

Summary

This sermon focuses on the fire of God that burns within believers and how it manifests when God shows up in our lives. The speaker emphasizes that throughout Scripture, whenever God appears, fire is present - from Abraham's covenant to Moses' burning bush to the tongues of fire at Pentecost. The message challenges believers to move beyond their comfort zones to experience God's revelation, as the kingdom's power is found at the edge of our known reality where we must depend entirely on God. The speaker warns against four things that cool our spiritual fire: focusing on our love for God rather than His love for us, neglecting devotional life, avoiding sacrifice, and seeking warmth from other fires instead of God's fire. The sermon calls for repentance - not just changing our minds but actively walking back toward God's original purpose for our lives. The intensity of God's fire in our hearts is inversely proportional to the number of excuses we make. The speaker concludes by inviting listeners to surrender everything to God in exchange for all that He has, emphasizing that this complete exchange is the only way to experience the consuming fire of God that transforms lives and brings purpose.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts, asking that You would prepare us to receive what You want to speak to us through Your Word. Help us to set aside our distractions and preconceived notions, and make us receptive to Your Spirit's leading in our time together. We pray that You would ignite a hunger in each of us to know You more deeply and to experience Your presence in a fresh way. Lord, we ask that You would use this time to draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one time you had to step completely outside your comfort zone, and how did it turn out?

Key Verses

- Exodus 3:1
- Luke 24:32
- Matthew 24:12

- Isaiah 42:3
- Luke 14:16-24
- John 21:15-17

Questions

- The speaker mentioned that 'every time we go at the limit of ourselves, God is there.' Can you share about a time when you felt you were at your limit and experienced God's presence or provision?
- What does it mean to you that God's power is found 'out of our comfort zone' rather than where we have everything managed and controlled?
- The sermon identifies four things that cool the fire in our hearts. Which of these resonates most with your current spiritual journey: focusing on our love for God instead of His love for us, neglecting devotional life, avoiding sacrifice, or seeking warmth from other fires?
- How do you distinguish between legitimate responsibilities and excuses when it comes to responding to God's calling on your life?
- The speaker said 'the intensity of the fire in your heart is inversely proportional to the number of your excuses.' What excuses do you find yourself making when God calls you to step out in faith?
- What does true repentance look like in practical terms - not just changing your mind but actively walking back toward God's original purpose for your life?
- Jesus asked Peter three times 'Do you love me?' If Jesus asked you that question today, how would you honestly respond, and what would your love look like in action?
- The sermon presents two types of Christianity - one that starts with vision and expects reward, and another that starts with God's kingdom and presents everything back to Him. Which type better describes your current walk with God, and which would you like to pursue?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been making excuses instead of stepping out in faith. Take one concrete step toward what you believe God is calling you to do, even if it feels uncomfortable or beyond your capacity. Spend time each morning this week asking God to rekindle His fire in your heart and to help you focus on His love for you rather than trying to prove your love for Him.

Key Takeaways

- God's presence and power are always accompanied by fire, and this fire is found outside our comfort zones where we must depend entirely on Him
- Four things cool the spiritual fire in our hearts: focusing on our love for God instead of His love for us, neglecting devotional life, avoiding sacrifice, and seeking warmth from other sources
- True repentance means not just changing our minds but actively walking back toward God's original purpose for our lives
- The intensity of God's fire in our hearts is inversely proportional to the number of excuses we make
- God desires a complete exchange - all that we are for all that He is - and this total surrender leads to experiencing His consuming fire that transforms our lives

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for speaking to our hearts today about the fire that You want to kindle within us. We confess that too often we have settled for comfort over Your calling, and we have made excuses instead of stepping out in faith. We ask You to forgive us and to reignite Your fire in our hearts. Help us to focus on Your great love for us rather than trying to prove our love for You. Give us courage to move beyond our comfort zones and to trust You completely, even when the path seems uncertain. We surrender all that we are to You, asking that You would give us all that You have for our lives. May we be burning bushes that never stop burning for Your glory. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.