

Something is Missing...
2 Tim 1:7, I Kings 18:16ff

A Riddle to Consider:

It wakes us up in the middle of the night...
Its evidence is all over us if anyone looks closely...
Not dependent upon a certain personality type...
We'll move heaven and earth to have it...
What is it?
Though getting more and more rare, you can still find it...
With out it, things die...
Because of it, people have performed nearly superhuman feats...
Though it has different faces, we all recognize it when we see it...
Sadly, it is largely missing right here in our church...

What is it? The answer is _____!

Ironically, Both Bruce Springstein and Moses have an analogy for it.

What is it? The answer is _____!

- I. Old Testament Fire
 - a. Whether a _____ for Moses (Ex.3:2)
 - b. Or a _____ for direction during the Exodus (Ex. 13:21)
 - c. The appearance of the _____ in the Desert (Ex. 40:38)
 - d. Or a demonstration of God's power in _____ battle with the prophets of Baal (I Kings 18)
 - e. Deut. 4:24 sums it up best, "...for the Lord your God is a consuming fire..."

- II. New Testament Fire
 - a. No surprise that when God is sending his powerful Spirit at _____, it is represented by Fire (Acts 2, 4:8, 31)
 - b. No surprise that Paul commands his Son in the Lord, _____, to "...fan into flame the gift of God that is in you..." (2 Tim. 1:7)
 - c. Fitting that Hebrews 1:7, declares that God, "...makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

Picture a Campfire complete with wood, matches, ambiance...what is missing? What makes it work?

- III. We need the fire of God and only God can give it to us. Without it we will surely die!
 - a. I Kings 18 –
 - i. Responsibility = rebuilding the altar of God
 - ii. Supernatural = God sent the fire from his own hand
 - b. II Tim. 1:7 –
 - i. Responsibility = Fan it into flame
 - ii. Supernatural = Gift of the Spirit

Remember: People who have been near the fire, smell like smoke!

Digging a Little Deeper: October 18, 2009

Getting to Know Me

1. What am I passionate about? What would my checkbook reveal? If someone could read my mind, what occupies my thoughts the most?
2. On a scale of 1-10, my passion for the Lord is probably...?
3. On a scale of 1-10, my passion for Shepherd Church is probably...?
4. In what ways are questions 2 and 3 related? Explain...

Getting to know the Scriptures

Pastor Sam taught that we really need passion or “the fire of God” in our lives and in our church. Using what you can remember from the riddle he gave about passion, do you think he’s right? When was the last time we felt a passion for God like we feel for our hobbies? What evidence do you personally have that demonstrates your passion for God? When was the last time you invited someone to share your passion for God or Shepherd Church?

1. The Scriptures use fire to describe God’s presence. Take a look at Exodus 3:2, 13:21, 40:38 and Deuteronomy 4:24. Why do you think God describes himself and his presence in this way?
2. In the New Testament, fire is still used to describe God’s presence. For instance, in Acts 2, on the Day of Pentecost, tongues of fire rest on all the disciples. God’s powerful presence is now given to all believers. Since the New Testament writers continue to use fire to represent God, what does this teach us about God’s presence in our lives?
3. In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul urges Timothy to “fan into flame” the gift of God in him. Though God’s fire or passion is connected to the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts (check out 1:8, 2:1-4, 4:8, 4:31), it seems like Timothy needs to do some “fanning into flame” too. What do you think this meant for Timothy? What might this teach us about rekindling our passion for God? Have someone in your group who likes to build fires, talk about what it takes to make a fire “flame up.”
4. One thing seems certain from both the Old and New Testaments, God’s presence is depicted with fire. The people of God have always had God’s fire either externally (Old Testament) or internally (New Testament). If God’s people have God’s fire, are you smoldering embers or bright hot flame?

Application

1. What kinds of things should we do to rekindle the flame of God in us?
2. How can we access the passion or fire of God? What did Paul tell Timothy? How can I do this?
3. In 2 Timothy 1:7 and in I Kings 18:16-39, both Timothy and Elijah see the supernatural power of God, but both have an element of responsibility.

What does each of them do that enables the power of God to enflame them?

4. Take responsibility to pray, to repair the broken things, and then ask God to send his fire into your life!
5. Though God's power and presence are depicted as fire in the Bible, his judgment is also depicted by fire. If we ignore the fire of his presence and power now, that same fire will one day judge us. Read Amos 5:6, Nahum 1:6, Matthew 3:10, 7:19, Hebrews 10:27. Pray together that the fire of God will fall now, upon us so that we don't face the judgment fire of God.
6. Finally, try to imagine what Shepherd Church could be like with the powerful fires of God's passion flowing through each person. Pray that God will bring this to pass.

Something is Missing:
Passion
2 Tim 1:7, I Kings 18:16ff

Something is missing around here. [bothered with feeling, "What am I forgetting...?]

[Riddle]

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Not dependent upon a certain personality type...

We'll move heaven and earth to have it...

[What is it? More clues]

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Though it has different faces, we all recognize it when we see it...

Sadly, it is largely missing right here in our church...

[Passion] – Go back through list above using my passion for motorcycles

[Song writers and scripture writers have an analogy for it – FIRE!]

[Pointer Sisters, "Fire"]

- I. Old Testament
 - c. Whether a burning bush for Moses
 - d. Or a pillar of fire for direction during the Exodus
 - e. The appearance of the Tabernacle in the Desert
 - f. Or a demonstration of God's power in Elijah's battle with the prophets of Baal
 - g. Deut. 4:24 sums it up best, "...for the Lord your God is a consuming fire..."

- II. New Testament
 - a. No surprise that when God is sending his powerful Spirit at Pentecost, it is represented by Fire (Acts 2, 4:8, 31)
 - b. No surprise that Paul commands his Son in the Lord, Timothy, to "...fan into flame the gift of God that is in you..." (2 Tim. 1:7)
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[build a campfire with wood, and matches, but no flame] – everything is in place, but we lack passion, we lack fire]

[Revisit Passion Riddle with the Church as analogy now] When was the last time...?

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 - b. Supernatural = God sent the fire from his own hand
 - c. II Tim. 1:7 – Responsibility = Fan it into flame

d. Supernatural = Gift of the Spirit
[People who have been near the fire, smell like smoke]