

Strange Fire or Sacred Flame?

I want to talk to you about the prophetic realm; however, before I talk about the real move of The Spirit of God it is vitally important that I talk about fake, pathetic expressions in the name of God that we are seeing in the body of Christ. In some ways I feel like the Apostles warning of dangerous demonic doctrines and heresies that are flooding our churches. This will not be a short expose but an in-depth look at the power of the Holy Spirit and the manifestations of His gifts in and through the body of Christ.

Fire:

- It's the first element man ever feared...And the first element God ever used to show His presence.
- From the **flaming sword of Eden**, To the **burning bush of Sinai**, To the **pillar of fire in the wilderness**, To the **tongues of fire at Pentecost**—

The fire of God has always meant one thing: **God is here.**

But not all fire is holy fire. Some fire is fabricated. Some fire is forbidden. In *Leviticus 10*, two priests—**Nadab and Abihu**—stepped into holy space with unauthorized flame.

- They weren't atheists. They weren't rebels in name.
- They were priests. Sons of Aaron.
- **They were chosen... but they were careless.**

They lit a fire God never authorized and brought it into a place where only His flame belonged. And God answered—not with applause, but with judgment. Because here's the truth:

God is not impressed by man's flame. He's drawn to surrendered altars.

I fear that we live in an era of Church history when the Church has...

- Learned how to **imitate the fire**, But not how to **ignite it** through obedience.
- We've learned how to **manufacture moments**, But not how to **host movements**.
- We've settled for emotional sparks when God is looking for sacrificial fire.

The question today is not: Do you have fire? The real question is: **Did it come from God?**

- Because strange fire kills...But holy fire consecrates.
- Strange fire flatters the flesh...But holy fire purifies the soul.
- Strange fire stirs emotion...But holy fire shifts the atmosphere and marks you for divine purpose.

So today—before we shout, before we sing, before we dance—We must ask ourselves: **Is our fire real?**

Power Statement: The prophetic has become the pathetic!

I have been concerned for a long time about the abuse and misuse of “the prophetic”. I’m sure I will be misunderstood, maligned and misquoted by an “out of control” charismatic contingency. I might even lose some close acquaintances and even ministry engagements. However, I can’t keep silent anymore...

The Charismatic Movement has been a powerful force in modern Christianity, bringing renewed emphasis on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, worship, and spiritual vitality. However, like any movement, it also carries potential dangers—especially when doctrine is overshadowed by experience, or when accountability is lacking.

What Was “Strange Fire”?

Leviticus 10:1 (NKJV): *“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered **profane fire** before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.”*

- The Hebrew phrase “**esh zarah**” (אֵשׁ זָרָה) is translated as “**strange fire**” or “**unauthorized fire.**” It literally means “**foreign fire**”—fire that was alien to the command or nature of God.

HEBREW PHRASE: אֵשׁ זָרָה = Esh Zarah

Esh = “Fire” - Common Hebrew word for fire—used for both literal and symbolic fire throughout Scripture. It often represents:

- **Divine presence** (Ex. 3:2 – burning bush)
- **Judgment** (Gen. 19 – Sodom and Gomorrah)
- **Worship** (Lev. 9:24 – fire from heaven)

Zarah = “Strange,” “foreign,” “unauthorized,” “alien”

- This is the key word! **Root: זָרָה (zar) — meaning “to be a stranger,” “to be alien,” or “to turn aside.”**
- Often used to refer to:
 - **Foreign nations or gods** (e.g., Deut. 32:16 – “strange gods”)
 - **Illicit spiritual influence** (e.g., Prov. 2:16 – “strange woman”)
 - **That which is excluded from the holy** (e.g., Num. 3:10 – “a stranger who comes near shall be put to death”)

Zarah implies something outside of covenantal order. It wasn’t just “unusual”—it was unauthorized, unclean, irreverent, and illegitimate in the context of divine worship.

What Does “Esh Zarah”

- **Fire from a Foreign Source** - Not from God's altar (which was kindled by Him), but **fire from a human source**—symbolic of **manmade worship**, human effort, or fleshly charisma.
- **Worship Influenced by Foreign Ideas** - In Hebrew thinking, **strange (zarah)** implies **mixture**—the blending of the sacred and profane. This could represent:
 - Pagan influences
 - Unauthorized rituals
 - Self-styled worship patterns

God is very specific in worship because **mixture leads to confusion**, and confusion leads to idolatry.

- **Excessive Spiritual Desire – “Running Without Returning”** - In Jewish thought, Nadab and Abihu's death was not just punishment for disobedience but the consequence of **misdirected spiritual ecstasy**.

They sought to ascend to God without proper balance—seeking union with the Divine without grounding themselves in obedience and structure.

What Made Their Offering “Strange”?

1. They Used Fire Not Taken from the Altar

- **God had given specific instructions:** Incense was to be burned with **coals taken from the brazen altar**, the altar of

burnt offering (see **Leviticus 16:12**). That altar had fire **kindled by God Himself** (Leviticus 9:24).

- Nadab and Abihu likely took fire **from another source**, not from the divinely lit altar.

They substituted human fire for divine fire—which is symbolic of man’s works vs. God’s power.

2.They Acted Outside of God’s Command

- The text emphasizes: “...*which He had not commanded them.*”
- This wasn’t a mistake—it was **presumption**.

They offered worship **not ordered or approved by God. In Scripture, worship is never “whatever feels right.” It is always by divine pattern.**

3.They Possibly Entered the Holy Place Illegally

- Some scholars and Jewish tradition (Midrash & Talmud) suggest they may have **entered the Holy of Holies**, which was strictly forbidden except for the High Priest—and only once a year on **Yom Kippur** (see **Leviticus 16:2**).

If they entered unauthorized space with unauthorized fire, they violated both protocol and position.

4. They May Have Been Intoxicated

- Right after this incident, God says to Aaron: **“Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink... when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die.”** (Leviticus 10:9)
- Rabbinical tradition and many scholars believe Nadab and Abihu may have been **drunk** when they performed this ritual.

This would imply **irreverence**, **carelessness**, and **self-exaltation**—not priestly humility.

5. They Tried to Initiate Worship Themselves

- Fire always symbolizes God’s presence, judgment, or approval.
- When **God consumed the offering with His fire** in Leviticus 9:24, it was His **endorsement**. But Nadab and Abihu **lit their own fire**.
- **This represents a man-initiated revival—manufactured glory.**
- They sought the **experience without obedience**.

Philo of Alexandria (Jewish philosopher, 1st century): “They offered incense in an ambitious spirit, not out of reverence, but from a desire to gain reputation among the people.”

Rabbi Eliezer (Talmud, Eruvin 63a): “Nadab and Abihu issued legal rulings in the presence of Moses, their teacher, without permission—this was their sin.”

Origen (Church Father): “They were symbols of those who presume spiritual acts without being led by the Spirit.”

Real Fire: Heaven’s Flame, Not Man’s Fame

Real Fire is God-Initiated, Not Man-Generated

- **Leviticus 9:24 (NKJV):** *“And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.”*

This was real fire—God’s fire. It didn’t originate from man’s hands or emotion. It descended from heaven as a sign of God’s acceptance.

Real fire is always God’s response to obedient sacrifice. It comes after order, not chaos—after obedience, not ambition.

Real Fire Confirms Divine Approval

Throughout Scripture, real fire was used to **affirm God’s presence, approval, or glory:**

- **Genesis 15:17** – Fire passed through Abram’s sacrifice to ratify covenant.

- **1 Kings 18:38** – Elijah’s sacrifice is consumed by **fire from heaven**, proving the Lord is God.
- **Acts 2:3** – Tongues of **fire** rest on believers at Pentecost—**God initiating a new era of empowerment.**

Where there is fire, there is favor!

The real fire doesn’t entertain, it transforms. It doesn’t flatter, it consumes. It doesn’t draw attention to the vessel, it reveals the God who sent it.

Real Fire Purifies and Prepares

- **Isaiah 6:6–7 (NKJV):** *“Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it...”*

This was **real fire from the altar**—not symbolic, not strange. It **cleansed Isaiah’s lips** and **commissioned his calling.**

Only holy fire can touch unclean lips and turn them into prophetic instruments.

- Real fire doesn’t just **empower**—it **purifies, prepares, and propels.**

Real Fire Stays on God’s Altar

- **Leviticus 6:12–13 (NKJV):** *“And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out... A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.”*

This fire was **originally kindled by God** (Leviticus 9:24) and was to be **sustained continually** by the priests.


- **We don't light the fire—we steward the fire.**
- **Real fire is sustained by obedience, prayer, sacrifice, and surrender.**
- It's never sustained by hype, charisma, or manipulation.

Seven key dangers associated with the Modern Charismatic Movement:

1. Elevation of Experience Over Scripture

Danger: Feelings, visions, and personal revelations can be elevated above the authority of Scripture.


Result: This can lead to theological drift, subjective truth, and the undermining of biblical doctrine.

 **Power Statement:** *The moment experience becomes the measuring stick for truth, deception becomes inevitable.*

2. Unbiblical or Excessive Emphasis on Signs and Wonders

Danger: Signs and wonders can become the *goal* rather than *confirmation* of the Gospel.


Result: People chase miracles rather than Christ, leading to a form of “spiritual sensationalism.”

 **Power Statement:** *Miracles are not God’s marketing strategy—they are His mercy. When they become merchandise, we’ve missed the point.*

3. Lack of Theological Depth and Discipleship

Danger: Emotionally driven gatherings can overshadow systematic teaching and discipleship.

Result: Believers may remain shallow, unstable, and easily swayed by false teachings.

 **Power Statement:** *Power without grounding leads to wildfire instead of revival fire.*

Key Difference:

 **Power Statement:** *Wildfire is power without order — it may start with passion but ends in confusion.*


 **Power Statement:** *Revival fire is power with purpose — it sanctifies, restores, and glorifies Christ.*

 **Power Statement:** Wildfire doesn't heal the land, it scorches it!

4. Prophetic Abuse and Lack of Accountability

Danger: “Words from God” are given without proper testing, accountability, or correction.

Result: False prophecies, manipulation, and even spiritual trauma occur under the guise of divine revelation.

 **Power Statement:** *When prophets no longer submit to pastors, and gifts no longer serve the body, the church becomes a circus, not a sanctuary!*

5. Personality-Driven Culture and Celebrity Preachers

Danger: Charisma replaces character. Popularity replaces pastoral integrity.


Result: Ministries revolve around personalities rather than Jesus, leading to cult-like followings and scandals. ***A preacher can be anointed and still be arrogant.***

Gifting is not the same as godliness!

6. Emotional Manipulation in Worship and Response

Danger: Music and atmosphere are used to manufacture spiritual highs or force decisions.


Result: People may confuse emotional hype with Holy Spirit conviction, leading to shallow conversions or spiritual burnout.

 **Power Statement:** *The Holy Spirit doesn't ride in on lights and fog—He falls on hearts that are broken, surrendered, and rooted in truth. His presence isn't produced by atmosphere; it's provoked by hunger.*

7. Open Doors to New Age and Occult Practices

Danger: When spiritual hunger is not tethered to biblical discernment, people become vulnerable to counterfeit manifestations (e.g., “Christian tarot,” energy healing, or mysticism).

Result: A subtle drift into syncretism or spiritual deception.

 **Power Statement:** *Not every supernatural thing is from God. Discernment isn't suspicion—it's protection.*

Final Word:

The Charismatic Movement has brought revival, passion, and supernatural awareness back to much of the church—but when **power is emphasized without purity, and gifts are elevated above the Giver**, danger follows.

We must be people of both Spirit and truth—flames with foundation, and wonder with the Word.

This A Call for Holy Fear in the Prophetic! It's a prophetic warning—and a pastoral plea.

We are living in a time where the prophetic voice is louder than ever—but not always clearer, not always cleaner, and not always consecrated. There is a dire and present need for accountability in the prophetic movement. Without it, we risk turning the gift of God into a golden calf—fashioned in our own image, worshiped for our own gain.

To the Hearers:

Be careful what you open your spirit to! Not every “thus saith the Lord” is from the Lord.

- **False prophecy isn't just an error—it's an invitation. When you believe a lie in the name of truth, you give legal ground to deception, and you position your soul under a false spirit.**

A counterfeit anointing that often comes wrapped in charisma and Scripture but void of divine sanction.

- **False prophecy creates false hope, and false hope eventually becomes spiritual trauma.**
- It can destroy families, bankrupt finances, derail destinies, and harden hearts toward God when what was promised “in His name” never comes to pass.

To the Prophets (or those claiming to be): There is a holy terror that should rest upon anyone who dares say, “The Lord said...” when the Lord has not spoken.

 **Power Statement: To prophesy falsely is not just error—IT IS SPIRITUAL FRAUD!**

- It is impersonating the Holy Spirit. And Scripture is not soft on this: *“The prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name that I have not commanded... that prophet shall die.”*
– Deuteronomy 18:20


This wasn’t just Old Testament rhetoric. Church history is clear: false prophets were publicly rebuked, disciplined, and even excommunicated when necessary—not out of cruelty, but to protect the flock from demonic contamination.

When you speak presumptuously, you risk three things:

1. Leading people away from God’s voice to your own.

2. Incurring judgment for misrepresenting His name.

3. Inviting strange fire into the Church.

 **Power Statement: This is not the hour for HYPE - This is the hour for HOLY.**

God is restoring the fear of the Lord to the prophetic movement.
PLEASE HEAR THIS FROM MY HEART...


 **Power Statement: I DO NOT FEAR MISSING IT-I FEAR MISREPRESENTING HIM!!!**

- We have taught against “missing God”, but we have not done our job at warning the body that the greatest danger isn’t missing it (all humans are capable of that), but MISREPRESENTING HIM!

To every prophetic renegade I say:

Accountability is not legalism—it’s love. Correction is not control—it’s covenant protection. If we don’t clean the house voluntarily, God will send fire to do it for us.

Let us return to the posture of Jeremiah, who trembled at the word of the Lord. Let us stand again like Isaiah, undone in His presence. Let us not play games with the Holy One of Israel.

 **Power Statement: God is not looking for STARS - He is raising STEWARDS of sacred things.**

“Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the others judge.”
– 1 Corinthians 14:29 Judgment doesn’t kill prophecy. It purifies it.

- Let the cleansing begin.
- Let the true voices arise.
- Let the fear of the Lord fall again.

You were designed to hear Gods voice!

4 Dimensions of the Prophetic:

 **Power Statement: The Word of Prophecy - 2 Peter 1:19-21**

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; **20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation...

 **Power Statement: The office of the prophet - Ephesians 4:11**

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

 **Power Statement: The gift of prophecy - 1 Corinthians 12:10**

to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Power Statement: The spirit of prophecy - Rev. 19:9-10

9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” **10** And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. **Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**”

The Cry of Moses - All Gods people be prophets... - Number :27-29

The power of a testimony:

Luke 6:17-19 - And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, 18 as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed *them* all.

Luke 8:40-48 - So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. 41 And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. 43 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. 45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " 46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

Mark 5:25-35 - 25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. 28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I

shall be made well.” 29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” 31 But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ” 32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. 33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. 34 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.” 35 While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”

Mark 6:53-56 - 53 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. 54 And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, 55 ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. 56 Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

How do we overcome? - Rev. 12:11