



## Burning ones: The Fire of Holiness

*In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he did fly. And one cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Isaiah 6:1-3*

*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29*

The Hebrew word saraf means burning and so the name seraphim means burning or fiery ones. God is an all-consuming fire. They are burning ones because they are continually in the presence of God who is the All Consuming Fire. The seraphim are ignited by that fire. Set aflame and burning in His presence, they cry out, holy, holy, holy. Like the seraphim, the closer we get to the Lord, we catch on fire and burn with passion, crying, holy, holy, holy. God desires our worship to be burning in passion and purity. In His holy fire our chaff is consumed and He makes us holy as He is holy.

*And one cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Isaiah 6:3-4*

Like the seraphim, He desires us to be focused on Him alone, declaring the sinless and separated One. When the seraphim cry holy, holy, holy, the door moves and the house fills with smoke. God desires a burning people whose holy cry, causes doors to move and the atmosphere to be filled with His glory.

Holiness does not consist in keeping rules or intellectual knowledge of the Lord. This does not produce holiness, but if we abide in the presence of the All Consuming Fire, our sin cannot remain. The burning presence of the Lord will do away with it. Then it will be most natural to our renewed, sanctified nature to keep His laws and statutes. Fire and holiness are intimately connected. When we see Him who is fire, we will become as He is.

*But as he which has called you is holy, so be holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be holy; for I am holy. I Peter 1:15-16; Lev. 19:2*

*Then I said, Woe is me! for I am undone; because 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 seraphims flew unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged. Isaiah 6:5-7*

There is no sin in us which His holy fire cannot extinguish. If we're going to represent the true and living God, we must express Him in the fire of His holiness and in order to do this, we have to be sanctified by that fire. Holiness is

His burning fire. It's not difficult to fulfill God's will when we are burning in His Holy Fire. Without the fire, we won't burn with passion to do His will. The prophet Isaiah was undone in the fiery presence of God. Isaiah's mouth was cleansed by a live fiery coal from off the altar in order to speak in the name of the Lord. Burning in His holy fire, Isaiah cried, here I am, send me.

*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Mathew 3:11-12*

Fire purifies everything it touches. In our immersion into Him, we become purified by His fire. There is no true holiness without this purification by fire. Those who simply follow the rule book without the living fire become dry and legalistic. Not being on fire themselves, it is impossible for them to ignite anyone else. Fire begets fire. If our lives are full of His fire, our hot embers will spark fires wherever we go. We cannot substitute intellect for fire. Not even knowledge of the word can take the place of His fire. Our God is an all-consuming FIRE! You either receive the fire from Yeshua or you don't have it.

When Yeshua who is the Word, opened the scriptures to the two on the Emmaus Road, their hearts began to burn and they came near and "violently" forced Him (Gk παραβιάζομαι) to stay with them. They were set on fire by His fire and they wouldn't let Him go.

*But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appears? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. Mal. 3:2-3*

*For, behold, the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. Mal. 4:1*

Elijah knew that the God who answers by fire is the true God and so he challenged the fire-less false prophets of Baal to a showdown. No matter how much they danced around the altar and cut themselves, no matter how long they jumped and shouted, no fire came. Many are like this today. Lots of action. Lots of busyness. Lots of shouting, but no fire. When Elijah restored the altar, setting the stones, wood and sacrifice in order and called on the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, the fire of God fell.

*And call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answers by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. I Kings 18:24*

*Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. I Kings 18:38-39*

*And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not near here: put off your shoes from off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. Exodus 3:2-5*

Moses saw the bush on fire non-stop, but it wasn't burned up. It was a picture of what He desires to be in us. His fire burns all the chaff without destroying us. God called to Moses out of the bush. He was the fire in the bush. Moses was instructed to remove the sandals from his feet because he was on holy ground in the presence of the All Consuming Fire. Like in the temple of God, like the burning bush, the fire of God must be ablaze non-stop in us keeping us sanctified, maintaining His holiness.

*Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; Luke 12:35*

*Wherefore I put you in remembrance that you stir up the charisma of God, which is in you by the putting on of my hands. 2 Tim. 1:6*

The word stir up in Greek (ἀναζωπυρέω) means to rekindle the life again by fire. This is the word used for revival in Modern Greek. The fire must come again to ignite the dying embers of our personal lives and of the Ekklesia.

Beloved, God desires to rekindle the fire in us and for us to become engulfed in His blaze so that we may become His burning ones who set others aflame.

**Greta Mavro**