

Set Me On Fire Once More

Summary: Today we are going to talk about **3 sources of fire that God will bring into believers lives!**

- It will drive us to our knees, provoke us to much prayer -
- It will reignite our spiritual fervor.
- Fire from the word, the world, and within.

Set Me on Fire Once More - In the early 1980's there was a chorus popular in the United States and here are the lyrics:

SET ME ON FIRE - ONCE MORE - I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE TO PLEASE YOU - IN EVERY WAY - SET ME ON FIRE - ONCE MORE - SO THAT THE WORLD CAN WATCH ME BURN FOR YOU.

In the words of that song is the **heartfelt prayer of believer** who has lost his cutting edge and yearns to shine for Jesus once again.

IN Ephesians 5:16 NKJV - redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Colossians 4:5 NKJV - Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.

- We are told we need to redeem time....
- That means, make the life you are living **valuable as it pertains to eternity.**
- Currently half the world is in lock down because of the Corona virus.

So today: I want to talk about **how this time can be redeemed.**

How it can be valuable in the light of eternity -

- I am going to put **a slight twist** on this message though,
- I want to talk about what God's purpose may be, during this crisis -
- And **how we can work together** with Him to redeem the time.

I want to talk about **reigniting your spiritual fire**, your *fervor*, your *illumination* for Christ.

There are times in our journey where we may be described as **spiritually stagnating**.

I want to show how **God uses trials** like Covid19 **to shake us out** of **the spiritual doldrums**.

Jesus said, John 7:38 NKJV - He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

What happens when the river is not flowing, when things are at a standstill?

- May I suggest to you that **one strategy** God employs **is to light a fire under us**, and **boil the water out** of us.
- I know this is a **crude analogy**, but work with me **we are going somewhere good**.

Today we are going to talk about **3 sources of fire** that God will bring into believers lives. **They are:**

Fire from the word of God - Fire from **the world** - Fire **from within!!!**

1st - ***FIRE FROM THE WORD OF GOD*** - What I mean by that:

There are some things **in the bible** that **as we read them** it creates **an intense longing and desire** to burn for Jesus.

I have **3 fires** that **come from the word of God** to provoke us **in a Holy way**.

A. **The fire of what The Word** says I ought to be

- I ought to be **a city on a hill**.
- I ought to be **the light of the world**.
- I ought to be **bearing much fruit**.
- I ought to be **Holy** even as my Father in heaven is holy.

These statements and many others **tell us what we ought to be**, they are a standard by which **we can judge our lives**.

Comparing ourselves to these standards will often drive us to our knees and cry out like Isaiah the prophet –

Isaiah 6:5 NKJV - ⁵ So I said:

“Woe is me, for I am ^[a]undone! (*destroyed or cut off*)

Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”

The fire of not fully meeting what the bible calls us to be -

- Will Attract the grace of God to us, as we admit our shortcomings.
- When I recognize I am weak is when I can become strong.
- For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor. 12:10

****So, first was the fire of what the word says I ought to be.*

B. The fire of *what the word says others have had, and how they have lived.*

As a young Christian I was very inspired by this quote of American evangelist D.L. Moody: *“The world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to Him”*

- Oh how that challenged me to be that kind of man!

As I look in the bible and read of Abraham, and David, Noah, Paul, and not just the big names who did great things for God.

But much lesser names like Zacchaeus who was radically shaken by an encounter with Jesus and gladly gave up half his goods.

The sinner woman who poured perfume on Jesus feet.

The man who without question gave up his donkey when Jesus asked.

People who have displayed the highest caliber of Christian graces, their lives and testimony provoke me to be a better follower of Jesus.

When the word tells of the walk they had with God, it creates a fire in my soul to rise to the heights with them.

C. The third fire from The Word is what the word says I have.

- I have the mind of Christ.
- I have the comforter to lead me into all truth.
- I have the whole armor of God

Ephesians 1:3 CEV - Christ Brings Spiritual Blessings

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!

- God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.
- As I compare the life I am living with all I have been provided -
- I am driven to my knees to pray -
- That I will walk in all that God has afforded me.

2nd – THE FIRE THAT COMES FROM THE WORLD

First we looked at things in the word that provoke us to prayer, now we will look at things in the world which provoke us to prayer.

A. The needs of the hour

- Is there a **famine**?
- Is there a **plague**?
- Is there a serious **economic turndown**?
- Is **immorality on the rise**?
- Is there a **war**?

The needs of the particular hour in which we live will vary, but they call to us and say, "**Christian, how will you help at this time?**"

Many of these challenges far exceed our ability to meet them, and that **should always drive us to our knees**.

The apostle **Paul once struggled with all the demands on him** as an early church leader, and in frustration cried out:

2 Corinthians 2:16 NKJV - ¹⁶To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading to* death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading to* life. **And who is sufficient for these things?**

A few short verses later he gave the answer to that question as the Holy Spirit inside bubbled up with a response:

2 Corinthians 3:5 NKJV - ⁵Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God,**

We don't have the right to claim that we have done anything on our own. God gives us what it takes to do all that we do.

B. The second fire from the world is: THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

- Sick people we meet.
- People going through a divorce.
- People coping with the death of loved ones.
- People who lose their source of income.
- People without food or homes.
- People who are depressed or suicidal.

All these needs of others demand that **the grace of God** be more powerful in our lives as believers.

- **These needs daily humble us** with **the inability to meet** many of them.
- But that **humility is the gateway** to **the grace of God.**
- For **whoever humbles himself** **will be exalted** and -
- **Whoever exalts himself** **will be humbled.**

C. The third fire from the world is: PERSONAL NEEDS

- Physical sickness/or pain.
- Transportation/clothing/shelter
- Finances

This area is probably the one most Christians pray the most about

- **Yet it is the one Jesus said we should care the least about -**

- Because **He will take care of our** earthly needs.
- Be that as it may,
- The fact that **these things get us on our knees** is a good thing.

3rd – THE FIRE THAT COMES FROM WITHIN

A. The fire of personal weaknesses

- Fear of public speaking
- Insecurities
- Lack of skills/training
- Emotional volatility

Again we should never accept to be stuck in these things:

- But let them drive us to our knees
- Where we will find grace and power to overcome.

B. The fire of personal failings

- **Sin**
- **We all fail and come short** in many ways -
- But **we cannot** allow ourselves to ever become comfortable with sin.
- **God has two words for sin,**
- And they are not, "I understand," they are, **"stop it!"**

Personal sin needs to be overcome in the prayer closet, by claiming what Jesus did on Calvary.

C. The fire of personal problems

- **Conflict** with others at home or on the job.
- **Stress** about bills and deadlines.
- **Fatigue.**
- **Troubled** relationships
- **Sickness.**

God uses all these things to provoke us and push us into the prayer closet **where we can be energized by His Spirit** to overcome in every area.

Close:

So in summary: God always wants to use trials to help us step up our game.

We are in a time where all three of these fires are coming against many people in the world,

But with the grace of God we can turn them around and make them work for good.

We can redeem the time, by praying until we have breakthrough.

Summary: So today we have talked about **3 sources of fire that God will bring into believers lives!**

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PRAISE TEAM:

Set Me on Fire Once More –

A.W. Tozer QUOTE – “A scared world needs a fearless church!”

Set Me on Fire Once More -

A FEARLESS CHURCH MUST SERVE A FEARLESS GOD!

Pray for those who are going through fiery trials.

- **Challenge the unsaved** that they need Christ more than ever before.
- **Reignite our fire, passion, and servanthood Lord!!!!**
- **Lord we turn now from our wicked ways...**
- **Hear from us Lord...**
- **Heal our Land Lord...**