



# Keep the Fire of your Prayer Life Burning!



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## Scripture

*Deuteronomy 8: 3 The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.*

## Observation:

- 1. Fire has been regarded as an instrument of service to man.** Domestically used for cooking, heating, and lighting. Abraham ordered Sarah to bake cakes for his angelic guests (Gen. 18:6)
- 2. Fire is regarded as an instrument of destruction by man.** Fire was employed as man's ultimate means of destroying property and people. For instance, in the conquest of Canaan, Joshua and the Israelite army burned the cities of Jericho. *Joshua 6:24 - But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire.*
- 3. Fire is regarded as a symbol of divine punishment.** The metaphorical meaning of fire as the earth of God is used abundantly throughout the Bible. **God's wrath, like fire, was both purifying and punitive.** As in cooking fire destroys the harmful enzymes, making food more edible and tasty, and in smelting it burns out the dross and refines the metal for use, **so God's wrath conditions man for better use.** His wrath is poured out like fire - *Nahum 1:6 - Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.*
- 4. Fire is regarded as an emblem of divine presence.** Though literal fire is a natural phenomenon, it has a quality of misery, a factor invariably associated with deity. consequently, it was an emblem of divine presence to the Hebrews:
  - a) Abraham making sacrifice - Genesis 15: 17 - And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.**



**b) Fire was an emblem of divine presence to Moses in the burning bush - *Exodus 3: 2b* - So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.**

**c) Elijah called down fire to consume two contingents of soldiers - *2 kings 1: 910* - Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!' " So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.**

**d) There are singular instances of divine fire consuming sacrifices offered by Aaron - *Leviticus 9:24*-and fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.**

To night, I will be speaking of the subject of keeping the fire of your prayer life burning in line with fire as an emblem of God's presence.

## **Question: How do we keep the fire of our prayer life burning?**

It is very important to know what it is needed to make a fire:

1. Purpose
2. Motivation
3. Place
4. Wood
5. Matches
6. Wind
7. Continuation

1. **PURPOSE: Is there a need for God in your life?** We are incomplete without God. We are useless without Him, we are considered paralyzed without God. ***John 15: 5*** - *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
2. **Deuteronomy 8:3** - "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.



2. **MOTIVATION: Are you hungry for God?** Do you know that going to the kitchen to prepare a meal is a sign of being hungry? And the only way to quench that hunger is for you to make a meal. At this time, we can say that there is a real purpose of you starting a fire or switching on your stove. *The desire to worship God, or to see His glory and His protection in your life, will give you a passion for starting a fire of prayer in your life. **Deuteronomy 8:3** - "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.*
3. **PLACE: Do you have a fire place in your life? or have you build one already?** Do you have a spiritual kitchen? Do you have an altar in your life? Do you have that secret place where? *It is always easier to start a fire to a permanent place, rather than keep changing stations every season. You must know that a new fireplace takes time to sustain and maintain your fire. **Luke 5:16** - But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. **Mark 1: 35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*
4. **WOOD: How is the condition of your wood?** As you don't carry stove in the wilderness to start a fire. Is there any humility in your spiritual woods? (heart) - are you carrying a wet wood to start fire? You can have smoke but not fire. Are you a wet wood? Unless the word of God penetrates your heart, you cannot be dry spiritually to start a fire that will last longer. ***Proverbs 27:17** - "Iron sharpens Iron, so one man sharpens another" - The reason you are not catching fire because you always bring woods that are wet in worship service, in your closet, in the prayer meeting, and you don't cry for God's repentance. May your heart be right before God and allow His word to cleanse you. **Psalms 51:10** David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me.*
5. **MATCHES: Do we have faith in God?** Do we come before God by faith and expecting that He will meet us at our point of need? *The condition may not be conducive, but you can trust God who will bring fire in the heart of believers. **1 Kings 18 : 38** - Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.* Don't look at the circumstance or condition of the lieu, trust God who can bring strange fire to consume anything that is preventing you to shine as a light. *Having and knowing Christ is a sign of night fire and shining in your life.*
6. **WIND: Do you know that you cannot start a fire if no wind sustains that fire?** Is there a sign of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in your life? Holy Spirit was a vital role that brought revival in the early church. So be in Citywide Christ Church and the presence of all believers. ***Acts 2: 1-4** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a*



Keep the fire of prayer life burning Sunday, December 15, 2019

*sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

7. **CONTINUATION : Don't start a fire that you cannot maintain.** Don't buy a car that you can't maintain. God's anointing, if not under divine control can bring a disaster in your own life. That is why it is recommended some sense of maturity and responsibility. **Luke 9: 51-56** - *A Samaritan village rejects the saviour - Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"* But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

## Remember that:

**1 Thessalonians 1: 7** - *This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.*

### Keep the **Fire** of your **Prayer Life Burning!**

**Deuteronomy 8: 3** *The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.*

### Watch over things that destroy the fire of prayer in your life:

Loving the World, neglecting the word, Trusting your feelings, worrying, hanging with wrong crowd, Relying on self, Refusing to hope

### Prayer:

1. **Purpose:** Need of knowing God in your life "without Him we can do nothing"
2. **Motivation:** Depending on God (craving for His glory, protection, power, etc.)
3. **Place:** Have a habit - *Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer*
4. **Wood:** Keep your heart warm - renewing of your mind with the mind of Christ
5. **Matches:** Having faith by keeping Christ in crises
6. **Wind:** Position yourself where the wind (Holy Spirit) will vent in your prayer life
7. **Continuation:** Self-control or discipline is the key to mature in your Christian life