

## Fire Danger

We've all been shocked by the terrible devastation caused by the LA firestorm. Some of the images truly look like scenes straight out of hell: angry wind-whipped flames leaping from house to house, burning embers raining down from the sky, people running for their lives. Terrifying. Our hearts break for the thousands who have lost their homes, virtually all their possessions, or even a loved one.

From day one, you may have been praying along with me that God would do something miraculous to immediately quench the fires. Nothing spectacular seemed to happen, but I believe He has been answering our prayers in less obvious ways. Who knows how many unseen (or unrecognized) miracles God may have rained down on the greater LA area? – miracles that prevented new fires, slowed existing ones, rescued people from danger, saved lives, or otherwise provided for their needs. Although even one life lost is too many, remarkably few have perished considering the enormity of the conflagration.

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire you shall not be scorched. Nor will the flames burn you. For I am the Lord your God.” (Isaiah 43:2-3)*

When we cry out to God in a desperate situation, He may not remove the cause of our distress. Instead, He may minister to us in the midst of the fire, flood, medical crisis, or whatever it is. Then, if we are His child in Christ, we know He will carry us through to safety one way or the other, either in this life or on to the next. For those still in danger, however, God's desire must be that the crisis will get our attention, that we will then accept the salvation He freely offers through Jesus, thereby rescuing us from the much greater fire danger: the fires that burn forever and ever.

God cares about every aspect of our daily lives – our health, safety, families, needs, all our joys and sorrows – but He is most concerned with the safety of our souls, where we will spend eternity. He doesn't want anyone to perish, but that everyone should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Even now, Jesus is waiting for you to open your heart to Him and be saved. *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me.”* (Revelation 3:20) Don't delay until it's too late; run from the looming danger into the safety of His arms.

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