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*DAY 5                      DEBBIE DAILEY*

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Greetings Victory family and friends.

I pray the Lord speaks to you through your time alone with Him and through the devotionals being shared during this week of fasting.

There is only one place in the Bible that specifically mentions “burning ones.” It is the catalyst of our understanding of what a burning one is.

Isaiah 6:1-7 (ESV)

“In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of Him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.’

The Fire Bible (previously known as The Full Life Study Bible) describes the seraphs (seraphim) in Isaiah 6:2 as attendants of God. They are called the burning ones. They live in an atmosphere of consuming fire, and they reflect God’s glory.

“Seraphs are angelic beings with the awe-inspiring privilege of directly attending God. Seraphs could possibly be identified with heavenly creatures described elsewhere in Scripture. Their title (“burning ones”) perhaps suggests their purity, since they are the ones who serve God around His throne and inspire those in God’s presence to worship Him. They so directly reflect God’s glory that they seem to be on fire.” (The Fire Bible)

There were many Old Testament prophets touched by fire: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Elijah, just to name a few.

For Isaiah, imagine being in full view of God's holiness. I imagine that his response of "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips," while being in the presence of God brought an instant realization of his own sinfulness and uncleanness, especially, while knowing he was being asked to speak for God and deliver His message to others. God purified Isaiah's mouth and his heart by commanding a burning one to touch his lips with fire from the altar, making Isaiah fit to remain in God's presence and serve as His prophet. Only God can truly purify us and make us worthy to fulfill His perfect plans by touching us with His holy fire.

What happens when you are touched by a coal from the fire of God? It changes you.

It causes you to have such a close relationship with the Father that He reveals to you the desires of His heart and changes your eyesight into seeing events and people from His perspective, not from a human perspective.

It causes you to feel God's grief over His people and over sin, compromise, complacency, and excuses. When God's people hurt, you feel their pain and are compelled to encourage them to have complete trust in and loyalty to God.

It causes you to speak the truth, whether of disaster and destruction or visions of hope, restoration, and renewal, even when others may persecute you for speaking the truth.

It causes you to be totally dedicated to God.

A few weeks ago, the Lord spoke to me one morning of Jesus' days on earth and mine. He showed me that during Jesus' days early on in His life and ministry, He was going about teaching, fellowshiping, being light-hearted with His disciples and those around Him, enjoying family, and breaking bread. But then there came that day – the day He always knew was coming; one when a specific appointed day had arrived.

"And He went away and proceeded, according to His custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples also followed Him. And when He came to the place, He said to them, 'Pray that you will not enter into temptation.' And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw and knelt down and began to pray, saying, 'Father, if You are willing, take away this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but Yours be done.' And an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in anguish, He began praying more fervently and His sweat became like drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:39-44, Lexham English Bible)

After this the Lord showed me that during my days on earth, there have been many years filled with times of fellowshiping, being light-hearted with friends and those around me, of enjoying family, and days of learning and of sharing. But then there comes a day of full maturity in the knowledge of the Son of God, the attaining of the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. He asked me, "On that day, will you say, 'Burn me, Lord?' It will be a burning of refining and purifying; a fire of testing, shaping, forging; a scorching burning of readiness; a fire of separation; a consecrating of the remnant in preparation of what is to come. Will you say to Me on that day, 'Not my will but Yours be done?'"

For Thanksgiving this year, I spent a week with family and close friends in the mountains of North Carolina. One evening we made a campfire. As I watched the fire, I noticed that some parts of the wood did not want to burn until they were shifted and carefully put into place. Some wood was wet, and some needed fervently fanned into intense flames. Ultimately, it all needed little twigs thrown onto it occasionally to stoke the flames. We are much like that, in that at times we need to be shifted by something or someone shifting us into position so that we are set ablaze.

The Bible uses fire to represent God's presence, power, and glory, and is His cleansing action. Why else would Jesus baptize us in fire, and why else on the day of Pentecost what seemed like tongues of fire appeared to and rested on those in the upper room to prepare them to be burning ones? Fire requires fuel, oxygen, and heat to exist. When you put a flame into another flame, together they become a larger fire. I pray that individuals and the ecclesia as a whole enter their day of being undiluted, pure burning ones forged in the unmistakable fire of God, so that His will be done in the earth through us.

Much like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were thrown into a fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar for refusing to worship an idol, we too enter a day that requires unwavering faith in God and steadfastness in the face of current and future adversity. During this fast of contemplating being burning ones, know that this fire is one of separation, one that consecrates the remnant. It is one of becoming fused with God to fulfill His purpose.

And so, I end this devotional with where we began: the throne room of God filled with burning ones.

“After these things I looked, and behold, an open door in heaven, and the former voice that I had heard like a trumpet speaking with me was saying, ‘Come up here and I will show you the things which must take place after these things.’ Immediately I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one was seated on the throne. And the one seated was similar in appearance to jasper and carnelian stone, and a rainbow was around the throne similar in appearance to emerald. And around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing, and on their heads were gold crowns. And from the throne came out lightnings and sounds and thunders, and seven torches of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. And before the throne was something like a sea of glass, like crystal, and in the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. And the first living creature was similar to a lion, and the second living creature was similar to an ox, and the third living creature had a face like a man’s, and the fourth living creature was similar to an eagle flying. And the four living creatures, each one of them, had six wings apiece, full of eyes around and inside, and they do not have rest day and night, saying,

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God All-Powerful, the one who was and the one who is and the one who is coming!’” (Revelation 4:4-8, Lexham English Bible)

I pray that you say yes to becoming a burning one, and that when your hour comes you too say, “Not my will, but Yours, Father, be done.”

Blessings to each of you.

Fan the flames.