

A Heart on Fire Part 1

Luke 3

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. **16** John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

- Imagine with me what it means to be baptized in fire...
- We understand what it looks like to be baptized in water, but John says Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire...
- This is the work of the Holy Spirit by the hand of Jesus...
- Vs. 17 says “His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and to gather the wheat...”
- This baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire is like unto a winnowing fork that Jesus uses to purge the wheat of chaff
- This is different from separating sheep from goats or Wheat from tares...
- The winnowing fork is not a reapers sickle it is a tool designed to toss the wheat into the air, separating the grain from the undesirable chaff...

Pics of Wheat

So when John says “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy

to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17** His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn..." This is a picture of the work of the Holy Spirit working in our lives to remove the undesirable things, the worldly, sinful, carnal things and that are then burned up in the fire so that the only thing that remains is eternal and valuable...

He does this with the Holy Spirit and fire...

Acts 2

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent **wind** came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of **fire** that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

You know why I love seeing our young people go to Horn Creek? because I know there about to experience the wind of the Holy Spirit...

- It is wonderful when someone puts their trust in Jesus...
- That is the beginning...
- It's another thing when the wind of the Spirit begins to blow...
- It's another thing when the fire of the Holy Spirit begins to separate things in their life and burn away those things that are, just in the way or worldly or superficial...
- When the Holy Spirit works in a persons life, all the sudden eternity comes into focus...
- Temporary, worldly things become less and less important and eternal things become more and more important...
- The Holy Spirit will rearrange value systems and priorities...

1 Corinthians 3

12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, **13** their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. **14** If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. **15** If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

- We just finished a series from the Book of Judges
- After the Judges you have Saul, David and Solomon, then you have the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel and Judah.
- It's sad to see that not many of the Kings honored God
- It says of most that they did evil in the eyes of the Lord
- But there were a few who were different

2 Kings 22

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.

2 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

3 In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the secretary, Shaphan... to the temple of the Lord. He said: **4** “Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him get ready the money that has been brought into the temple of the Lord, which the doorkeepers have collected from the people. **5** Have them entrust it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. And have these men pay the workers who repair the temple of the Lord— **6** the carpenters, the builders and the masons. Also have them purchase timber and dressed stone to repair the temple.

8 Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “**I have found the Book of the Law** in the temple of the Lord.” He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. **9** Then Shaphan the secretary went to the king and reported to him: “Your officials have paid out the money that was in the temple of the Lord and have entrusted it to the workers and supervisors at the temple.” **10** Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “*Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book.*” And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

11 When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.

1. The Book was Found

- **Do you remember when you found the book?**
- **Have you ever seen what happens when someone finds the book?**
- **Show me someone who finds the word of God and I will show you a place where God is working...**

That’s the winnowing

That’s the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit and the Word of God together are like Nitro meet Glycerin...

It’s the Power of God to move things...

It’s the Power of God to change things...

It’s the Power of God to transform a mind...

When this happens a Fire begins to burn...

12 He (Josiah) gave these orders to Hilkiyah the priest, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king’s attendant: **13** “Go and inquire of the

Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us.”

14 Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam, Akbor, Shaphan and Asaiah went to speak to the prophet Huldah...

15 She said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, **16** ‘This is what the Lord says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. **17** Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.’

18 Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: **19** **Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord** when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the Lord. **20** Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.’”

2. Because Josiah's heart was responsive and humble before the Lord, a Fire began to burn

2 Kings 23

Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. **2** He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people

from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. **3** The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

4 The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the Lord all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. **5** He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah

When a person surrenders fully to God, there is a radical change...

6 He took the Asherah pole from the temple of the Lord to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem and burned it there. He ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves of the common people. **7** He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes that were in the temple of the Lord, the quarters where women did weaving for Asherah.

8 Josiah brought all the priests from the towns of Judah and desecrated the high places

10 He desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice their son or daughter in the fire to Molek.

12 He pulled down the altars (to false gods)... He removed them, smashed them to pieces and threw the rubble into the Kidron Valley.

13 He desecrated the high places

14 Josiah smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles and covered the sites with human bones.

15 ...He burned the high place and ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole also. **16** Then Josiah looked around, and when he saw the tombs that were there on the hillside, he had the bones removed from them and burned on the altar to defile it

19 Josiah removed all the shrines at the high places

20 Josiah slaughtered all the priests of those high places

24 Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the Lord.

25 Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

All of this happened because:

1. Someone found the book
2. Someones heart was responsive and humble before the Lord

- All these years God watched as Israel worshiped other gods and behaved so wicked...
- Now can you imagine the look on God's face as Josiah goes through the land? Can you how God must have felt to see this?
- For God to say "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength"
- How man of you want God to say something like that about you?

Closing Song

What's needed for a Heart on Fire for God:

1. You have to Find the Book
2. Be responsive and humbled before the Lord
3. Turn to the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength

Luke 3

But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**