**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Keep Your Spiritual Fire Burning |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 2:1-4 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2186 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. A New Testament, Spirit-filled church is a mighty weapon in the hands of a holy God.
      1. The pattern for that church is found in the book of Acts.
   2. Acts 2:1-4
      1. This passage took place on a Jewish feast day called Pentecost.
         1. Pentecost took place fifty days after Passover.
      2. During Pentecost, they would take grain and crush it and make flour out of it, and then they would take that flour and mix it with oil, which the priests would bake into two loaves.
         1. The oil represents the Holy Spirit.
         2. The wheat represents the church of the living God.
         3. All of those individual grains became one loaf, and there were both Jews and Gentiles becoming one new body.
      3. 120 disciples on the day of Pentecost went into an upper room as individual grains of wheat, but they came together at Pentecost.
         1. This was the birth of the church.
         2. The Holy Spirit was coming in great power to abide in the church.
      4. They also sacrificed on the day of Pentecost.
         1. Ten animals were sacrificed.
            1. Ten is the complete number, and it pictures the complete, perfect blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. The mighty power that came on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the infant church was symbolized in several ways.
      1. It was symbolized by sound.
         1. Acts 2:2
         2. It was the sound of a mighty rushing wind.
            1. Wind is an emblem of the Holy Spirit of God.
            2. John 3:8

Wind is an emblem of the Holy Spirit because it comes from Heaven, and it moves at its own will.

It is commanded by nobody except God Himself.

It is mysterious.

We don’t know from whence it comes or where it goes.

It is invisible but very powerful.

* + 1. It was symbolized by fire.
       1. Acts 2:3
          1. They looked like human candles.
       2. Fire is an emblem of the Holy Spirit.
          1. Fire spreads, it consumes, it warms, it purges, it illuminates, and it energizes.

There is a fire and wind to spread it.

* + - * 1. It sat upon the apostles and upon the lowliest believers because there were no super saints.

This was to be a universal thing.

* 1. This power was also vocalized.
     1. Acts 2:4
        1. They spoke with strange languages that they had never learned.
        2. The word “tongues” means “languages.”
        3. This was something that the Holy Spirit of God did.
     2. Acts 2:5-6
        1. Tongues are primarily assigned to Jews.
        2. This was a known language, not an unknown language.
           1. 1 Corinthians 14 speaks of an unknown tongue, and the word “unknown” is italicized because that word is not in the original text.

The translators included that word to try to make it read more clearly, but they confused the meaning.

* + - 1. Everyone heard the disciples speak in their own language.
    1. Acts 2:7-13
       1. In that day, Galileans were thought of as backward and unlearned.
       2. The people thought that the disciples were drunk.
    2. Speaking in tongues was primarily a sign to the Jews.
       1. 1 Corinthians 14:21-22
          1. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers.
       2. Some believe that speaking in tongues is a sign that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, but it is not a sign to God’s people about anything.
       3. Tongues are mentioned three times in the book of Acts; and every time they are mentioned, Jews are present and unbelieving Jews are in the background.
       4. The true mark of spirituality is not that you speak in a foreign language or in an unknown tongue.
          1. The true mark of spirituality is that you control the one tongue that you have.
       5. The fruit of the Spirit is love.
          1. The Corinthian church was carnal, divided, childish and immature.
          2. The Corinthian church was making merchandise of what they thought was the gift of tongues, but it was not of God.
    3. The Biblical gift of tongues is a language known by others but unknown by the speaker.
       1. It is a miracle gift primarily to convince unbelieving Jews.
  1. This power was actualized.
     1. Acts 2:4
        1. This is the abiding miracle of Pentecost.
     2. We don’t need another Pentecost any more than we need another Bethlehem or another Calvary.
        1. Bethlehem is God with us.
        2. Calvary is God for us.
        3. Pentecost is God in us.
     3. What we need is to enjoy Bethlehem, Calvary and Pentecost.
     4. Pentecost was the birthday of the church.
        1. The miracles that were given, the mighty rushing wind and the flames of fire, were illustrative of the mighty power, the filling of the Spirit of God.
  2. There are four distinct works of the Holy Spirit:
     1. The baptism of the Spirit.
        1. Acts 1:5
        2. Just as the individual grains became one loaf, the people became one when the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost.
        3. 1 Corinthians 12:13
           1. This is the baptism of the Spirit, when many become one.
           2. If you are saved, then you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When you become a child of God, you are placed by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, and that is the baptism of the Spirit.

* + - * 1. It doesn’t happen to some and not others, for this verse says, “For by one Spirit are ye all.”

The Greek language literally says, “For by one Spirit have ye all been baptized into one body.”

* + - 1. Every child of God has the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
         1. There is not one Scripture that ever commands a New Testament Christian to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, but we are already baptized with the Spirit the minute we received Christ.

* + 1. The indwelling of the Spirit.
       1. He now comes into us.
          1. He lives in us and dwells in us.
       2. John 14:16
          1. He is the abiding possession of every child of God.
       3. Some people have the erroneous idea that later on after you get saved, subsequently you may receive the Holy Spirit.
          1. But if the Holy Spirit is not in you, then you are not saved.
          2. There is no such thing as getting saved and later receiving the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9

* + - 1. The only way that Jesus can be in us is through the Holy Spirit.
         1. If Jesus is not in you, then you’re not saved.
         2. And the only way for Jesus to be in you is by the Holy Spirit.
    1. The sealing of the Spirit.
       1. Once you are put into the body of Christ, you are sealed into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.
          1. Ephesians 1:13
       2. In the book of Esther, we read that no one can break the king’s seal.
          1. Esther 8:8
          2. The King has put a seal upon us, and that seal is not to be broken.
       3. We are signed, sealed and delivered by the Holy Spirit.
          1. It means a finished transaction.
    2. The filling of the Spirit.
       1. Acts 2:4
          1. This is the abiding miracle.
       2. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit.
          1. Ephesians 5:18

This is not a suggestion; it is imperative.

It is not just something nice, but it is necessary.

This is not simply a blessing to enjoy but a command to obey.

This is also in the passive voice.

It doesn’t say “get filled,” but “be filled.”

This is something that God does.

It is supernatural.

It is plural in number.

It literally says, “Be ye being filled, all of you.”

Acts 2:39

* + - 1. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes into us as resident.
         1. But when we’re filled, He becomes president.
      2. He comes not only to abide but to preside in us.
      3. The filling of the Spirit is conditional.
         1. The filling of the Spirit comes when we meet God’s conditions, and it comes to turn weaklings into witnesses.
         2. Acts 1:8
  1. The Holy Spirit of God is like fire, so what does fire do?
     1. The Holy Spirit is the illuminating fire of God.
        1. Fire illuminates; it gives light.
        2. The Holy Spirit is there to illumine us.
        3. It was the Holy Spirit of God who gave the Scriptures.
           1. Acts 1:16
        4. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Scriptures.
           1. John 14:26
     2. The Holy Spirit is the consuming fire of God.
        1. Fire consumes.
        2. Hebrews 12:29
        3. It is the Holy Spirit who burns away the dross of sin.
        4. Isaiah 4:4
           1. God is going to purge away sin from Israel with the Spirit of burning, which is the Holy Spirit of God.
        5. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not an attainment.
           1. It is receiving a gift from God.
           2. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit because we don’t have what it takes.

This doesn’t mean that we can hold onto our sin and expect God to fill us, but it does mean that the only way we will ever be victorious over sin is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

* + 1. The Holy Spirit of God is the transforming fire of God.
       1. Fire transforms whatever it is burning into its own likeness.
          1. It turns whatever it is burning into the fire itself.
       2. When we are with the Lord Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, we are being transformed from glory into glory.
    2. The Holy Spirit of God is the empowering fire of God.
       1. Fire gives power.
       2. Acts 1:8
       3. The problem with many churches today is that they have no fire.
          1. Because there’s no fire, there’s no power.
    3. The Holy Spirit of God is the attracting fire of God.
       1. Acts 2:6
          1. It was so supernatural that people came and wanted to see what was happening.
       2. You don’t have to advertise a fire.
          1. It advertises itself.
       3. These early Christians had a fire that water couldn’t drown.
  1. The rest of today’s message will share four things that we need to do to keep our spiritual fire burning.

1. Don’t lie to the holy spirit
   1. If you lie to the Holy Spirit, then you’re playing with fire and will get burned.
   2. Acts 5:1-6
      1. There was a great wave of revival that was sweeping the early church.
      2. The devil wanted to cause division and subtraction from the church.
         1. So, he began to work through the people in the church, particularly in Ananias and Sapphira.
   3. What caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Ghost?
      1. The root of their sin was pride.
      2. It is pride that causes someone to lie to the Holy Ghost.
   4. A man named Barnabas had given an exceptional love offering.
      1. He didn’t do it to show off, but he wasn’t ashamed to let it be known what he had done.
         1. Matthew 5:16
      2. Barnabas’ gift was a spontaneous show of love.
      3. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to bask in the glow of that, so they sold a piece of real estate and told everyone that they were going to give everything they received to the Lord.
         1. They didn’t have to do that.
            1. Acts 5:4
         2. They wanted to be praised.
            1. Nothing puts a person more in jeopardy in spiritual things than pride.
            2. Nothing will put out your spiritual fire quicker than pride.

James 4:6

* 1. The root of Ananias and Sapphira’s sin was pride, and the fruit of their sin was pretense.
     1. They pretended more than they had.
     2. They wanted credit.
     3. The problem was not that they refused to give (Peter said that it was in their power), but that they acted as hypocrites.
        1. The Lord Jesus reserved His most stern words for hypocrites.
        2. We sing “I Surrender All” on Sunday mornings, but do we really mean it?
           1. If not, then that is hypocrisy and a lie.
  2. Acts 5:3
     1. It is a strategy of Satan to sabotage the spirit of revival.
        1. He tried to intimidate and persecute the early church, but that didn’t work.
        2. The cause of Christ has been hurt far more by hypocrites within the church than by enemies outside the church.
  3. It is not only serious to lie to the Holy Spirit, but it is also foolish.
     1. The Holy Spirit knew everything.
     2. You cannot fool God.
  4. Ananias and Sapphira’s error was intentional, willful and inexcusable.
     1. God made them an example to coming generations.
     2. We see in Scripture where God has given an example:
        1. Jude 7
        2. 1 Corinthians 10:10-11
  5. We need to ask ourselves if there is any hypocrisy in us.

1. don’t grieve the holy spirit
   1. If you grieve the Holy Spirit, then you are going to dampen the fire.
   2. Unconfessed, unrepented of sin in your life grieves the Holy Spirit.
   3. Ephesians 4:25-32
   4. The word “grieve” is a love word.
      1. You can only grieve someone who loves you.
      2. You can only be grieved by someone you love.
         1. The Holy Spirit loves us so much that it grieves Him when we have unconfessed and unrepented of sin in our hearts and lives, and it dampens the fire.
   5. It would be foolish to try to live the Christian life while harboring sin in our hearts and lives.
      1. We may fail and stumble.
      2. Ephesians 4:26
         1. Don’t harbor that sin.
         2. We can wake up each morning and not carry the baggage of yesterday’s sin into the new day.
2. don’t quench the holy spirit
   1. 1 Thessalonians 5:19
   2. If you quench the Spirit, then you’ll put the fire out.
   3. The Holy Spirit is sent by God the Father to guide us and to lead us.
      1. He gives us fire to light our path.
      2. We need to be very sensitive to the Spirit of God because He is so easily quenched.
   4. When God’s Spirit speaks to you, be quick to answer Him.
      1. Is there someone with whom you need to make things right?
      2. Is there some restitution you need to make?
      3. Is there someone you need to witness to?
3. how are you filled with the spirit of god?
   1. Acts 2:4
      1. They were all filled with the Spirit.
   2. Ephesians 5:18
   3. Don’t get the idea that you are a vessel, and the Holy Spirit is some sort of liquid power that He pours into you.
      1. You are a temple to be filled with the Holy Spirit, which means that He has the key to every room.
      2. 1 Corinthians 6:19
         1. Have you given Him the key to every closet?
   4. Be completely committed.
      1. Where the Spirit is, there is liberty.
      2. Give Him all of your life, every ounce, every inch, every possession.
      3. Give Him the key to every room and closet.
   5. There is continual control.
      1. Ephesians 5:18
         1. This verse is in the present tense, meaning it is continual action.
            1. “Be being filled.”
      2. Why does this passage say not to be drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit?
         1. It is speaking not only in contrast but in comparison.
            1. For a person to become drunk with wine, he drinks.
            2. For him to stay drunk, he has to keep drinking.
            3. In comparison, we are to constantly be being filled with the Holy Spirit.
   6. There is constant claiming.
      1. We are to say to the Lord that we claim His power now.
4. CONCLUSION
   1. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down, the disciples went out, the lost came in, and God was glorified by that New Testament church.
      1. Acts 2:39
   2. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, ask the Holy Spirit to be continually cleansing and filling you.
   3. If you are not saved, you can be today.
      1. Surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ.
      2. Pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16