

Kingdom Living #4
A Church on Fire
Exodus 3:1-14, 17, 20

This is the fourth and last message in our series concerning Kingdom Living, and today we are going to look at a message that I have entitled “A Church on Fire.” The story that we have before us is one that most of us are very familiar with, and it concerns Moses and the burning bush. **But, how does this story relate to us today?**

The burning bush represents the presence and the fire of God. The bush was not consumed, but out of it comes a release, out of it comes a purging, and out of it comes a move of God. **I wonder what would happen if God were to set the church on fire today with the power and the fiery presence of the Holy Spirit.**

Have you ever noticed how much God talks about “fire” in the Bible? In Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist said, “I, indeed, baptize you with water unto repentance, but he who cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire.” **In Luke 12:49 Jesus said,** “I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?” **Luke 12:49 reads this way in the Greek,** “It is fire that I have come to bring upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!” **Acts 2:1-3 tells us,** “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.” **Hebrews 1:7 says,** “And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.” **Hebrews 12:29 tells us that** “our God is a consuming fire.” **In the economy of God, there is something unique about fire!**

Isn’t it interesting to you that this bush is not consumed? Isn’t it interesting that, some how, it became a messenger? Isn’t it interesting that out of this experience came a mighty deliverance and a promise to those who were in affliction that they would now be brought to a land of promise? **Isn’t that interesting?**

Out of this burning bush, there came the Word of God that said, “Oppression will end upon my people, and I will lead them to a land of milk and honey.” **A consuming God had set a bush on fire, but it was not being consumed.**

Listen to what we have been told in 2 Peter 3:10-13, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the

works that are in it, shall be burned up (when Peter uses this Greek word for “earth,” he is not talking about the earth as a planet (terra-ferma), but he is talking about the world systems; he is talking about a mighty purging that will take place). Seeing, then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, in which the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we (the people of God), according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwelleth righteousness.” **The Word of God is simply telling us that there will come a purging force that will clean up the mess that sin has made on the earth, but it will not destroy that which God has made permanent.**

Malachi 3:1-3 puts it this way, “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fuller’s soap. And he shall sit like a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them like gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.”

Now, listen carefully, nothing is more aggressive, nor spreads more rapidly than fire. We have seen in the News the raging fire in New Mexico and California and how they have destroyed thousand of acres of land and hundreds of homes. Now, when the church is set on fire by the power of the Holy Spirit, it will become a purging force in society. **Wherever it goes, it will be like a laser beam cutting out wickedness!** And as a result of the purging fire of God, Satan will immediately have to retreat!

When the mighty power of God is finally released within the church, the church will become such a dynamic force that it will change whatever it touches. The power of God in the church will change men, women, boys and girls. It will change marriages. **It will change businessmen and women.** It will change society. The power of God within the church will change us to conform to the image of Jesus Christ. **And when that happens, Satan is in trouble!**

I think that we have missed the fact that God wants His church to be aggressive. For too long we have been on the defense. We have been putting up walls. **We have been mending fences.** But in Matthew 16:18 Jesus tells us that the church is His church “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Fire is aggressive! Brother, when the church of Jesus Christ finally becomes the flaming fire of God, not even hell itself can slow it down!

Now listen, the same fire of God that will set the church on fire, is the same fire that devours the enemies of the church. To see this truth, look at Psalm 68:1-4, “Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered; let them also that hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. But (I like this) let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God, yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.”

When the fire of God sweeps through this body of Christ, we want set down and be quiet, we will stand up and shout. Why? Because the consuming fire of God will eat away the foundation of evil forces that are trying to divide the body of Christ, and destroy everything that is good and godly. **Child of God it is my privilege to proclaim to you today that,** “we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” **Thank God for victory!**

Child of God, Moses did not turn aside and look at that bush because it was pretty and green. He did not stop to look at its beautiful fruit. He did not stop to look at its great growth. **He stopped to look at the bush because it was on fire.** I remember, while we were still in the old building, when our church caught on fire. Cars stopped and people came out on their porches to see what was happening. I am telling you today whether it is a physical fire or a spiritual fire; people will come to see the blaze!

The modern theologian has made a god of his own making. He has fashioned a god he can understand, a god that cannot astonish him, a god he can control, a god that has been reduced to the level of a man. **And the result is that we have a rummage sale, gimmick, type of religion that sleeps while men go to hell every day.**

Now, listen, the world will not have its head turned because of our beauty. It will not have its head turned because of our giving to charitable causes. **It will not have its head turn because we are growing.** The world will be turned aside when it sees the consuming fire of God blazing up!

I stand before you today to tell you that the world is hungry for God, and only the consuming fire of God can set them free from the bondage of sin! The world is sick of our chicken sales, they are sick of our candy sales, they are sick of our contests, they are sick of us competing with them in the business world. **They want to see the God that we are talking about!** **And I tell you today, when the fire of God finally sweeps through the church, they will be able to see the God of salvation; the God of deliverance; the God of healing; and the God of victory!**

When Moses stopped to see this strange sight, God said, “Take off your shoes, you are standing on holy ground.” **Now, I want you to hear this, when the church of Jesus Christ finally gets on fire, I mean really on fire with the presence of God, every world system will stop and look.** And when they stop and look, God will remind them that His church is indeed “holy ground.”

We have been told that the church is sleeping giant. The church represents God’s presence. And if the local church is moving with fervency and with fire, it will become a mighty force in our society. And, I tell you today, the sleeping giant is about to wake up and get in on what is going on for the glory of God!

Jesus said that the church is to be “salt” and “light” in this world of darkness in which we live. Listen to Proverbs 14:34, “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Psalm 33:12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” The Word of God is simply telling us that godly leadership determines the quality of life!

I am praying that the fire and power of God will be so strong on the Body of Christ that every national and political leader will come out of some godly church, and not out of some political circle and party. Listen, the church ought to be producing young men and women who, because of the fire of God on their lives, become the purging power of God in our society. Their lives ought to be a spiritual laser to purge away the sin and corruption, and to set a standard for the glory of God!

I submit to you that Satan has been in charge of our political system too long. It is time for God to raise up godly men and women who will lift the standard of righteousness for our nation to follow. I do not care what kind of political party they belong to, as long as they represent the biblical stand that God has set for our nation to live by! **Don’t tell me it want work, because it will work if we will simply do our part to make it work.**

Jesus gives us some insight into the problem in Matthew 13:24-30, “Another parable put he unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man who sowed good seed in his field; But while men slept (Say While men slept; while parents slept; while the church slept; while good people slept), his enemy came (When did the enemy come? While men slept) his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From where, then, hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou, then, that we go and gather them up? But he

said, Nay; lest while you gather up the tares, you root up also the wheat with them. Let them both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

I know the traditional interpretation of this passage, but I believe that Jesus is saying that in the last days the Spirit and fire of God will so fall on the church, that there will come an automatic purging! There will be such a fire of God in the house of God; and so much power; so much of the Holy Spirit; that where the enemy has come and sown his seed of destruction, the fire of God will separate and burn up that which is fake from this which is real.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am looking for our church to become such a consuming fire, so turned on to Jesus, so under the power of the Holy Spirit, that we will take authority over the devil in such a way that it is automatic that we walk in victory and in the glory of God’s power!

I am looking for our church to become such a consuming fire that when a lost person comes inside, they will fall under the conviction of God’s presence.

I am looking for such a fire on our church, such a power of the Holy Spirit, that our people will get so on fire for God, that when the world looks inside to see what is going on, it will see a people who so represents the presence of God, that the world will take their shoes off, because they are standing on holy ground!

If you are not saved, why not today?

Everyone please stand for prayer.

Father,

Thank You for Holy Spirit power. Thank You for our victory that was purchased through the blood of Jesus Christ. Give us the courage to be the burning standard of righteousness that You expect from Your church. In Jesus name. Amen.