

FREEDOM NEWS

WHERE FAITH MEETS ACTION

When the Fire Falls



Message from Pastor Derek Heldreth

NEWSLETTER

WHEN THE FIRE FALLS

Throughout the centuries God has sent fire from heaven again and again to apprehend people that have become apathetic and cold spiritually. We see this precedent repeatedly from Old Testament times to the times of the early Church and the apostles as well as recent times. Why does God send fire? Because He is a merciful Father Who knows we have an adversary, the devil and his myriads of demons who distract us, deceive us and destroy us whenever they have an opportunity. He sends fire so we can hear Him, see Him, feel Him in the midst of a world that is screaming to keep our attention on many things that ultimately have no significance and with the purpose of causing us to ignore the one thing that is most important on our journey during our time on the earth. That is where will we go when we die? Where will we spend eternity. There are only two choices, heaven or hell.

King Solomon saw the fire fall from heaven when he had built a Temple for worshipping the Lord. As He dedicated the temple, prayed and offered sacrifices to the Lord, the fire fell as a sign of divine acceptance.

2 Chronicles 7:1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

Later Israel departed from the Lord and worshipped Baal, sacrificing their children and worshipping idols. Elijah called the prophets of Baal and the children of Israel to Mount Carmel to see who was the true God. Elijah said, "The God that answers by fire, let him be God." The prophets of Baal built an altar and laid a bullock for sacrifice upon it. All day long they called upon their god, but to no avail. Then Elijah laid his sacrifice upon the altar. He had barrels of water poured on the sacrifice as well as a trench dug around the altar. Elijah called upon God to manifest His power to bring His people back to Him.

1 Kings 18:38 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.

In New Testament times the church began as the followers of Jesus in response to His command before He was resurrected, spent 10 days with one accord in prayer and supplication. As they did tongues of fire appeared over the heads of all 120 gathered there and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Former cowards were transformed into men of boldness and in one day 3000 people were saved.

Acts 2:3-4 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues.

Fire fell from heaven again in the early days of the American colonies. During a time of spiritual decline, when morality had declined and vices had increased, a young Jonathan Edward gave himself to fasting and prayer for 8 years. But then suddenly, the fire fell and conversions began to take place throughout the town. People experienced life transforming changes in their lives. The Bible was a new book; passages that had been read many times suddenly became alive. Young converts read their Bibles with such intensity that their eyes became dimmed, and they could not distinguish the letters. The taverns were emptied and in the streets people spoke of the beauty and matchless love of Christ. This spread from town to town, county to county, throughout New England and into other lands.

David Brainerd, the Apostle to the Indians led one of the most notable spiritual awakenings in the history of the Christian Church. He went from place to place preaching to various Indian tribes, his travels covering more than three thousand miles, through forests, dangerous mountains in freezing cold. He realized only the power of God and fire falling from heaven could pierce the hearts of the Indians. He gave himself to intercessory prayer and spent whole nights in agonizing prayer with his clothes drenched in sweat.

Suddenly the Spirit was outpoured on the whole region; his first congregation had been four women and a few children. Now they were streaming in upon him from all sides, grasping the bridle of his horse pleading to tell them the way of salvation. They became ardent missionaries of the cross.

The greatest revivalist our nation, Charles Finney, made this statement, "Prayer is an essential link in the chain of causes that lead to a revival just as much as truth is. Many overlooked the fact that truth by itself will never produce the effect, without the Spirit of God and that Spirit is given in answer to earnest prayer."

The fire has fallen again and again throughout the centuries with the same results, those who were spiritually asleep awakening to the very reality of God intervening in their life and apprehending them.

This account of a meeting during revival in Wales, is repeated again and again, through time and through nations. "A young girl, not over sixteen years of age arose and began to pray. I understood not a word she said, but in a few seconds, in spite of myself, the tears were streaming down my cheeks. I looked up and old gray-haired ministers were likewise weeping! There was something in the very tones of her voice that lifted one above the world and pierced to the core of one's heart."

Again and again it has been the same story of fire falling from heaven in answer to prayer. Intercessory prayer: the secret of blessing and revival. God still hears and answers the earnest, continued cry of His children. God is waiting to visit His church with a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Make us willing to fulfill the conditions of prayer, confession and dedication to see that fire fall again in our land.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday Sept 27th @ 10am - The Gathering - Women's Brunch and Bible Study - RSVP
Pastor Rodney's meeting. September 12 - 7 PM @ Great Faith Church, OKC

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