

Summary

In this sermon, Elder Scott Bailey explores the theme of God as a consuming fire, drawing from Hebrews 12:28-29. Using a personal story about a dangerous burn pile incident, he sets the stage for a deeper look at how fire demands respect, and how God's consuming fire works in the lives of believers. The sermon walks through three realities of God's consuming fire: it disciplines, it compels, and it remains. God's discipline is rooted in love, shaping believers toward holiness and righteousness. His fire compels Christians toward peace, boldness in their faith, and gratitude for the gifts they have received. Finally, God's consuming fire remains, pointing to an unshakable kingdom that stands firm regardless of life's trials, political shifts, or cultural pressures. The sermon closes with a call to worship God with reverence and awe, to develop a healthy fear of God, and to allow His fire to burn away whatever needs to go in our lives.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. As we gather together, we ask that You would quiet our minds and prepare us to receive what You have for us in this time. Just as Your fire refines and purifies, we ask that You would work in each of us today, revealing what needs to change and deepening our love for You. May our discussion be guided by Your Spirit, and may we leave this time more rooted in Your unshakable kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is the most memorable lesson you learned from a mistake you made, and who was with you when it happened?

Key Verses

- Hebrews 12:28-29
- Hebrews 12:4-13
- Hebrews 12:14-17
- Proverbs 3:11-12
- Jeremiah 20:9

- 1 Corinthians 3:11-13
- Psalm 147:11
- Proverbs 8:13

Questions

- The sermon describes God's discipline as being rooted in love. How does understanding that foundation change the way you respond when you go through a difficult season?
- Scott mentioned that Jesus is like our personal trainer in the spiritual realm. In what areas of your life do you feel God is currently training or stretching you?
- The passage in Hebrews 12 asks, 'Where are your feet pointed?' What habits, relationships, or choices in your life are currently pointing you toward God, and which ones might be pulling you away?
- The sermon challenges us to pursue holiness, not perfection, but a noticeable difference from the world. How would the people closest to you describe the difference they see in your life because of your faith?
- Jeremiah said God's word was like a fire shut up in His bones that He could not hold in. When was the last time you felt that kind of boldness about your faith, and what sparked it?
- Esau traded his birthright for a single bowl of soup. In what ways are we tempted today to trade God's blessing and favor for short-term comfort or satisfaction?
- The sermon emphasizes that we belong to a kingdom that cannot be shaken, even when everything around us feels unstable. How does that truth practically help you face uncertainty in your daily life?
- Scott described a healthy fear of God not as terror, but as deep reverence and awe. How does developing that kind of reverence change the way you worship, make decisions, and relate to others?

Life Application

This week, take a few minutes each day to ask God to show you one thing in your life that needs to be refined or burned away. Write it down, pray over it, and take one practical step toward surrendering it to Him. Also, look for one opportunity to be bold in your faith, whether that means sharing your story with someone, speaking truth in love, or simply living in a way that reflects the difference Jesus has made in you.

Key Takeaways

- God's consuming fire disciplines believers out of love, not punishment, and that discipline is designed to produce a harvest of righteousness and peace in those who are trained by it.
- God's fire compels Christians toward holiness, boldness in sharing their faith, and genuine gratitude for the gifts of salvation, the Holy Spirit, and the new covenant.
- We belong to a kingdom that cannot be shaken. While every temporal thing in life can be disrupted, God's truth, love, authority, faithfulness, and promises remain completely unshakable.
- A healthy fear of God is not terror but deep reverence and awe. That reverence unlocks blessings, produces a hatred for sin, and leads to worship that is acceptable to God.
- God is the same God in both the Old and New Testaments. What has changed is His approach, not His character. He is generous and loving, giving every person every opportunity to follow Him before judgment comes.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the truth of Your Word and for the reminder that You are a consuming fire who loves us deeply. Thank You that Your discipline is not punishment but a sign that we belong to You. We ask that You would give each person in this group the courage to let Your fire burn away whatever is holding them back from fully following You. Help us to live with boldness, to pursue holiness, and to hold tightly to the unshakable kingdom You have given us. May we leave this place with a greater reverence for who You are and a deeper gratitude for all You have done. In the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.