

Devotional Thoughts :: CONSUMING FIRE by Jim Cymbala

CONSUMING FIRE by Jim Cymbala - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2017/4/8 6:24

Jesus never baptized anyone with water. Why? Because the baptism He would administer was the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire (see Luke 3:16). Donâ€™t mistake those words as indicating two baptisms, one of the Spirit and another of fire. Instead, Luke was using imagery â€” fire as a symbol representing the Spirit â€” to describe one baptism. Jesus baptizes in the consuming fire of the Holy Spirit.

If you light a match and set a piece of wood on fire, the fire will penetrate the wood. Thatâ€™s what the Holy Spirit does in our lives. He goes beyond surface appearances to the root of our beings. The Spirit doesnâ€™t put Band-Aids on anything â€” He goes to the core of our problems to provide help. Likewise, preaching that is anointed by the Holy Spirit is fiery preaching. That doesnâ€™t mean beating people down or condemning them; rather, it means ministry that penetrates the heart, reveals sin, and vividly shows the need for Jesus Christ. Without the Holy Spiritâ€™s fire, preaching can descend to mere entertainment or displays of oratory.

When Peter preached the first sermon of the Christian era, those ineloquent but fiery words produced deep conviction and a response of, â€œWhat shall we do?â€ (Acts 2:37). Teaching aids that help preachers communicate are useful, but without the Spiritâ€™s fire, hearts will never be humbled and broken before the Lord.

In Jeremiah, God asked, â€œIs not my word like a fire?â€ (Jeremiah 23:29, emphasis added). The Word preached with the Spiritâ€™s fire cuts through the clutter and deals with the troubled condition of our hearts. Many people probably have little interest in experiencing Godâ€™s fiery word; they prefer entertaining services and sermons that arenâ€™t confrontational. But the Spiritâ€™s fire always cuts to the chase and deals with the hindrances that keep us from the blessing of God.

Re: CONSUMING FIRE by Jim Cymbala - posted by MJones (), on: 2017/4/25 8:59

I am fortunate to be able to hear good preaching in my church. We comment on 'good' preaching. There is a preaching though, as this piece states, that instead of commenting on, it makes you want to not utter a word.

Re: CONSUMING FIRE by Jim Cymbala - posted by leyoung (), on: 2017/4/25 11:22

Excellent words.

Many years ago this song was my prayer. And it is amazing that one can find dim memories re-lit as we connect with other believers throughout the world by internet. When you pray for our Consuming God to bring the baptism of fire, He will and it isn't pleasant but it is necessary for maturity in Christ and we will fall at His feet one day and thank him for the fiery trials and tribulations He brought us through! Thank you, Lord.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uF5wLUDxehU>