

# How to Build and Maintain a Spiritual Fire for the Lord

- A. We recently noted that *Titus 2* forms a bridge between God's grace and the zeal of God's people.
- B. *Zeal* is defined as "great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective."
- C. In the Bible, zeal (*zelos*) is presented as a burning desire to please and glorify God.
- D. Our question is a very practical one: How? How do we build and maintain a spiritual fire for the Lord?

## I. Significant Instances of Fire in the Bible

- A. *Exo 24:17* — "The appearance of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD was like a devouring fire."
- B. *Num 11:1* — "[The LORD's] anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them."
- C. *Song of Solomon 8:6* — "[Jealousy's] flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD."
- D. *Luke 24:32* — "Did not our \_\_\_\_\_ burn within us while he talked to us on the road?"
- E. *Heb 12:29* — "For our God is a consuming fire."

## II. Why Does a Spiritual Fire Even Matter?

- A. For thousands of years, fire has provided two vital blessings for mankind:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (*1 John 1:5-6; 2 Cor 4:4-6; Col 1:13-14; Psa 119:105; 1 John 1:7*).
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (*John 18:18; Matt 24:10-12; Rev 2:4*).
- B. In the absence of these blessings, we find ourselves walking in the footsteps of *Ephesians 2:12*.

## III. How to Build and Maintain a Spiritual Fire in Your Heart for the Lord

- A. For a fire to ignite, three elements are needed: heat, fuel, and oxygen.
- B. In the same way, zeal depends upon bringing together:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ — the right source of heat (*Rom 5:6-8*).
  - 2. Christ-like \_\_\_\_\_ — the right kind of fuel (*2 Cor 5:14-15*).
    - a. Courage — without it, zeal becomes paralyzed.
    - b. Energy — without it, zeal becomes worthless.
    - c. Purity — without it, zeal becomes hypocritical.
    - d. Diligence — without it, zeal becomes disappointing.
    - e. Wisdom — without it, zeal becomes deadly.
    - f. Loving service — without it, zeal becomes selfish.
  - 3. Walking by the \_\_\_\_\_ — the right kind of atmosphere (*Gal 5:16-26; Heb 10:23-25*).
- C. Bring those three elements together and zeal ignites. To what effect?
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is produced! (*Matt 5:14-16a*)
  - 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of kingdom impact is felt! (*1 Thes 1:6-8*)
  - 3. God is \_\_\_\_\_! (*Matt 5:16b*)
- D. Remove any of those elements and zeal diminishes.