LET THE FIRE FALL!

Rev. Richard C. Whitcomb

pastor.whitcomb@agapehouseghana.org

Matthew 3:11-12 "I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am - so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

THREE SIGNS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

1. FIRE MARKS THOSE MARKED BY GOD.

Matthew 3:11 "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Ephesians 1:13 "When you heard that Good News, you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his **special mark** on you by giving you the **Holy Spirit** that he promised."

John 3:5-6 "Jesus replied, 'I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the **Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life**."

Romans 8:29 "For from the very beginning God decided that **those who came to him should become like his Son**."

FIRE always marks the presence of God.

Deuteronomy 4:36 "On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire."

Isaiah 66:15 "The Lord is coming with fire."

Hebrews 12:29 "Our God is a consuming fire."

Psalm 104:4 "Who makes His ministers a flame of fire."

2. FIRE CLEANSES THOSE CONSECRATED TO GOD.

Matthew 3:12 "He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat. Then he will **clean up** the threshing area..."

1 Peter 4:17 "For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household."

It is impossible to be FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT and live an UNHOLY life.

Romans 1:4 The Holy Spirit is "the spirit of holiness."

1 Thessalonians 4:7 "For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life."

Romans 8:5-6 "Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace."

Galatians 5:16-18 "So I tell you: Live by following the Spirit. Then you will not do what your sinful selves want. Our sinful selves want what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit wants what is against our sinful selves. The two are against each other, so you cannot do just what you please. But if the Spirit is leading you, you are not under the law."

Galatians 5:24-25 "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves. They have given up their old selfish feelings and the evil things they wanted to do. We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow the Spirit."

3. FIRE EMPOWERS THOSE WHO EXALT GOD.

Matthew 3:12 "He will gather the wheat into his barn."

1 Kings 18:24 "The god who answers by fire – he is God!"

1 Kings 18:39 "When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, 'The LORD - he is God! The LORD - he is God!"

When God's people are filled with fire, the world will declare that Jesus is Lord.

Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses..."

Acts 4:31 "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

1 Corinthians 12:4 & 7 "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:29 "Our God is a consuming fire."

