

How To Keep The Fire Burning

Luke 24:32

Evangelist Doug Lowery



Leviticus 6:13 tells us about the fire on the Jewish altar: *“The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar, it shall never go out.”* This command was to the Levites who were in charge of the tabernacle. The fire had to always be burning so that burnt sacrifices could be offered at any time! There is no longer a Jewish altar because of the finished work of Christ. Now, the altar is our heart—and God’s love for us and our love for Him—is the flame!!

Too often in our Christians lives, our spiritual temperatures fluctuate. The fire of love for our Saviour may never be fully extinguished, but the fire is at a low intensity and the embers are losing their heat. Revivals/ camps/ special retreats—we get all “on fire” for God, but then a few weeks later it’s back to lukewarmness again!!!

Evangelist Gypsy Smith was speaking here in America at a large gathering of Christians when he was in his 80’s. During his sermon he preached with such passion, enthusiasm, and fervor, the audience would have guessed he was in his 20’s or 30’s. After the service a young pastor approached him and asked this elderly saint this question: “Brother Smith, I respectfully ask how you preach like you preached tonight at your age?!” Gypsy Smith’s reply was later turned into lyrics for a well-beloved Christian song: “Young man, I have never got over **the wonder of it all.**” The problem with too many believers is that they have gotten over it!

How can we keep a fervent flame for God burning in our hearts? From this wonderful account of a Resurrection Afternoon Walk with Jesus Christ, I am going to draw out—HOW TO KEEP THE FIRE BURNING.

In the passage before us (Luke 24:13-34, 46-49) we will see 4 ways to keep the fire burning and observe 4 holy flames.

PRAYER

1. **Keep Burning With A Heart Filled
With Communion With Your Savior** (Verse 32)

60 furlongs= about 7 miles (It would take 2 hours and 20 minutes to walk this at the pace of a 20 minute mile.)

❖ **The Fire Of Prayer** Illustration: 1 Kings 18:38, 39—Elijah on Mt. Carmel;

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.



❖ James 5:16b ...*"the effectual, fervent (red hot) prayer of a righteous man availeth (power to accomplish) much."* Anemic, emaciated Christians grow weak through a cold, lifeless or non-existent prayer life!

2. **Keep Burning With A Heart Filled
With Commitment To The Scriptures** (Verse 32) Also- verses 44 and 45



The Fire Of The Word Illustration: the Prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:9; 23:29) *9Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. 29Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*



God's Word was a burning fire in the soul of this weeping prophet—he was weary of all his persecution for preaching truth, to the point of forsaking all preaching; but, God's Word burned within him!

Mark it down—a Christian who neglects the Word of God on a continual basis is headed toward "lukewarmness"—which is nauseating to God. (Rev. 3:16)

3. Keep Burning With A Heart Filled With Compassion For Souls (Verses 33-35; 46-48)

- ❖ **The Fire Of Evangelism** Illustration: the 4 lepers coming across food left behind by the Syrians. Their countrymen were starving to death in Samaria, and they were hoarding their find and stuffing themselves! 2 Kings 7:5-9

5And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there.



"These lepers went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment."—2 Kings vii. 8.

6For the LORD had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

7Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life.

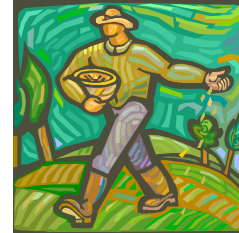
8And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it.

9Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

This, of course, is not a story about evangelism! It is a dramatic and unique story of God's protection and provision for His people, Israel. But, we can apply

what these four lepers said in verse 9 to the GOSPEL (good tidings) when we keep the Bread of Life to ourselves.

References on evangelism that should ignite our hearts: Matthew 9:36-38; Acts 20:31; Psalm 126:5- and 6 May we faithfully sow the Seed of God's Word in the hearts of those around us.



In another message I give 5 strong reasons why we Need Compassion and tears for the Lost:

- The Evil Condition of our Nation (and World)
- The Eternal Reality of Hell
- The Exemplary Lives of Men in God's Word
- The Effective Impact of Compassion
- The Explicit Promise of Scripture

1. Keep Burning With A Heart Filled With Communion With Your Savior THE FIRE OF PRAYER

2. Keep Burning With A Heart Filled With Commitment To The Scriptures THE FIRE OF THE WORD

3. Keep Burning With A Heart Filled With Compassion For Souls THE FIRE OF EVANGELISM

NOW, Last...

4. Keep Burning With A Heart Filled To Capacity With The Spirit (Verse 49)
 This verse makes reference to Acts 2—note the fire there! (vs. 1-4)

❖ **The Fire Of The Spirit** Ephesians 5:18

EMBLEMS (SYMBOLS) of the Holy Spirit:



Pastor John Harper was aboard the Titanic with his young daughter in April of 1912, headed for a speaking engagement at the Moody Memorial Church. This Scottish preacher—serving as a pastor in London—was known all over the British isles for his passion for the lost, his fervent witnessing, and his tender heart. Leaving England on Thursday, Brother Harper gave out hundreds of tracts on the Titanic through Sunday—and led several folks to Christ. Survivors testified that a Scottish preacher gave them the Gospel. When this “ship that God couldn’t even sink” struck an iceberg at 11:40 on Sunday night, he quickly sprung into action. Knowing that the ship was going to go down and knowing there were not enough lifeboats, he gave his daughter away to a Christian lady. When the crew members were ordering the passengers with these words: “Women and children into the lifeboats first. Men can enter only when the women and children are safely seated.”—This fervent preacher took it on himself to run to all the levels and sides of the ship and shout out, “Christian men, let the unsaved get in the lifeboats. My dear brothers, let the unsaved get in the lifeboats.” He gave his life jacket away to someone without one. His last 30 to 40 minutes on this earth were spent in the frigid north Atlantic. Because he was a gentleman, he would always introduce himself. He shared the Gospel with many who were on the top of floating objects. One man in particular heard the entire plan of salvation and heard John Harper’s last words before he sank into the icy waters: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” This survivor testified at a revival meeting in Canada, “I was John Harper’s last convert.”



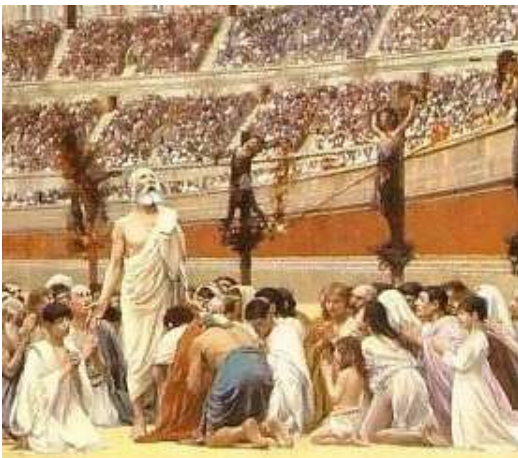
May God give us all the burning heart of a John Harper! (These facts are recorded in vivid detail in “The Titanic’s Last Hero” by Moody Adams.

“Burning hearts are what we need today; burning hearts for those who’ve gone astray. Compassion, tears—for these we need to pray.
Dear Lord, give us burning hearts.”

From *Songs to Lift the Heart* By Doug Lowery

The Fire of Prayer, The Fire of the Word,
The Fire of Evangelism, and The Fire of the Spirit

Christian friend, is the fire burning on the altar of your heart? Or, have you let sin, the cares of this world or the allurements of this world to cool you down? Are you a lukewarm Laodecian believer?!



The First Century Church suffered and died for preaching the Gospel, but they counted it a privilege! In this Laodecian, lazy, lukewarm, pampered, self-centered, and affluent age (Revelation 3:13-22), the average Christian is content to sit, soak in, and sour—rather than sacrifice, surrender to God’s will, and serve the needs of others. May we wake up to our condition (1 Corinthians 15:34), and live for Christ, for the eternal more than the temporal, and for others!

Dear Lord, give us burning hearts!

SALVATION appeal

The Lord Jesus Christ is alive! He walked with these 2 on the road to Emmaus. All the other “saviours” of the world are dead and in the grave (Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius), but Christ conquered the grave. He alone has the power to give you the gift of eternal life. Won’t you come to Him in repentance and faith today, trusting Him alone to forgive your sin and give you the gift of eternal life!