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“THE FIRE OF THE LORD”

by Carol Gordon

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.” (1 Cor 3:11-14)

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Recently on a road trip, I saw a semi-truck that had caught on fire. The cab was totally engulfed in flames. One thought I had, after being thankful to get safely past, was that fire was so violent that anyone who believed what the Bible teaches, would do anything to avoid hell and its fire. There are many references to fire in the Word and many of them relate to our Father or how He deals with us.

Several years into our walk with the Lord, Louis and I encountered the Scripture quoted above. Our response to the Lord was, “Lord, what ever in us that needs to be burned up, ‘let ‘er burn!’” It was amazing how many old life patterns and attitudes He uncovered and disposed of over the next months and years! We realized that this was part of the process of purging that helped us to heal. Looking back, it is only the result we remembered, not the difficulty of the test.

Our human efforts are likened to certain materials. Gold, silver, and precious stones are not destroyed by fire, and often are rendered more pure. However, wood, hay and stubble are highly flammable. Wood is very useful, tough, and burns long. In Bible days, they fashioned idols from it. Hay has its uses, is edible for livestock, sustains life, and provides vegetation cover, but it still burns. Stubble is devoid of life and relatively useless, and burns very, very fast.

There are a lot of references to the Lord requiring a burning up of various things. Sacrifices on the altar always had to be burned, as did incense for worship. **“And you shall burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD; it is a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD”.** (Ex 29:18 NKJV) Every time I read this, which appears several times, I realize that the Lord loves the fragrance of burning flesh. Burnt sacrifices represent substitution for our sin. Sin separates us from the Lord and has to go!

Through the Scriptures, the Lord often commanded fire to destroy His enemies or their possessions. He was very good at burning up sacrifices without help from men!

The Lord also appeared as fire in several ways. He confirmed His covenant with Abraham by appearing as flame passing between the pieces of the offering. His Presence and Power were often expressed as fire, as He did on Mount Sinai, in the pillar of fire over the Hebrew camp, and many other instances.

In several places, we are specifically told, in both the Old and New Testaments, “For the LORD your God is a consuming fire” (Deut. 4:24 NKJV). Jer. 23:29 tells us, “Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, ‘And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?’” He promises to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. How do we deal with this when the fire is part of our relationship with Him? He has many facets that we do not yet know, about which the Angels cry, “Glory!”

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I submit this to you for contemplation. I have known and sought the Lord for years as my Needs-meeter, Shepherd, Comforter, Protector, and Safe-keeper, because of my prior life being fear based. Some of my favorite chapters to meditate are Psalms 23 and 91. I am learning that I must welcome Him in His Holy Presence - which purifies - if I really have a passion to KNOW Him!! I don't get to say, "This is the way I want you to be for me". He may initially woo us by candlelight, revealing only a little at a time. However, if we want the total tent of intimacy - He may well be a fiery Presence, where everything about Him and about us is revealed. ARE WE WILLING TO KNOW HIM IN MORE OF HIS GLORY????!!!

(All Scripture references are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted)



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NEWS AND NOTES

Dear Partners and Friends:

The summer is going by so fast! I made a trip to Tulsa and saw many dear friends. Faithe and I went to Arlington, Texas, to visit family, and on to Eastland for dental work for Faithe. We will attend the Southwest Believers Convention in Fort Worth in early August.

I have hosted Pastor Gail, Steve Alexander, Sandy Waltman, and Greg Gunn on the HeartMenders.TV interview show. The complete teaching on THE TWO EDGED SWORD, done in three segments is up on the video site.

We have had Tom Daniels speak at Heart Menders Laboratory of the Heart, on the RUBIK'S CUBE and Steve taught some additional material about that. I taught the message in this newsletter.

Remember that we have a web store where you can access HM products, in addition to the web-site specifically for **The Child Heart** book and its workbooks. I would welcome your feed back on the video available on **HeartMenders.TV**.

PLEASE BE FAITHFUL IN PRAYER AT THIS. CHALLENGING SEASON. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE LORD AND INCREASE YOUR PRAYER LIFE - FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FAMILY AND THE BODY OF CHRIST! Pray for A GREAT AWAKENING and for His people to move ever closer to Him. Always include your home church and Heart Menders, as well. I invite you to join any of our prayer teams, for HM Prayer Requests, HM Support Team, and HM Media Outreach. Please be a participant in prayer groups where you live.

Thank you to our financial partners. Your gifts, large or small, are a tremendous blessing in sharing the message that there is “help from Heaven” to heal the broken hearted. Our goals reflect our instruction to “value the anointing” and give it out!

Please keep praying, “LORD, HELP CAROL FULFILL YOUR CALL ON HER LIFE!”

Your sister in Him,

Carol Gordon

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