

# Spiritual Fire

**Fire is a powerful image often used in to represent the working of God in our lives.**

**Acts 2:1-4** [New King James] *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

**The Holy Spirit is likened to fire in our lives.**

**We need to look into our hearts and life to see if the Holy Spirit is burning brightly or are we smouldering fire that has almost gone out.**

Looking at the lighting and keeping of a physical fire burning bright will help us to ensure the spiritual fire of the Holy Spirit is burning bright.

We quickly learn that for a good blaze it is much better **not** to use damp wood as it makes it difficult for flames to take hold.

**If we are feeding our minds on negativity and criticism we are pouring cold water over our spiritual fire.**

**Instead of cleansing tongues of fire we will be making billowing clouds of smoke which does nothing to warm us but instead clouds our vision, giving us a distorted view of God and His Plan for humanity.**

However, if we lay a foundation of prayer, Bible Study and meditation, along with fellowship with other Christians when possible, the flame of the Holy Spirit will get a good hold and burn brightly.

Another essential need for a fire in the hearth within a house is the vital role of chimney sweeping.

Unswept chimneys affect the quality of the fire in the hearth because fresh draughts of air cannot circulate and this prevents the fire from drawing well.

**Our spiritual fire will also suffer if we allow our access to the Eternal Creator God to become clogged up with bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness.**

**Ephesians 4:30-32** [New King James] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”*

**Our attitude towards other human beings is a reflection of our attitude towards the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit **cannot** be stagnant, just as fire that has gone out cannot accomplish what it was lit for.

**John 7:37-39** [New King James] *“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*

When we read this with **Romans 5:5** we see that it is loving acts that is being referred to as one reason why the Holy Spirit is given to us. [*“through”* instead of *“in”* is a better translation of the preposition used.] Also read **John 3:8**.

Once we have received the Holy Spirit and He is burning brightly in our lives it is easy to think that the job is done, which is far from the truth.

**An unattended fire quickly dies down and eventually goes out altogether.**

**2 Corinthians 4:16** [New King James] *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”*

**The “inner man” is referring directly to the Holy Spirit within us.**

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

**We have to walk daily with the Holy Spirit, following His lead.**

**How does God use the active, on fire presence of Holy Spirit in us?**

**Fire spreads light** – into dark places, bringing the light of the gospel message to people who live in a world darkened by Satan, [**2 Corinthians 4:4**].

**Fire provides warmth** – comfort and a sense of security, attracting people who are cold and in need of human companionship that brings warmth and comfort to their lives.

**Fire cleanses and purifies** – this society needs a purifying agency that stands against all that is contrary to God’s will for humanity.

**Fire refines** – it changes us and others by burning away the dross, a process that can be painful, but in the end produces something pure and beautiful.

**All this can happen to us and others around us if our spiritual fire is kept burning bright.**