

THE FIRE OF GOD

Part Two

We see that Jesus fulfilled His promise on the day of Pentecost according to Acts 1:8. *You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* You shall receive the Word says, and one chapter later they did receive. Jesus kept His promise. Today the Lord will keep His promise to you. This shows us that Jesus is a primary example of the work of the Holy Spirit *within* and *upon* us. Jesus' life was conceived by the Spirit, and the Spirit working *within* Him brought forth the fruit of good character (Luke 2:52). Later the Spirit came *upon* Jesus to bring forth a ministry of power (Luke 3:22; 4:18). We see that the distinctive purpose of the outpouring of the Spirit in Acts is to empower the church for ministry.

I feel so strongly in my heart that Jesus is ready to put His arm around you and He is ready to dip you into that fire. And when He does, I promise you that you will come out different. You are not the same after you have been dipped into the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Somebody once said to Reinhard Bonnke, a famous German evangelist, *Reinhart, why is God using you opposed to another preacher?* The man being a preacher asked, *Why is God not using me?* Reinhard said, *I stopped to think for a moment because I think in pictures and then I said if you have two stoves in your house and one is cold and one is hot and you want to make yourself a cup of coffee, which of the stoves would you use? The answer is clear, you would use the hot stove and that is why God uses some and can't use other.* Wise answer and it certainly makes you take a self-inventory.

You do not have to beg God to use you. He will use you because you are useable. If you get the fire of the Holy Spirit upon you and in you, something will happen. After my husband Joe died and my health went downhill, I lost heart and my fire dimmed. Oh, I still ministered and God blessed, but it was different. You know when you're moving in the burning fire of God. But as time passed the pain of losses dimmed. Old desires returned and my heart was stirring and longing once more for the fire of God to burn hot, fire hot in my life. I wanted to be about the Father's business.

I want to be usable don't you? Acts 3:3 tells us *Suddenly* (the 'SUDDENLIES' of God are powerful and awesome) *there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. Verse 3- then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.* Powerful! There were 120 people and 120 flames of fire descended. That made it clear to me that somebody in heaven must have counted their heads and then counted the flames and as many heads were there, so were the same number of flames that came and

landed upon their heads. Jesus has a flame for you. Your head is counted in heaven and if you put your trust and faith in Jesus Christ, your flame will find you.

When I attended a service in Toronto, Cindy Jacobs and Suzette Hattingh, (two of my favorite speakers) who also co-labored for years with Reinhard Bonnke, invited us to come forward, to lay hands on us and to impart the anointing. When Cindy laid hands on me, it was *hello floor!* It was powerful. I felt charged, full of hot fire that flowed through them from God to me. It was an inscribable experience. I was caught up in the excitement of the meeting. But back home, my fire seemed less bright; becoming dimer and dimmer. Why? Because I was trying to live under Cindy's flame. I was trying to minister under her anointing. I was trying to become a little Cindy. I wasn't seeking the true source of the fire—The Holy Spirit! Now to see someone who is on fire for God and has qualities that you admire and would like to see working and moving in your life is one thing, but to try and copy or ride on the fire of another person is different—it doesn't work that way! That is not a God move.

Years later I heard a teaching from Reinhard Bonnke that confirmed that truth. Reinhard said, *Many people come to me and say to me, Reinhard, lay your hand upon me, I want your anointing.* ' You know what I say to them? *I say to them, Are you crazy, do you think I give you my anointing and I go home without? I love you very much, but not that much.* We laugh, but it makes sense.

Reinhard went on to say, *the truth is, I can't give you my anointing. If I gave you my anointing, you would become a copy of Bonnke and that is never God's will. You shall have an original flame, one tailor made for you. Your flame bears your name and when that flame comes from heaven it will fit on nobody else's head but our own.* (Wow, to his next statement) *You are not a copy, you are an original. Our God has no photo copying machine made in Japan. He only works with originals. You are an original; you will get an original flame. And I am original and have an original flame. We are all originals in Jesus Christ. What a glorious truth that opens up to us.* Understand that I am not talking against going to meetings with hands laid on you for an anointing, that's okay, but keep it in perspective—in balance.

If you receive that flame that bears your name from Jesus Himself, it will last far as long as you live. I see God's fire as a fire that burns bright and hot in you, and then you bank it, for whatever reason, BUT whenever you want it hotter, you stoke it up, add more wood and it burns brightly for as long as needed, as long as you keep putting fuel on it—the fuel of the Holy Spirit—your fire will not burn out.

Just as campers in the woods have to build a fire and keep it fueled throughout the night to keep warm and literally stay alive, we must do the same with our spiritual fire. God's holy fire will never drop in temperature or in power or in glory. You can draw from it anytime by faith. In my life in those times of

dimming through various circumstances, it was up to me to ignite it again through faith and trust in Jesus Christ, the Baptizer of fire; of my fire.

As you read this second part of the Fire of God, I pray that you may become hot, hot, hot for Jesus and stand up and minister in that power and that anointing that Jesus has reserved for you. The lost shall be saved. The unsaved in families will come to Christ. Lives will be changed as you move under the anointing fire in boldness and in truth.

Sometimes when I watch Christian stations and I see an auditorium filled with people worshipping the Lord and I see God's anointing falling upon them, I wish I was there in the service too. I think, wow, I would like that to happen to me. We see God's fire of the Holy Spirit changing the hearts of people and it is exciting. It stirs us up. Child of God, if you desire God's Holy Spirit fire in your own life, whether you are far away from God, lukewarm or have walked with him all your life, let's believe and receive. He will give you His fire. He desires to do so.

Did you know that Jesus has located you now; He knows exactly where you are. Lord, I want to thank You that You have located my brother, my sister who bow their heads and open their hearts before You. Thank You Father, that You look first upon their hearts and then You hear their cries, *Come Lord Jesus and fill me with my original flame.*

Father, in the name of Jesus we desire Your Holy Spirit Fire, and as you fulfill that desire, we claim that flame in the name of Jesus to fall upon every person seeking You. Lord, I pray, let the fire fall now, this very moment; let the flame land upon every head. Burn Your fire bright in their lives that Your name would be glorified and honored and lifted up as the name above all names. Let the sweet fire of God burn in hearts today. Let your passion run deep within Your children and wherever you put us Lord, let us spread the seed of the gospel. As we feel Your Holy power burn, we will never be the same again. Our hearts are resolved to lay our lives before You, Lord as Your vessels to do with Lord as You will. So Father, let your tongues of fire rest upon Your children as we offer our lives and take our place in Your Kingdom and let our lives be like an offering of praise and worship to bring You pleasure. Amen