

Contending for God's New Season: Keeping the Fire Burning

God is doing significant things in our midst right now. It's easy to always be trusting for the next thing and miss what God is actually doing now. We're in a great season as a church with powerful ministry taking place, relationships flourishing, marriages happening, new people connecting, and most importantly, people getting saved.

The life of God is evident all around us. But a critical question we must keep asking is: "Lord, what are you doing in this season?" We can become so aware of what others are doing, what the devil's doing, or what we wish God was doing that we miss what He is actually doing right now.

What Does It Mean When God Makes All Things New?

God isn't just trying to make things better - He's making all things new. As Jesus says in Revelation 22, "Behold, I make all things new." This means:

- New season
- New fruit
- New strategies
- New team
- New joy
- New wine (requiring new wineskins)
- New anointing
- New fire
- New leaders
- New faces
- New places
- New building
- New doors of opportunity
- New wells

While we're embarking on this new season, what are the things we need to keep contending for to continue walking in God's purposes?

How Do We Keep Our Revelation of Jesus Fresh?

We must keep contending for our ongoing revelation of Jesus Christ. In Philippians 3:10, Paul writes, "I want to know Christ." What's remarkable is that he wrote this 27 years after his conversion! After nearly three decades of following Jesus, Paul was still saying, "I want to know Christ more today than yesterday."

Is that still our heart? If we want to keep walking in what God has for us, it requires knowing Jesus more deeply every day.

Don't let the fire go out! In Leviticus 6, the priests were instructed to add wood to the fire daily so it wouldn't go out. As New Testament priests, we must do the same with our relationship with Jesus. If we're not adding wood to the fire daily, the fire is going out.

Our revelation of Jesus can't even stay where it's at - we're either moving forward or backward. When life gets busy, our time with the Lord is often the first thing to go. How tragic that our biggest lifeline becomes the first thing we throw out the window! It's a matter of priority - adding wood to the fire every day through time in the Word, prayer, fellowship, worship, and giving ourselves to eternal things.

Why Is Obedience Essential to Our Spiritual Growth?

We must keep contending for responding in obedience. Someone once said, "Surrender releases God's presence in us, but obedience releases God's presence through us."

If we have moments where we surrender to the Lord but are unwilling to obey Him, our relationship becomes mere fantasy - promised words with no commitment. Obedience is the proof of a surrendered life to Christ.

We don't need a platform to walk out our calling; we simply need to obey God. It's not always easy, but it is that simple and that profound. Our prayer should be that in everything God calls us to do and be, we would respond in full obedience, putting our "yes" on the table every day.

How Can We Maintain Our Passion for God's Mission?

We must keep contending for reveling in the mission. To "revel" means to take great pride and joy in something, to have extreme excitement toward it. The mission of God should excite us - it's the greatest adventure in the world!

The church is made for mission. We don't just send out; we are sent every day. Charles Spurgeon said, "I will not believe that you've tasted of the honey of the gospel if you can eat it all by yourself." If the gospel isn't touching others through us, how can we say it's truly touched us?

To fulfill the mission, we need a deeper understanding of both heaven and hell. If we had even the smallest grasp of what hell is truly like - a place where everything that God is (love, freedom, hope, companionship) is absent - it would change our urgency and commitment to reaching the lost.

What Kind of Prayers Should We Be Praying?

We must keep contending for radical prayers. This is a season for the church to return to praying big, biblical prayers:

- "Search me, O God, and know my heart... See if there is any offensive way in me" (Psalm 139) - a prayer asking God to destroy anything in us that's not of Him.
- "Your kingdom come, your will be done" (Matthew 6) - a prayer surrendering our kingdom for His.

- "Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness" (Acts 4) - a prayer not for easier circumstances but for greater courage.
- "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90) - a prayer recognizing the limited time we have to fulfill God's purposes.

Life Application

This week, commit to keeping the fire burning in your relationship with Jesus and your passion for His mission. Here are some practical steps:

1. Add wood to the fire daily through intentional time with Jesus. What specific time will you set aside each day this week to be with Him?
2. Identify one area where God is calling you to obey, and take a step of action this week. Is there something He's been nudging you about that you've been hesitating on?
3. Pray one of the "radical prayers" mentioned above each day this week. How might praying "Your kingdom come, your will be done" change your perspective on your circumstances?
4. Share the gospel with at least one person this week. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus, and how can you intentionally create that opportunity?

Ask yourself: Am I content with my current revelation of Jesus, or am I hungry to know Him more? Is my life characterized by both surrender and obedience? Do I still find excitement in the mission of God? Are my prayers bold and kingdom-focused?

Remember, the fruit of our past does not guarantee the success of our future. Our response to God determines what He can do in and through us. Let's be a people who continually contend for more of Him and His purposes in this new season.