

*DAY 2                      BREN GIBBS*

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Hello Victory Family and Friends. It's the first of the year, and I pray that God is aligning you and bringing you into the right focus and heart posture for this upcoming year. We need it. We need to rightly discern our times and seasons and know how to bring God glory in them.

“Burning Ones” is our theme for this first fast of 2025. I believe God is imparting in us a fire that will burn this entire year and forever in His Presence and Glory.

I want to take us back to the Old Testament to look at a pattern as we are honing in on being burning ones unto the Lord. First of all, the Scripture says that, “our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29, NKJV). Now, I believe that we are being conformed into His image, and if God is a consuming fire, we must grow in this character as a burning one as well.

Many of you may know the Tabernacle was where the presence of the Lord dwelt. Everything about the tabernacle pointed to and was fulfilled in Christ, but the tabernacle also points to us as a royal priesthood following after the likeness of our Lord Jesus (1 Peter 2:9) and as a pattern to cultivate God's Presence and Glory in our lives.

There were three places in the tabernacle that had fire. The first was the brazen altar. It was where the sacrifices for sins and the offerings of worship were made to the Lord. The second place was the lamp-stand that had seven candlesticks burning on it which represented the light, truth and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The altar of incense, which was positioned right before the Most Holy Place entrance where the Ark of the Covenant rested, represents prayers and worship that go up before the Lord as a sweet-smelling fragrance to Him.

So, in the tabernacle fire was used for sacrifice, purifying of sin, offerings, worship, prayers, truth, holiness and the anointing and fullness of the Spirit. Each of these fires were to burn consistently - daily, regularly and faithfully unto the Lord. As a matter of fact, the fire of the brazen altar was to never go out (Leviticus 6:12-13). I hope you are understanding how important fire was in the Lord's Tabernacle and for the Tabernacle to fulfill its purpose Unto the Lord.

As we look into the New Covenant, John the Baptist said the Lord would "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Luke 3:16, NKJV). We see this prophesy being fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, when the 120 in the upper room were all baptized in the Spirit with tongues of fire sitting on each of their heads. This fire came down from Heaven (with the Holy Spirit), just like it did in the Old Testament tabernacle (Leviticus 9:24).

This moment was the coronation of His New Covenant and living temple. God was instituting a more perfect altar of worship before the Lord where the fire would burn continuously giving worship, prayers, holiness, offerings, sacrifices, faithfulness and an unending love to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords from our hearts - His new living tabernacle.

Are you living as His dwelling place with His fire in your life that offers up continual worship to Him? Is your heart ever burning for Him and longing to be with Him forever? Are you tending to the fire of your first love, being faithful and set apart unto Him?

I consistently tell the Lord that part of my heart-sacrifice to Him is to passionately pursue Him and give Him all of me in an atmosphere that is constantly throwing a wet blanket on passion for God. We live in a culture where it is easy to become lukewarm.

In some parts of the world, there is not a luxury or option of being lukewarm. You either have to be all in for God or all out. The very confession of Jesus could cost you your life, so you don't serve God half-heartedly.

Here in the United States we have the option of being complacent to tending the flame in our hearts, of having a Christianity that follows Him when it is convenient, and that stewards our ministry to Him when it benefits ourselves instead of “because He is worthy.”

I may not live in a country that makes me in danger of losing my life to be a Christian. I may not have the opportunity to serve Him knowing I will be disowned by my family, but what I do have is the opportunity to keep my heart burning for Him in a culture where it is so easy to become indifferent, compromised, negligent and unfaithful in love, worship and devotion to Him.

This is the Proverbs 31 Bride that the Lord is returning for - one that is rare, stands out among the rest and of great worth to Him - one that surrenders everything to love and serve her Bridegroom. Let me remind you where we started in this devotional, that the Lord is a consuming fire. He is consumed for righteousness, peace and joy in our lives, driving out the enemies of our souls with His fire (Deuteronomy 9:3). His love burns for His Bride! He gave Himself up for her to set her apart and make her to be glorious (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Shouldn't that Bride do the same for Him - to give her all for Him? Shouldn't we be completely and utterly in love and devoted to Him? He is truly worthy of it!

May we live a life worthy of our calling and destiny in Him as His Bride, burning with love, faithfulness and honor for our Bridegroom, Savior and King.

May you be transformed on this fast as you behold the Lord's zealous love for you. As you look into His eyes of fire, may it burn out anything that is keeping you from His presence, glory and love. May the fire of the Lord burn brightly and unending as a sweet fragrance and offering before Him of unending love and devotion to Him.

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NKJV):

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”

Be His burning Ones! He is worthy!