

The Azusa Street Papers Overview – Holy Fire
Message 29 – November 27th, 2022

[Charisma Magazine](#) tells of this story of the house on Bonnie Brae Street, where the Azusa Street outpouring first took place;

“The heavenly fire fell on April 9, 1906, when Seymour and a small group gathered and received the answer to their prayers. That heavenly fire burned brighter and brighter and drew crowds from around the world in hopes that they too would experience the “new Pentecost” God was pouring out on His people. The small home on Bonnie Brae proved inadequate to host the meetings, so the revival moved to a simple building located on Azusa Street in Los Angeles that gave the revival its name.

...In the early days of the revival, reports say local residents saw the house engulfed in flames, reporting the blaze to the local fire department. Many who cherish revival history are familiar with the tale. Sister Sol was emphatic in saying, “The fire hasn’t died out!” and goes on to say that in 2002, it happened again. A team from Argentina made the trek to Los Angeles and obtained permission to hold a prayer vigil through the night. Once again, flames were visible on the home, and fire trucks pulled up in haste to put out the fire. However, the only flames on the home however were the same as those that appeared on the disciples in Acts 2! When the firemen made their way into the home, they found no fire. Instead, they found an entire group of believers on their faces laboring in prayer under the glory of God.”

The temple of the Holy Spirit, which is you, should be on fire. It’s the desire of God for you to be on fire, not lukewarm.

Luke 3:16 says; *“¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

The baptism of fire that is mentioned here is not related at all to the refiner’s fire found in **Malachi 3:2** which says; *“² But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap.”*

There is a refiner’s fire, but John the Baptist isn’t talking about that. The baptism of fire is an extension of God’s power that is found in a person, which has nothing to do with His judgement or purification in Christians, but is a blessing of supernatural power that is needed to overcome persecution.

Hebrews 12:18-29 says; *“¹⁸ For you have not come [[a](#)]to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and [[b](#)]darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned [[c](#)]or shot with an arrow.” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the [[d](#)]general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we*

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not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I [e]shake not only the earth, but also heaven." 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we [f]may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire."

We do not approach God today as the Israelites did at Mt. Sinai, afraid and trembling. As redeemed and righteous children of God, we come boldly to His throne of grace and mercy, we call Him Abba Father. We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and are seated in heavenly places.

When a Christian is baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire, the fire referred to here is a consuming fire that empowers a person to overcome all opposition to their faith in Christ as their Savior, and enables them to stand and not bow the knee to their persecutors. Are you standing today, Christian? Are you on fire? Is the all-consuming fire in you that keeps you standing when all other knees are bowing to their persecutors? Don't bow the knee to the anti-Christ spirit. Stay on fire, and your persecutors won't be able to stand before you because of the Holy Ghost fire.

Acts 2:3 says; *"3 Then there appeared to them [a]divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them."*

Many theologians said that it wasn't a literal fire, but it was, it was supernatural consuming fire. These divided tongues of fire fell on the disciples that were sanctified believers on the Day of Pentecost and not sinners in need of the purification of refiner's fire, but were saints in need of an all-consuming fire to birth a revival that even Rome in all its power could not extinguish.

Psalms 104:4 says; *"4 Who makes His angels spirits, His [a]ministers a flame of fire."*

You are minister with a flame of fire. Are you on fire or has it died out with all the cares of this world? Is the love of money quenching the fire of the Holy Ghost? You may say your rich and have need of nothing, but the fire is out, or maybe just a smolder left. You were once on fire, but now you're smoldering because of the cares of the world and the love of money. But **Revelation 3:17** says; *"17 You say, 'I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked."*

You need to come back to your first love, stop worrying about the cares of this world that would have you chasing the riches and loving it more than Holy Ghost fire.

When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire, you become a flame of fire that can not be put out by persecution because the all-consuming fire of God can never be extinguished by the ungodly but rather burns hotter in the Christian and they become a flame of fire that cannot be quenched.

Even prior to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, the prophet Jeremiah refers to the Word of Lord that he was to speak, like a burning fire that he could not keep from speaking.

Jeremiah 20:9; *"9 Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name." But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not."*

Is the Word of the Lord burning in your bones, Christian? Is it burning in your belly, does it want to come out? Are you on fire, is the river flowing out of you today? Out of the abundance of your heart your mouth speaks, are you speaking about money, position, titles, power, provision, worrying about the future? Or are you speaking the Word of the Lord?

When a Christian is baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire, they speak the word of the Lord found in the Bible with authority in the spirit realm that transforms the natural realm to conform to what is spoken, and this is the fire starter that cannot be put out once it is spoken. When tongues of fire fell on the disciples in the upper room at Pentecost, it ignited a fire that from then till now has been burning in Spirit-filled believers, and this all-consuming fire will continue to burn until Jesus returns.

Acts 2:5-12 says the following; “5 *And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own [a]language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and [b]Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.’ 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘Whatever could this mean?’”.*

No matter what is trying to put the fire out in a Christian by his or her surroundings, it can’t succeed in doing so, because the light of the fire burns brighter as it gets darker and that all-consuming fire always overcomes the darkness and fires of revival are started everywhere they go as they are speaking the word of God with boldness. Again, what is coming out of your mouth, Christian? Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit coming out of your mouth or are they dormant?

The only person that can dampen the baptism of fire in a Christian’s life would be themselves, by becoming lukewarm and making decisions that cause them to not speak in tongues or operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit anymore, in exchange for a nominal Christian life and worldly pleasures that can never satisfy or replace their experience of being baptised in the Holy Spirit and fire. There have been a lot of Christians that were once baptised in the Holy Spirit and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues and who operated in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, that are no longer on fire but have become lukewarm and backslidden.

Revelation 3:14-22 talks about the lukewarm Church; “14 *‘And to the [a]angel of the church [b]of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 ‘I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither [c]cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. [d] Therefore be [e]zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with*

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Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ’ ”

The Laodicean church thought they had need of nothing...but Jesus said the contrary with a stern warning to be zealous and repent. The fire had gone out and had been replaced with the cares of the world and the love of money.

Being once baptised in the Holy Spirit and fire does not guarantee you eternal life in heaven, but it makes available the all-consuming fire of God’s power to a Christian to overcome becoming lukewarm, but it’s still up to them to remain hot and on fire and not become lukewarm. God has made available to Christian’s the Baptism of Holy Spirit and fire but it’s still up to them to receive it and apply it to their lives, and not allow the fire to be dampened by not utilising the gift of tongues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

It's one thing for a Christian to reject the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, and it’s another thing to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire and not utilise what they’ve received. The first is cold to it and the second is lukewarm, and this is why it’s so important to utilise the gifts that are given when baptised in the Holy Spirit and fire and remain HOT. The house that houses the Holy Spirit needs to be on fire. This is why God does not want Christian’s to waver between the two opinions and become lukewarm in the process, because the one who is cold and rejects the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the one who is hot and receives it, is in better standing with God than the one who is lukewarm with the Gifts that were given them.

I’m not talking about greater standing for salvation, but just repeating what Jesus said in that He’d rather have you hot or cold, but NOT lukewarm. Maybe you once operated in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit but you don’t any more, you’ve become lukewarm. It’s time to repent. Stir up the Gifts of the Spirit again. Repent for having allowed your life to become lukewarm. Be a fire starter, wherever you go start Holy Ghost fires in peoples lives so that even the fire department shows up thinking their homes are on fire, but it’s the fire of the Holy Spirit that’s manifesting in their lives! Just like at Bonnie Brae. That’s what God’s will is for you, Christian, that you be on fire, hot, not cold nor lukewarm. Be hot for the eternal things. You want to stand before God with clean hands and a pure heart having fulfilled the call and election on your life. You want to stand before Him, and you want Him to say, well done good and faithful servant, well done who is full of the Holy Spirit and fire, enter into your rest, thanks for saving all those souls, thanks for laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover, thanks for spreading the fire that I started at Pentecost, thank you, enter into your rest for eternity.

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