the Bible that we so carelessly neglect and which we discard as being boring. For instance, we might find genealogies boring but believe it or not there is power in understanding genealogies, because you can see that Jesus came from the promise God made with Abraham and king David. His word will never fail. There is power in knowing Biblical history. There is power in knowing what the old Law was like, indeed, we should know it in and out, from beginning to the end, from Genesis to Revelation.

We should understand the concepts about the covenants, grace, faith, and salvation. We should understand the record of the people moving from Genesis, from creation, all the way down to the Messiah. We should understand what the great Fathers of old had to go to and experience. We should understand what the prophets had to face. We should understand what David was communicating, and what other writers in the Book of Psalms were communicating. We should understand the word deeply, not just know it a little bit. We as believers should know the Bible better than any other people groups on the earth, yet we don't even read it.

I am not saying this to condemn you. I am saying this to call you to something more. This is not just something that we can laugh off and say, "Oh yeah." Have you read your Bible? "Oh, it has been a while." Or "Haha, no." Why do we laugh these things off as if it is not a big deal when in reality the Word is the very substance of your spiritual life.

Psalm 1:1-3

¹Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
 or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
²but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
 and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.

Here we see that if someone is in the word and meditates on the word, they prosper in every season. You need to read God's word if you want to prosper spiritually or naturally. There should be no season where we cannot bear fruit if we abide in His word, that is supernatural.

Matthew 7:24-27 ²⁴“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

People of God, please listen to me, a storm is coming. If we are not careful, if we are not attentive to the word, when difficult times come, we as a “House”, spiritually speaking, will collapse.

You think COVID was something? We haven't seen anything yet. You think government's control on your life is a little over right now? We haven't seen anything yet. You think the world hates the church now? We haven't seen anything yet. If we are not in the word, we are at risk for falling away. If we are not in the word, we are at risk for collapsing under the weight of the storm, and the storm is coming.

Get into the word; I say this with all love. I am pleading with you. Get into the word and don't just read it, but get to know it, know it so well that you can quote it. Know it so well that you can even explain it to a child, know the word. That is what is going to keep you strong. That is what is going to sustain you in difficult times. When chaos comes and it will come, will you be able to keep standing?

What have you built your house upon? What have you built your life upon? You can't say you are building your life upon the word if you are not in the word. You can't say you are building your life upon the words of Jesus if you don't even know what He said. If you are building your life upon the word, then the word is not just something you occasionally read or when a preacher reads it. If you are living by the word, then it is a part of your lifestyle. You are consuming it constantly.

You need to find the time for it and if you don't have time for the word, you need to rearrange your entire schedule. Yes, it is that important. If you say you are too busy, you need to rearrange your entire schedule to fit the word in. You need to build your schedule around the word, and your time with the Lord, then let everything else have a place afterward. Fill that top glass first, get in the word and stay in the word if you want to stay on fire.

So, today I have mentioned two aspects that we need to do if we want to keep the fire going in our life. One is cling to Jesus, pray in all situation, pray as your life depends on it, and let Him be every part and every minute of your life. The other is, to stay in the word, to read God's word regardless of whether you want to read it or not, because it is your first line of defence. Let your life build around your time with God. Let God's word fills your mind and your life. Let God's word be your life's foundation, your guide, so that you can stand firm when the storm of your life or storm of the world comes upon us.