

what John says here. What does fire do?

I For one thing, fire reveals. *→ Cause us to Remember* There is nothing in the world that reveals like fire. If I put a piece of metal like gold,—there is one way of finding out whether it is gold or not. Put it in the fire. Some people can make the final test of diamonds, by putting them in the fire, to the fire test. Perhaps I might ruin a diamond by putting it in the fire, but there are those who can test a diamond by fire. It brings out the real qualities.

Fire is a revealing thing. I Cor. 3:13. In the coming day of Christ, the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is...what Christ will do when he comes, the Holy Spirit does today with the individual. The Holy Spirit is revealing to you yourself, and when Jesus comes, he is going to reveal your works as to what kind they are.

Now John said, he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. And if you think about this text, you cannot help but be convinced and believe in your heart that this is earnestly what you need and what I need. And if we pray for this, and if we yearn for this, and if we're given this, what will take place?

your heavenly father
Feb 4:5-21
THE VIRTUE OF FIRE

Intro: Matt. 3:11

Mistaken idea of True Power
(1) Holy Spirit
(2) Holy Word
(3) Holy Life
(4) Social intercourse
(5) Knowledge - ... not true
(6) Political - no fuel
His baptism is water baptism but the coming one will

baptize in the Holy Spirit and fire. Life in the coming age is in the (sphere) of the spirit. Spirit and fire are coupled with one preposition as a double baptism. (Broadus) takes fire in the sense of separation, like the use of the fan. As the humblest of servants, John (felt unworthy) to take off the sandals of the coming one, and he illustrates in verse twelve how that the fan is used to separate, and the fire will burn up with unquenchable thirst the threshing floor, the wheat, the chaff, the straw, the stubble,—the fire will furnish a (life-like picture). The fire here is probably judgment, by and at the coming of the Messiah, just as in verse 11, he will thoroughly cleanse, He will (sweep) from side to side and will make clean.

We read in (Isaiah 4:4) when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment and the (spirit of burning). Here we know that the (spirit) is symbolic of fire and of burning.

The (spirit of judgment) is also given here in John 16: 8-11. "When the comforter is come, he will reprove the world of sin and righteousness and of judgment." Those three things, -- The Holy Spirit will do, John says, when he comes, and one is that of judgment. Who would deny this?

The Holy Spirit (convicts of sin) You and I can never convict people of sin. For the (heart is deceitful) above all things and desperately wicked. And about as hopeless a thing as anybody ever attempted to do was to try to convince someone else that he's a sinner before God. You just cannot do it. (God does not ask us to do it, or depend upon us to do it, but there is one who can do it, and that is the spirit of judgment,--the Holy Spirit.

It's simply (marvelous) as we think that in one (moment) the Holy Spirit can come to an unregenerated soul, whatever the sin, and overwhelm him with the sense of sinfulness before God, and cause him to cry out for mercy from God. That is what we (need in our churches) today. We need to cease in trying on our part to try to convince men and convict men, but we need to count upon the Holy Spirit who can convince men of sin and of the need of righteousness and of the judgment to come. We need to pray for

that sort of conviction in our church. Time and time again we have (known of individuals) who have been worldly, but when the Spirit takes a hold, that individuals sobs, and he is miserable, he has never felt that way in all his life, and he does not know what's the matter with him, he can't tell you, but the Spirit of God can convince him of sin.

The Spirit of God is not only that to convince of sin and of righteousness, and of judgment to come, but John says here that it is (like a fire.) Matt 3:11. And we might connect this verse with (Acts 2:3) where we read, "There appeared unto them cloven tongues, as of fire."

Time and time again we have this mentioned as in (II Tim. 1:6.) We are told to stir up the gift of God that is in us. This stir up means to stir up into a flame, the gift that is in us. In other words, the Holy Spirit is a fire in the soul that receives him, and what we need to do with the fire is to stir it up, to keep it going.

Through study and thinking through this subject, (what does fire do, anyway?) What does fire do? Think about

Spirit. God has ways of cleansing and of purging out that which is wrong and evil. Look at (Gen. 19:24.) The Lord rained upon (Sodom and Gomorrah) brimstone and fire... these two wicked cities were evil and full of iniquities...there was guilt...the multitudes were doing evil. All kinds of injustices.. (Isaiah) wrote about them, we say that the way of peace, the sodomites knew not. There was no judgment in their doings, they made themselves crooked paths, and all who were therein knew not peace... their transgressions were multiplied before God. Judgment was turned away backward...justice stood afar off, and truth was crushed in the streets. They had cast off God's altar and none that did good. They were busy, and God saw it and it displeased him. There were all kinds of crimes, 10's of thousands of crimes, --uncleanness. (Jude) spoke of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them as giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh. God told (Lot) to hasten, to get out, to run, and not to tarry, and that is God's message to you. (Acquaint now thyself with him...behold, now is the accepted time, come now, let us reason together) God told him not to look behind. God's demands are to be obeyed. He was (purging) those cities of sin. With fire he purged them. Read Malachi 3:10

Why of course, it will be a revelation, revealing as fire reveals, as you have never even dreamed of. You will see (yourself) full of vanity, personal ambition, pride, and I self-centered. It will be with you if you receive the Holy Spirit, as the _____, he will give you a revelation of self that will truly be humbling. It would be (better) for the Holy Spirit to reveal your character now than to wait until the day when the fire shall reveal your work, as to whether or not it is of hay or stubble, and it will go up into smoke.

Fire reveals. In (Exodus 3:1-2,) we read that the Lord appeared to (Moses) in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush, and as he looked, the bush burned with fire, and it was not consumed. Here was a (revelation) -- This fire revealed unto Moses. The burning bush revealed the task to Moses, and the truth that God wanted him to lead his people. It was also a revelation of the type of the church as persecution, for we remember that the church is illustrated through this, how that it will go through persecution, and how that it will be able to stand all of these trials. It illustrated what (Jesus promised) that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. The (burning bush) is also a symbol, I think, of (every child) of God, in his fiery trial.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
 My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply.
 The flames shall not hurt thee, I only design
 Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
 I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
 That soul though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
 I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.

Thus we see here an illustration of immortality, that
 he who doeth the will of God abideth forever.

2. Cleanses, or purifies

(Mal. 3:2)

There is nothing that cleanses like fire. If you have
 a piece of gold and there is dirt on the outside and you
 want to get rid of the dirt, then you can take soap and
water and wash, you might wipe it off, but suppose that
 dirt is in the very metal itself,--the only way to get
 it out is to through it into the fire. The same thing
 is (true) within your heart, the sin that is here on the
outer life, it may be easy for you to manage it. The

water of the word will wash it off, without any trouble.
 But what about that which is (deep down) in the soul,--that
inner life. The power of the Holy Spirit will refine in
 a moment more than all of the processes that you might
 apply for 100 years to come.

Up to the day of (Pentecost), how full they were of self-
seeking. Up to the (Last Supper), there was quarreling about
 who was going to be the greatest, and not one of them would
 wash anyone else's feet. (Peter) said, I am the one of whom
 the master said, upon thee I will build my church. (John)
could say, we are his cousins. Judas could say, I take care
 of the money in this concern. And no one would wash anyone's
 feet until the Lord had to gird himself with a towel and go
 around, and do it himself. They were all full of self, but
after Pentecost, it was (not self, but Christ). Before the
crucifixion, and before the resurrection, how many powers
 there were. Peter denied his Lord three times, and yet
 we read in Acts 4:8-10 that he was a changed man...he stood
 before the counsel that condemned Christ to death, and
 looked them in the face and said, "ye rulers of the people
 and elders of Israel, if we this day be examined of the
good deeds done" and he went on to proclaim Christ to
 them. (What had changed him?) It was the cleansing of the

sun, giving them a shade all day long, so that the scorching sun never touched them, in all that time. The (point) we are making is, that this light illuminates. And the Holy Spirit in like manner, illuminates the darkness and makes it light for us. It dispels the darkness and gives us protection in the day. It gives us light.

Another illustration as to how the fire illuminates. We could go with the ~~three~~ (Hebrew children) into the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar, and we could see how the fire lighted up and illuminated those three Christian men who were walking through that fire.

5. [Warmed] Comfort Time of Snow.

Fire is something that gives heat, it warms...an open fire scene...you may see here warmth and comfort from the fire. You put a piece of metal in fire and it it not long before it is hot. You can take a cold bar of iron, and put it into an oven, a furnace, and it will get bright red, it will glow, it will warm up.

Now when we think about how (cold) we are by nature, ---but when Jesus comes in and he plunges us into the fire that John talks about, we began to grow warm.

God can put in you a fervent spirit, and it will be a (boiling spirit) and if it is to boil, it must be near the fire. (How shall we obtain the burning heart?) (Jeremiah) said it was God's word that did it, and it was Jesus expounding the scriptures that did it. And this strange fire is not the kind of fire that Nadab offered. Instead it is supernatural. It is not the (false fire) that Isaiah 50:11 speaks, behold all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourself about with sparks, walk in the light of your fire. Ye shall lie down in sorrow.' So there is a divine fire which is the gift of God, and this fire will come and purge out and cleanse your life.

Some people spend the 1st six days each wk. sowing wild oats then go to church on sun. & pray for crop failure - stop flirtation with sin.

3. [Consume - Fire consumes]

In (Ezekiel 24:9-11) Jerusalem is compared to a cauldron put into a hot fire upon sinfulness in a consuming way. So it is with us...the fire of the (Holy Spirit consumes) those things within us which are displeasing to God, such as vanity, pride, temper, personal ambition, uncleanness of all kinds, boisterousness, headstrongness, wild, high-minded, everything that would (hinder and hamper a Christian) the Holy Spirit will consume and burn it out of your life.

You will find that this fire will consume (I Kings 18:38)
"Then the fire of the Lord fell...and licked up the water
that was in the trench."

4. Illuminates

Teach us the Will of God

Fire is something that (gives light)..it burns brightly.
In (John 5:35) it (says of John) he was a burning and shining
light. He was a lamp that burneth and shineth, shineth
because it burned. Every bit of light in the world comes
from fire. The light that we have in our homes, is that
which is produced from fire, electricity, and the Holy
Ghost illuminates, and certainly this fire of the Holy
Spirit coming into your life will give you light to live
and to guide you by.

There are (many people) today who admit if somebody should
ask them this morning what they think about the Bible, they
would say it's the dullest book they've ever read. Now I'm
not speaking in a bad way about the Bible, but I'm pointing
out to you that there are some people today who think that
the Bible is a dull book. You read it because you have to.
Some of you study a little passage because you have to,
and some of you would prefer to read trashy novels, and

some of you would prefer to read such things as Life maga-
zine or the funny paper, than to read the Bible, but when
you have this fire, the Holy Spirit, (then every page of
God's book will shine with his glory and with new light
for you. The Holy Spirit lights up.

It is very much like the (pillar of clouds) that went
before them in the daytime, and the pillar of fire that
traveled by night. When they started out from Egypt on
the night of the (passover) the night the firstborn was
slain, there appeared a great fire column, and its position
was just over Moses, the place it occupied until the
tabernacle was built. And when the tabernacle was built
the natural position of the cloud by day and the fire
by night was over the tabernacle. When they were moving,
Temples filled - church firstborn of S. came
if that cloud stopped, everyone stopped. The next day,
if the cloud started the people got ready and followed
after it. In the nighttime that cloud was a great column
light, brighter than any electric light now to be seen
in our big cities. It illuminated the (entire camp) so
that (no night ever touched them in the 40 years) As soon
as the day came and the sun rose, then the fire became
a cloud and spread over them and kept between them and the

flowed together. So it is when the spirit of God works in a man's heart. It consumes and it warms his soul. It communicates to him a warmth within, and such also is the effect of the Holy Spirit upon the soul. The heart of man is by nature cold,—cold toward God, cold toward his fellow creatures, but this has an effect and an influence of doing

away with this chilling influence and giving him warmth,

C.H. Spurgeon Fond of De Story, some children being taught Epistles and real sincerity in his soul. Each child requested a clause, thus they proceeded through the Creed - I believe in God the Father - Jesus Christ - The Holy Spirit - equal the one day minutes came to class room of cold children request the Lord for him - Richard Rouse - who wrote a little book replied "Please see, the boy that believes in the Holy Spirit is not like a fool" 4.5 - last chord & little known of his work in hearts - How much -

Power to: Preach - Pray - Praise - Witness -

6. Generates energy

Fire, the man of science will tell us, gives heat, and it can generate forms of energy through this heat. The (cloven tongues) like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them on the day of Pentecost. And then there was power, 3,000 souls were saved that day. It generates energy and power.

And where the (spirit is lacking), the (power is lacking) as at the feast of Cana, they ran out of wine...we have a feast of good things, good teaching, good preaching, good churches, and all of that a super abundance, but there's a lack of spiritual power...this spiritual wine

And then we get hot with the love of God and the love for perishing men. It is one of the (greatest needs of the church today)...for me in the pulpit that glow and are warm, for men and women who sit in the pews to be warm, and aglow. What (cold things) we are sometimes. We stand up and preach with faultless sentences and we give logic and we construct arguments, we preach on solemn scenes, on heaven and hell and judgment, and our congregations and our audiences just sit out there and admire, and go away saying what a remarkable sermon that was. We are convinced that intellect may be there, but that does not melt the heart. We must have a fire of the Holy Spirit, that people may be melted, and there will be warmth in their hearts and in their souls.

That is what we need in our (choir)...one goes and listens to some singing, it's beautiful, from every standpoint, no one could ever find a flaw in it, and yet does it convey that warmth that will produce conversion? Do we just listen to hear music? What beautiful singing! Does it bring us to our knees and cause us to cry out to God for mercy?

That is what we need in our (Sunday School) classes. We have many helps today in preparing the lesson. The teachers know about theology and the historical setting, and they

know a great deal about why this is so and why that is not so, but where is the fire, where is this fire that warms, this old fashioned teaching that will bring a glow and warmth to the scholars and those who listen that will bring them to Christ. Do our pupils go away as the disciples on the road to (Emmaus) saying, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" They had warm hearts. Now we've got orthodoxy, but in our Christian experience we need this burning. A man may have a lot in his head, but he may have a cold heart, it may not be warm. Someone has said some churches are (frozen) together when they should be (melted) together. We have plenty of orthodoxy, plenty of teaching, plenty of activity, plenty of the abundance of the good things in our midst. We agree that we are slow to search and to seek and to open for the feeling and the endowment of it.

Some of us are so afraid of getting out on a limb that we never get up the tree on this business of getting warm spiritually as the Holy Spirit would furnish the fire for it.

Let us keep firmly in mind now that this fire has a (purifying influence). Did you ever see a blast furnace. How long would it take a man to take a hammer and a

chisel, and to beat a piece of iron into pieces? But you can put that piece of iron in that great silner and pile the fire and soon it is a burning mass, and a great stream of pure and fluid metal which will be free from all of the dross and rubbish parted. The fire has conquered it and melted it and purified it. So it is with the Holy Spirit as his love is shed abroad in our hearts. All other cleansing is superficial, like the water of (John's baptism) -- Moralities and the externals of religion will wash away the foulness which lies on the surface, but stains that have sunk deep in the very substance of the soul and have dyed every thread in the garment are not so easy to get rid of.

Therefore this consuming fire... did you ever watch the work of (fire on a huge building?) You had the privilege of seeing the fire work in some of these old houses on Liberty Street. As they were burning them the fire was certainly consuming, and in the midst of rubble, you could see buildings going down and melting just in a matter of 5 or 10 minutes. That's the (Holy Spirit's work) -- consuming in the midst of our sins and habits and melting down, and you might examine the bolts and the bars and the plumbing and the works that fire has achieved. All these things have

Back of the Body - Bloomer - just put away

7. Spreads

It doesn't take long before fire spreads out and takes what ever is next to it, --influence...whatever is next to it it will have some influence upon it. You remember in 1872 in (Chicago) and a little oil lamp or lantern with a flickering flame...and the cow kicked it over and it caught the some hay, then it caught the stable afire and the next building and the next, and the fire spread over the main part of Chicago, until all that around for three miles, not a building stood. Just a little flame, a little fire from one little lantern, and you set it on fire and it communicates with the next, and the next, and the next, and the Bible says he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire, and it spreads, it goes to the next and the next, it'll spread as it moves through the church...one individual on fire and it will spread to the next. Oh that we could get some fire started...some coals burning. a movement that would touch other lives.

And (how gentle) this comes about. This fire will spread very gently from one place to another.. It reminds me of a (greenhouse) You know these huge greenhouses. They put heat in them and this heat will make even the barren tree

that we need so desperately. All is vain, unless the spirit... "It is not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6 This is the (plight) of many of our churches. It is summarized in the (words spoken to Jesus) by the father who sought to get help for his son, from the disciples at the foot of the mount of transfiguration, "I besought thy disciples to cast him out and they could not." We are powerless, they said, we cannot do it, we have the equipment, we have the program, we have the activities, but I wonder if churches are doing more or doing less. Do we have the fire?

Never have we stretched (so much wire) out with less power in it. All of this is vain unless the spirit of the holy one comes down...and do we have this power. If He (ceased His work), many church members would never know the difference. Many church members today would never know the difference. (Like Samson), he wist not that the Lord's Spirit had departed from him. What a revelation it was.

It is the same revelation of the (church at Ephesus) It was loveless and didn't know it. The the (church at Sardis) was lifeless and didn't know it. The church at (Laodicea)

was lukewarm and didn't know it. I wonder if we do not need to do a little (defrosting) on some of our church members. The only thing that can (stop Niagara) is for it to freeze. The same trouble stops a church. We freeze up. Now when we think about Samson, there was a time when the spirit was with him. It is stated that the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, & He had nothing in his hand. Perhaps we have (too many things) in our hands today of our own choosing. It was the invisible weapon in Samson's case. It was also the same with (Gideon) God wanted something weak in his hand. It is not by might or by power. We cannot meet the (Goliath) of our age in Saul's armor. We are afraid to prove God. And we (borrow the world's program of pep and propaganda) and we cannot borrow power. The power that works the works of God is different from that of the world. And we (try to develop) that same go get-um salesmanship in our church, and instead of getting on our knees and talking it over with God and letting his Spirit work.

We need to be (convicted) enough to know our (need) We need to be (humble) enough to (acknowledge) it. And we need to be (desperate) enough to (lay hold) upon this spiritual need which we have. The Spirit generates heat for us, and

energy. For illustration, take a (great factory) --this factory may have the best machinery, for turning out whatever it produces...someone may show you the great 100hp engines, that will turn the wheels of the factory, you may go upstairs and look at the fine machinery, and you may say to the man, did you say that this was the best machinery in the country, producing what, what do you turn out here? Then the man may tell you all about it, and say everything is all in here, the wheels ought to move, o, what's wrong? And then he will take you back downstairs, and into the engine rooms, and he will open the door, and he will say, look in there, there is the explanation, --no fire in the (firebox). Well, we could go to many of our (churches) beautiful, grand organ, matchless choirs, eloquent preaching, speaking like Appollos, the machinery is all of the best, but not a wheel in the whole institution will turn for God. What is the matter? No fire in the firebox. We need this fire of God, as individuals and as a church. We need the spirit of burning which can generate in us this energy which we so desperately need. Fire produces or generates energy..

God sends H.S. Comfort & Counsel you of sin
" " " Draw your mind to concern for your soul -

Some Day get your last call from the Spirit, a limit, a dead line, & Spirit go away for ever.

Gen 6: "My Spirit will not always strive with men"

Wor. 4:17 "Ephraim is joined to his idol, let him alone"

John 12:39 "Something had made it impossible for these people to believe"

Hebrews 10:26 "They could not repent. There was no need for further sacrifice."

If you oppose God & ashamed of Jesus - go against Spiritual Knowledge - willfully reject His invitation - spirit will withdraw.

No need pray for you, seared conscience, deprived of all enlightenment

If you gain a few more victories over sin - the more prayers, pleading of the minister & the patient Holy Spirit - it may cost you, your soul.

If there is a spark of desire there is hope tonight - follow every prompting toward heaven -
" " Whisper to H.S.

Reason to believe H.S. striving with some here tonight! calling some Bachelors - some don't to fill.

While God's Spirit pleads & than friends pray
will you come - 30. Nov. - Feb. 23, 64 P.M. (lead)
Plaza Nov. 29, 62 (Prayer meeting)
Kingsville April 5, 1961
S. Nov. - Jan 15, 61 A.M.

grow with blossoms, and with branches, and with precious fruit. The fire is able to do that, to produce fruit, and to bring about that change...quietly, gently, the fire brings all the heat which spreads its usefulness to the plant.

8. Penetrates

Fire penetrates. It will search out and go through the hardest piece of metal. Even individuals here this morning who say, "I could never be one on fire as you've been talking about this morning."

Who can have it? Everyone of us. You say, I'm unworthy. Is there anything that is not unworthy? The great pinpoint in anybody's life can be when he faces his text here, and you can know that you can be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and God can use you, and with fire, it says. Now there are lots of people who (lack) this fire, and O God, how we need this fire today, this love, the world is perishing for lack of this love of Jesus. In the upper room, the disciples got it while they were sitting. We sometimes have the impression that it was while they were on their knees. It says, "And it filled all the house where they were sitting."

and there appeared cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them."

It seems to me that this fire today is brooding over every person here today. Do you want it? It will burn. Do you want it? It will cost. It will cost you something. It's very expensive. It's one of the most expensive things in all the world, for a man to be completely dedicated to the spirit of God, and the fire. It may carry him overseas as a missionary. It may cost him if he has it.

9. Irresistible

Fire is an irresistible...it moves...it touches, and somehow God's spirit (today is touching hearts) here, and it's an irresistible force at its coming...and it may be sudden. You may (not expect) it to touch your life today. I remember reading the story of (Whitfield) who was preaching. And he was talking about something that had happened 1800 years ago in his sermon. And a man and his wife were there and the man said to his wife, "Come on, we will not stop here any longer. He is talking about something that happened more than 1800 years ago. What is that to us." But they were fascinated...the truth of God came to their

hearts, and when they were home they took down the Bible, and said, is it possible that these old truths have been here so long and we have not known it. And it was in a flash that God's Spirit touched both of their lives and they were saved. The Spirit's coming (suddenly) and over-whelmingly upon them. So it is with God's Spirit. It is an irresistible force that moves, and people need to open the way and let that spirit possess them.

10. May Be Quenched 1 Thess. 5:19

"Do not quench, suppress, or subdue the Holy Spirit"
Service of a X-tian becomes a burden - a struggle when quenched spirit.

Eph. 4:30: Do not grieve the H.S. of God, do not offend or vex, or sadden Him by whom you were sealed, marked, branded as God's own, secured for the day of redemption -

Spirit of the living God FALL Fresh ON Me
"Break Me, Melt Me, Mould me, Fill Me -
Spirit of the Living God FALL Fresh ON Me!

X-tian The H.S. wants to use you, the inflamed of your life -

NON-X-tian - H.S. Calls you - don't reject his call -

"Blasphemy against the H.S. never forgiven" Matt. 12:31