

7 Day Bible & Prayer Plan

"The soul's safety is in its heat. Truth without enthusiasm, morality without emotion, ritual without soul, make for a Church without power. Destitute of the Fire of God, nothing else counts; possessing Fire, nothing else matters." Samuel Chadwick

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How to use the bible study and prayer plan for refuelling and re-firing your life and church:

Introduction

This bible & prayer plan has been written to help us all to Engage in Prayer as we move forwards in faith into the year ahead. We have discovered that prayer changes things, and when done consistently and purposefully, brings lasting transformation in our lives. Once again, we have an opportunity for the whole Elim movement to join in corporate prayer, bible meditation, fasting and worship.

Focussed prayer flows with Elim's deep desire to equip our churches and to be mission ready. On this occasion our theme provides a vehicle to help re-fire and refuel individuals, groups, and churches in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our strength fades, but God's strength is always available, consistent, and eternal.

Theme Synopsis

We believe this is a year of refreshing and release. Time to move forward into all God has for us as his people. Inviting God to come again in power to heal, strengthen, refresh, and empower. We believe God is looking for a people with hearts on fire for Him – consumed by the Holy Spirit, with a passion for Jesus and a passion to be good news. Throughout this week we welcome the presence and power of Holy Spirit to re-fire and re-fuel us in order:

To burn up the dross of an old season, old mindset and old paradigms. To embrace the new and the next season.

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To come with oil and fire to heal and strengthen once more. To shake off weariness, doubt, disappointment and delay.



To be consumed with living Holy lives that demonstrate His glory and goodness to a world that needs to know His love and grace.



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What is Engage Prayer?

Engage Prayer has become part of the national rhythm of our Elim Movement. It is a time to intentionally set aside time to fast and pray, worship, and seek God together. How powerful it is when we come together in unity (Psalm 133:1-3). Cheering one another on in prayer and seeking God for the places and spaces He has called us to be.

You, and the churches and ministries that you represent, are invited to use this seven-day Engage Prayer Plan to prepare the way, participate in, and seal what God will do through us. That is, to pray that as one movement of many churches across the nations of the world, we will see hearts on fire. We will set alight a zeal for evangelism and apostolic church planting in the years to come.

We therefore invite you on this 7-day journey to see the difference that can be made in us and through us. In other words, learn to serve God starting from a place of rest, and become energised to serve Him. We encourage you to fully engage with the bible and prayer plan by setting aside quality time during each day.

The purpose of this plan

The plan has been designed to help us to draw closer to God in prayer, study of scripture, and worship. It is also a tool to stimulate creativity with our natural and spiritual giftings. The goal is to attune our ears to God so He can speak through us prophetically, so that we can hear what He might be saying to our relational communities.

What is in each Engage Prayer daily plan?

Every day will follow a similar pattern, building important understanding about the need for our hearts to be on fire in our relationship with our Saviour Jesus. This is not just as individuals. Imagine what could happen if the whole church engages in this together. The joining of hearts on fire will bring greater intensity, influence and impact in our villages, towns, and cities.

The daily plan is in two parts, in line with our theme: 1 Re-fuel and 2 Re-fire. By following this simple process of preparing and activating, it will help us to draw from God directly and ensure we give out from His power and not our own. We will have opportunity to spend time reflecting, but also be motivated to actively serve and see evidence of God working through us within our communities.

Each daily prayer plan will enable us to personally engage by reading, praying, and worshiping. It will give practical strategies to help us be refuelled and refired in the power of the Holy Spirit.



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Each days outline

The daily outline will follow this pattern:

The day's theme A suggested worship song that accompanies the theme

Refuel:

Selah ⁱ - stop and think about the priorities for the day (see endnote)
Source - the fuel needed with prayer, meditation, and worship
Fill up - take the fuel on board with scripture. Consider reading aloud.
Prepare - make all the pre-journey checks
Prayer for strength – To be re-fuelled with the power of the Holy Spirit

Re-fire:

Desire to:

Be - filled with the Holy Spirit and shake off the hindrances

Be - determined to obey God at any cost, make bold choices by faith

Be - alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit

Be - prepared to venture into new things as the Holy Spirit leads

Prayer for the day - A pre-prepared prayer at the end of each day's devotions. A shortened version is used daily, but a full version can be used, and is printed at the end of the plan.

Scripture

Each daily plan contains relevant scriptures. For the re-fuel, these will be about 'Consuming fire' that refines and re-fills. For the re-fire they will be about 'Burning fire' for the re-energising and motivation for life and ministry. For example:

Hebrews 12:29 NIV "for our God is a consuming fire" and

Ezekiel 1:13 NIV "The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it."

Information about fire

At the back of this document, we have provided some information about fire that you might find useful as you pray and study the scriptures. God's creation is full of natural phenomena that celebrate the natural but also have spiritual significance.



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Worship song of the week

We commend this particular song to you, which carries in worship elements from this weeks theme.

Custodians of fire - *Helen Yousaf* YouTube link: <u>https://youtu.be/SoHrF-ZcpS4</u> The question asked in the song is - What do you want to see?

Why not respond to this question with the Answer – To be refuelled and re-fired in the power of the Holy Spirit! Come Holy Spirit!

And Finally

All that remains to say is, be determined to stay the course each day if you can. Jump in, enjoy, be challenged, be changed, be motivated, and be blessed.

"The tendency of fire is to go out; watch the fire on the altar of your heart. Anyone who has tended a fireplace fire knows that it needs to be stirred up occasionally." **William Booth** (Founder of the Salvation Army)

Let's see God refuel and re-fire us to advance His kingdom through us, for His glory.

With our love and prayers.

Elim Prayer Team



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Hearts on Fire Re-fuel & Re-fire

Day 1

Today: The source of our fuel



Let us pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and go on being filled every day

Worship Song of the day - **Light the fire again** - Brian Doerksen YouTube Link: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kc2r3APesN8</u>

Re-fuel

Today we look at the source of our fuel. What fuel are we talking about? It is the energy resource we need, and the storage tank needs to be kept full. Why? As Christians, we need God's power to be in us to ensure we can live, breath and move in His strength and not our own. We need fuel to move forwards and make progress. In the natural world, fuel is needed for warmth, cooking, manufacture, transport, etc. A lack of fuel hinders all these things, and restricts health, well-being, and progress. The natural realm is mirrored in the spiritual realm.

Ezekiel 15:6 NIV

⁶ "Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: As I have given the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest as fuel for the fire, so will I treat the people living in Jerusalem.

Selah - stop and think about the priorities for the day (look at the endnote in the introduction with the meaning of the word Selah). Why not pause and play some worship in the background for a few moments as you centre you mind and soul on God, His goodness, His faithfulness, and His holiness.

Source – Fossil fuels are found below ground, and above ground in things that grow. The modern sources of green energy include machines that are manufactured using a variety of materials and components. As in the natural, so in the spiritual realm. The fuel that we need as Christians comes from the reading of scripture, prayer, meditation, and worship. Why not pause again, meditate on this next scripture?



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Draw from the truth and allow the Holy Spirit to bring fresh revelation as fuel for your energy and strength today.

Proverbs 3:5-8 NIV

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.^[a]
⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.
⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Fill up – You will have heard the phrase "I'm stopping because I need to fill up!" As with a motorised vehicle, so with us. Sometimes we need to come aside, stop and re-charge ourselves. That means rest, re-focussing and checking our course. As Christians that are seeking to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit, we need re-filling. Consider this verse, and then ask God to do the very thing that is being suggested.

Ephesians 5:18-20 The Message

¹⁸⁻²⁰ Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge drafts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.

As this paraphrase says, "Drink the Spirit of God, huge drafts of him." Why not ask the Holy Spirit to fill you up right now. Say, Come Holy Spirit and quench my thirst. Fill my soul and spirit with your power and presence. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Prepare – Before you set off on the day's journey, prepare your heart. Ensure that the vessel that holds the fuel of the Holy Spirit is pure, holy, righteous, and true. Our own righteousness counts for nothing (Isaiah 64:6), but we can be clothed in the righteousness that Jesus has prepared for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Make sure you carry out all the prejourney checks today.

Prayer:

Now, pray out loud this prayer expressing your need to replenish your inner resources:

Lord, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit again. I need more of Your power to live wisely, engage with people's needs and to serve You effectively.

Help me to recognise when I'm using my own strength. Help me to remember that my human resources have limits, but You have an endless supply of spiritual strength.

Thank You for hearing the cry of my heart. In Jesus Name. Amen.



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Re-fire

Having refuelled and carried out a divine check-up in your relationship with God, there needs to be some activity to ensure you reach the right destination. This will require alertness, watching out for signs, and obeying the code of conduct that applies.

The lyrics of today's worship song contain these phrases:

You know my heart, my deeds I'm calling out, light the fire again I need your discipline I'm calling out, light the fire again

Something that we don't like to talk about very much, or we struggle to apply daily is discipline. The challenge today is to understand that our Christian walk requires us to have discipline, but also determination in our lives to follow in God's ways.

Here are a few acts of determination that we can prayerfully apply. They will help ensure you get to where God wants you to be today. God wants you to arrive refreshed and with enough strength to achieve His purposes. Why not make some requests to God today.

Lord, I want to:

Be filled and released – The refuelling process we have gone through has ensured that you are filled with the Holy Spirit. Now shake off any hindrances that may try and restrict your effectiveness. Pray: *Lord, I choose to be unhindered by doubts and fears and choose to follow You with my whole heart today. In Jesus Name. Amen*

Hebrews 12:1 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us

Be obedient and faith filled – It is important to fully engage your will during the day. Choose to obey God at any cost, making bold choices by faith.

Hebrews 10:36 NIV

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit- We need to be alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Don't miss the opportunities that God opens for you during the day.



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Be aware of His gentle nudges to bring a word in season to someone who needs to hear something from the heart of God.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Be prepared to advance into new things – When God is at work in us we need to be prepared to venture into new things as the Holy Spirit leads. Be open-hearted to changes of direction, and don't be too rigid and stubborn about what, when, how and with whom that God ordains for you. Remain sensitive to the fresh, creative approaches that God might put in front of you.

James 4:14-15 NIV

¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Finally, be what God wants you to be today. Stay close to God and follow His plan for your journey on this day. Be blessed as you determined to fulfil the will of the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit. Fire fall on me and as today's worship songwriter says, "don't let my heart grow cold, I'm calling out, light the fire again!"

Prayer:"

Now, why not pray out loud this prayer of commissioning:

Lord, please burn up the dross in my life and refuel me as I spend time in Your presence.

Come with oil and fire as I respond to Your guidance, I want to move into all the purposes You have for me.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

In Jesus Name. Amen.



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Day 2

Today: Ablaze with warmth

Let us pray that our zeal remains at a hot temperature; that our lives radiate with the warmth of God's presence; that Jesus will draw people from the cold to the warmth of His presence through us.

Worship song of the day - **Set me ablaze** - Jesus Culture YouTube link: <u>https://youtu.be/Pe4fmIPGNoc</u>

Re-fuel

Yesterday we looked at the source of our fuel. Today we look at what the fuel can do to create warmth and energy. Some helpful analogies can be drawn from the natural realm. Historically, heat comes from such things as wood, coal, gas, and hydroelectricity. In modern times it comes from underground heat pumps, nuclear, wind, solar and tidal sources. Fuel is sourced from above and below the earth's surface, and from the atmosphere above. From a spiritual perspective, our fuel comes directly from God Himself. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come. That power was given to set us alight and is released as we prepare our hearts each day. It isn't just a one-off experience, but something that needs regular intake.

Acts 1:8 NIV

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Selah – Stop to think about this scripture and then ask God to help you prioritise your day (again, look at the endnote in the introduction for the meaning of the word Selah). Why not pause now and play some worship in the background for a few moments as you re-centre your heart, mind and soul on God, His promises, His salvation, and His power for living. This is a good thing to do on every day this week.



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Source – As Christians it is vital to remember that our salvation is the foundation of our life. This salvation came at a price when Jesus obeyed His Father by suffering on the cross. Jesus died and rose again. By faith, we have chosen to make Him Lord and Saviour. As a result, we have become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). This means we have very clear guidance and provision to live a Godly life. It means we can choose to serve God faithfully and follow the way of truth in the power of the Holy Spirit. It means we can draw from God's eternal provision daily.

Our source of fuel can be found in the study of scripture, praying without ceasing, listening to God's voice, and worshipping Him in spirit and truth. The more time spent drawing close to God the more we will experience His closeness to us (James 4:8).

John 4:23-24 NIV

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Why not pause again, meditate on this scripture? Ask God to fill you with power again. Draw wisdom from the truth and allow the Holy Spirit to bring fresh revelation to you. Give the presence of God time to rise up in you, it will be like fuel that maintains your energy and gives you strength for today.

Fill up – Generally, sources of energy are on tap. We just flick a switch and light comes on. We turn a tap and water flows. This is because the energy is held in massive reserves of power generation and reservoirs respectively. Spiritual strength and power is available to us if we tap into the right source. That means spending time consistently opening your heart to God. The re-charging and re-filling of our soul comes by reading scripture, praying and worshipping Jesus. Do we want more of God? If so we need to spend time with Him consistently.

The refrain from the Jesus Culture song 'Set a Fire' illustrates the self-determination and desire needed to get refuelled:

Set a fire down in my soul, that I can't contain, and I can't control Cause I want more of you God, I want more of you God

If we want to go somewhere we need to plan your journey and ensure we have enough provisions to get there. In a spiritual sense, that means being full of the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to be filled up, then go on re-filling until we get there.



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This familiar verse suggests that God's resources will never run out.

Philippians 4:19-20 The Message

¹⁹⁻²⁰ You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus. Our God and Father abounds in glory that just pours out into eternity. Yes.

The Holy Spirit can release a generous of provision for us right now. Call out to God and ask Him to meet all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus, don't delay!

Prepare – Allow God to invade our hearts again. Sometimes we are ill-prepared for what lies ahead. Mostly this is from things that cloud our minds. In turn this can cloud our judgement and decisions. They can be impaired by wear and tear. We can get drained of energy in body and spirit. You have an opportunity to put that situation right today. Let's confess our self-dependency and ask God to forgive us. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring radical change and fresh fire to our hearts. Become dependent on God once again.

Luke 3:16 NIV

16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with[b] the Holy Spirit and fire.

Prayer:

Now, pray out loud this prayer expressing our willingness to depend on God again:

Lord, please refine my heart with Your holy fire again. I confess my need of Your power. Help me to depend more on You than on my own strength.

Increase my determination to spend more time in Your presence. Help me to become less independent and more alert to the fact Your power and strength is there for me.

Thank You for hearing the cry of my heart. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Re-fire

In the bible book of Exodus, it records the story of the children of Israel's miraculous liberation from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. Moses obeyed God and challenged Pharoah to let 'My people go'! The ten plagues got Pharoah's attention and eventually he allowed the Israelites to leave. Moses led them across the Red Sea, another miracle, and the people then commenced their journey. God provided a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to protect and give the people light. This fire would also have given them warmth, but it was also to remind the children of Israel of God's holiness!



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Having brought them out of slavery, God wanted to keep them free. He therefore provided them with a constant reminder, the fire of His holiness.

Deuteronomy 4:23-25 NIV

²³ Be careful not to forget the covenant of the Lord your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the Lord your God has forbidden. ²⁴ For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Why not take this scripture and apply it to our lives today? Ask God to help us to stay focussed on Him, not to lose our way, and ensure that we maintain a holy walk in His strength. Make some declarations today.

Lord, we want to:

Be filled and released – When the Holy Spirit fills us it means we have taken on board a fresh power and energy to fulfil God's purposes. We will undoubtably radiate the warmth of His presence. We must always remember that the warmth is not just for us, but for those that we meet each day. We take in what God has for us, but we then give it away. This is part of Christian discipleship, carrying good news.

Hebrews 13:16 NIV

¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Be obedient and faith filled – If we are carriers of God's power, what we say will carry weight in our communities. People will see that there is something different about us. The flame of fire carries a warmth with it. Be determined to obey God voice and promptings to share your faith with boldness.

Colossians 3:17 NIV

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit – People will often sense something different about us as a Christian. We carry a Kingdom of God culture that others will be aware of. They may ask us about this. Therefore, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and take the opportunities He presents to share of the hope that we carry within us. Let's share our testimony, in other words our personal story.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect



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Be prepared to advance into new things – If we try to move in our own strength, we will find it hard, and we will get worn out. It will be like pushing a car that has run out of fuel! Try to ensure we have enough fuel before advancing into new places. When we have filled up and have a full tank, be bold! Move forwards in a new venture into the unknown, but go in faith and in the knowledge that God will be the strength of our life.

Colossians 3:23-24 NIV

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Prayer:

Now, why not declare out loud this prayer of commissioning:

Lord, please help me to be prepared. Help me to prioritise my time. Renew my mind and refuel my heart as I spend time in Your presence.

Come with oil and fire as I respond to Your guidance, I want to move into all the purposes You have for me.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

In Jesus Name. Amen.



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Day 3

Today: Fire brings vibrant movement and refining

When we look at a flame it has light and constant movement, it is never still. It is alive, vibrant, full of energy. The Holy Spirit is depicted in many ways, one of which is fire. God is on the move through us. He has provided us with His salvation and power. Fire in scripture is often associated with refining, which deals with impurities. God is Holy.

Worship song of the day: Let flame burn brighter - Graham Kendrick YouTube link: <u>https://youtu.be/BLsdgfAvluw</u>

Re-fuel

Some homes have wood burners with glass doors. These stoves bring heat very quickly, something which the owners are glad about! The glass gives an opportunity to see the flames burning and moving. It is fascinating to watch as the wood or coal gets hotter and glows at a very high temperature.

Steel making factories have huge furnaces that melt raw materials to make the metal used in manufacturing. One important process is the removal of impurities. Limestone is added to the iron ore and there is a chemical change that brings molten lava (slag) to the surface, which is then scraped off.

Selah – We can think about the impurities mentioned above and apply them to our own lives as Christians. From a spiritual perspective, the equivalent to molten lava we would call 'dross'. The heat of God's presence, and His holiness brings a challenge to our hearts. It's the heat that reveals impurities in our lives, and these need to be dealt with. We need to bring them to God, repent, and allow Him to refine us.



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Right now, why not ask God to help us to apply the words of the chorus of the Brian Doerkson song written in 1990. YouTube link here: <u>https://youtu.be/VG3NaUZSnFI</u>

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire is to be holy Set apart for You, Lord I choose to be holy Set apart for You, my Master ready to do Your will

Source – There are different kinds of fuel for different applications in the natural realm. However, there is only one source of lasting fuel for the Christian. It is available 24/7, is limitless, and was bought for us at a great price. Jesus promised that the 'Spirit of truth' would lead us into all truth. This provides the 'fuel' we need to keep us going in the right direction. The written word of God (Logos) is brought to life by the Holy Spirit as a 'now' word (Rhema). The Holy Spirit breaths on the scripture to bring it to life in us.

John 16:13 NIV

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Fill up – What is it that we need to fill up with? As mentioned above it is the truth of the written word of God. The Holy Spirit brings this word to life, but we need to do something with the revelation that is imparted to us. There is a need to pray that the word we have read takes deep root in us and brings about fruit and revelation to the people that we meet. This word of truth for Christians is not just to be kept to ourselves as fuel and the driving force. It is to be shared, a bit like 'car sharing' would be in large cities. The good news of the gospel message is fuel for eternity for everyone we meet. It is why we need to fill up and keep full.

2 Timothy 4:2 NIV

² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Prepare – The sort of prayer mentioned above in 'Fill up', is part of our daily life preparation. Opening our heart and listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit should be a daily process that becomes second nature to us. Praying in the power of Holy Spirit with authority may be in our own spoken language, but also in the heavenly language of tonguesⁱⁱⁱ as mentioned in the book of Acts. Praying in the Spirit may be without our direct understanding but is something that is heard at the throne of God.



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The fuel of prayer should not be neglected but cultivated every day.

Ephesians 6:18 NIV

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Prayer:

Now, pray out loud this prayer expressing your willingness to depend on God again:

Lord, please refine my heart with Your holy fire again. I confess my need of Your power. Help me to depend more on You than on my own strength.

Increase my determination to spend more time in Your presence. Help me to become less independent and more alert to the fact Your power and strength is there for me.

Thank You for hearing the cry of my heart. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Re-fire

The prophet Isaiah heard from God and became an obedient servant who told the people of Israel what God was saying. The book of Isaiah is full of themes of repentance and the need for social justice, amongst other things. The book also talks about God's holiness and the need for His people to be holy. Isaiah's calling as a prophet is outlined in Chapter 6 verse one. He has a vivid dream 'in the year that King Uzziah died'. The scripture says that Isaiah 'saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple'. His call is then described as follows:

Isaiah 6:5-8 NIV

⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."
⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."
⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Hot coals from the fire in heaven are significant to Isaiah's call. The coals touched his lips and indicated holiness coming to his speech. He responds positively and makes himself available to go and be God's prophet to the people.



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Perhaps we should pause and ask God to come and touch our lips too. God has called us to take the message of hope and salvation to a lost world. This is powerfully effective when we live holy lives.

Be filled and released – By allowing God to apply His fire to our hearts and speech we are effectively allowing Him to refine us and purge away any unhelpful words and hindrances that may have clung to us.

Hebrews 12:1 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Be obedient and faith filled – Why not be like Isaiah and be determined to let God have His way in our lives? By yielding to Him we are declaring our preparedness to be a true disciple of Jesus. This means that, by faith, we are willing to take up our cross and follow Him in a sacrificial way.

Luke 9:23 NIV

²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit – By taking up the cross and allowing God to refine our hearts and our speech with His cleansing fire. This will help us to be more alert to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. We are likely to be more receptive to the use and flow of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. For example we may share something with a neighbour or work colleague that God whispers in our ear. The person realises that there is no way that this could be known other than by God's revelation. This revelation opens up the possibility of them coming to salvation and eternal freedom. Hallelujah!

John 14:26 NIV

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Be prepared to advance into new things – When God comes to us with fire, we will experience His supernatural power. The fire brings holiness, but also moves and changes things. To see the Kingdom of God comes in power through us, it will need boldness and courage on our part. This will prepare us to venture forwards to new things as the Holy Spirit leads. This is exciting, if a little scary, but that is where faith needs to be activated. The only faith that is worth anything is tested faith.



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HEARTS ON File

Like a muscle the more it is used the stronger it becomes. Today, be determined to journey forwards boldly in faith.

Joshua 1:9 NIV

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Prayer:

Now, why not pray out loud this prayer of commissioning:

Lord, please burn up the dross in my life and refuel me as I spend time in Your presence.

Come with oil and fire as I respond to Your guidance, I want to move into all the purposes You have for me.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

In Jesus Name. Amen.



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HEARTS ON File



Day 4

Today: A burning light

We have been building a picture of how affective fire is at being a source of fuel, bringing warmth, refining and bringing vibrant movement and zeal into our lives. Apart from heat, light comes from flames too. Tongues of fire were seen on the heads of the disciples on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-2). Apart from the supernatural languages being spoken by them, the fire got the attention of the people in the city of Jerusalem. This kind of light is our focus for today. Jesus said of Himself that He was the light of the world. As believers that now applies to us too.

Worship song of the day: **Light of the world** – Tim Hughes YouTube link: <u>https://youtu.be/-MmRGSEG2LM</u>

Re-fuel

In the history of the United Kingdom there are some interesting facts about fire. Beacons were often built on strategic sites along coastlines and stretching inland. They were used as advance warnings of potential invasion from enemies. For example, the southwest county of Devon's long coastline made it vulnerable to attack over the centuries. Research has shown that 89 beacon sites are believed to have existed in this region, dating from the Roman period through to the Napoleonic wars. It isn't too difficult to see the spiritual significance in this analogy. As Christians our lives are meant to shine with the light of Jesus. Why not spend a few moments meditating on this next scripture and think about the fuel of fire? It is at work in us as believers.

Matthew 5:14-15 NIV

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.



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HEARTS ON File

Selah – In prayer why not ask God to shine through us with increased intensity right now? Graham Kendrick wrote a now familiar song whose chorus says:

Shine, Jesus, shine fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit, blaze set our hearts on fire Flow, river, flow flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light

Take some time to worship right now. Pause, stop and think about the day ahead. Let the light of God's love shine in our hearts today. If we do, then His light will shine through us and affect the people that we meet. Consider our priorities for the day to come. Do you want the light of Jesus to be seen in you? Let us be determined to make it so!

Romans 1:16-17 NIV

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[a] just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."^[b]

Source – Let's try not to hide our Christian faith. Don't be ashamed of it, regardless of the cost in making known our faith. There is a divine appointment that has been arranged for us if we are open to it. By listening to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit we will get our instructions for the day. This is not about organisation and planning for our jobs, this is about what God wants to do in our workplace and ordinary contact with people!

1 Samuel 3:10 NIV

¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

There is someone who needs to hear our story today, our testimony! If we are available to take the opportunities that come, we will undoubtably be bringers of hope and light in the darkness for someone to whom God has prepared! Watch this space! Come Holy Spirit, we open our hearts and minds to You today. Use us Lord!

Colossians 1:27 NIV

²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.



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HEARTS ON File

Fill up – Let the light of Jesus shine in and through us today. Take time to take fuel on board with scripture, prayer and worship. Be open to hearing God bring a spontaneous word to us. It may be part of a bible verse, a line in a worship song, or a picture or dream we might have had. Don't forget that God recognises and uses creativity that has been formed as part of our personality and gifting. Let the Holy Spirit illuminate our heart and mind, shining a light on an important part of God's plan for us today.

John 8:12 NIV

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Prepare – The moment we wake up there is a tendency to get stuck into the To Do list straight away if not physically, in our minds. Whilst this is not wrong in itself, it doesn't necessarily make us more productive. Sometimes it is best to take captive those thoughts and as a priority, spend quality time tuning into God's priorities before pursuing our own. Why not open the bible and ask the Holy Spirit to bring a key word or phrase to your heart and mind right now? Lord, please come and take over my schedule for the day. *You have redeemed me, please come and redeem my day's planning and activity. In Jesus Name*.

Psalm 119:105 NIV

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Prayer:

Now, pray out loud this prayer expressing your willingness to depend on God again:

Lord, please help me to be a beacon of hope, lit with Your holy fire. I recognise my need of Your power. Help me to shine with Your Light and not my own.

Increase the intensity of light in me as I spend more time in Your presence. Break the power of any fear that might try to stop me from speaking out and declaring the light of Your love. .

Thank You for hearing the cry of my heart. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Re-fire

Imagine our planet earth without the sun or moon. It is almost unthinkable for us. When God created the planetary systems, this included the sun. Scientists tell us that the sun is not a planet but a star. The sun is on fire right across its surface, and this brings light! The universe is full of stars which shine in the night sky. Some of these are planets. We would have to travel millions of miles for light years to get to most of them. The bible tells us in Genesis 1:3 that God created light and darkness on the first day, and day and night were separated. Light was there at the beginning!



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Take a moment to reflect on the astonishing, miraculous nature of God's creation.

The sun is constantly on fire. God's salvation through Jesus Christ also offers us a way to be on fire for Him for eternity! This is an almost unbelievable concept, but it is true! How? Through the power of the Holy Spirit! The New Testament prophet John the Baptist knew this when meeting Jesus in this passage:

Luke 3:15-16 NIV

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with^[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire.

Be filled and released – To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to also be provided with fire and power. This is not just for an individual's benefit alone, but to be a witness of the saving grace provided for everyone through Jesus Christ. In fact Jesus promised He would as His Father to send the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17).

Ask God to send the Holy Spirit and fire upon our lives right now! By doing this we allow God to indwell us and the fire will deal with any impurities that may stand in the way to being fruitful witnesses to freedom in Christ.

Galatians 5:1 NIV

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Be obedient and faith filled – God gave us free will. As Christians it is important exercise this by making right choices and by faith, bold choices. Let us be determined to do this at any cost. Not an easy thing to consider, but is part of the cost in our discipleship walk.

Here is a quote from the book (The Cost of Discipleship): "When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh." **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Compare this quote with this scripture with Paul the apostle's letter to the Galatians:

Galatians 5:17 NIV

17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[a] you want.

Hence, we would do well to obey God, make bold choices by faith and allow the fire of God to burn up anything that might be a hindrance to obedience and a holy walk.



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HEARTS ON File

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit – It is so important that we remain in the light. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us, for which we should be eternally grateful. His intercessions are out of love for us. He wants us to walk in the light with purity and holiness and therefore be shining examples as well as shining lights in a dark world. Therefore, there is a need for constant sensitivity to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Especially the ones which include our conscience. These 'nudges' will ensure that we don't compromise our high and holy calling to become friends of the world. We need to be in the world, but not of it. We are to bring light into darkness and not the other way round!

1 John 1:5-7 NIV

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[a] sin.

Be prepared to advance into new things – By following the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we are can journey forwards, be well prepared, and move in the right direction. Letting God take control will ensure we reach our destination and in good condition. Letting God direct our paths will reduce adverse incidents that interrupt His plan and purpose for us. The preconditions for disciples of Jesus require a lifestyle of true discipleship. It means being single minded about obeying God no-matter the cost.

Psalm 18:28 NIV

²⁸ You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

If we follow this pattern of life the biproduct will be that people will see a big difference in us. They will want to spend time with us, and they will ask us what it is that if different about us. This will lead to divine opportunities to share truth, hope and to be a light.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



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Prayer:

Now, why not pray out loud this prayer of commissioning:

Lord, please burn up the dross in my life and refuel me as I spend time in Your presence.

Come with oil and fire as I respond to Your guidance, I want to move into all the purposes You have for me.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

In Jesus Name. Amen.



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HEARTS ON File

Hearts on Fire Re-fuel & Re-fire

Day 5

Today: Eternal Flame

There is something very special about a flame that burns continuously. The eternal flames alight right now are often symbolic of a memorial to lives given in sacrifice. These flames glow, and bring a special radiance, constantly moving and provoking all sorts of memories. The most significant sacrifice in history was the one Jesus death on the cross at Calvary. With his resurrection and ascension, came the promise of the Holy Spirit, the comforter who would lead the disciples into all truth John 16:13. When the promise was fulfilled as written in Acts 2:3, tongues of fire were seen on the disciples' heads. This same power is available to disciples of Jesus today. With it comes the the possibility for our lives to be full of continuous light, heat and the power, bringing God in the darkness of our world.

Worship song of the day: **Waymaker** - Osinachi Okoro (Sinach) YouTube link: <u>https://youtu.be/n4XWfwLHeLM</u>

Re-fuel

It is very significant that fire and flame is a theme that runs throughout the bible. In particular, the eternal flame was a significant component of the Jewish religious rituals performed in the tabernacle. This was whilst the children of Israel were on the move after their deliverance from Egypt. This same sacred flame was lit in the temple in Jerusalem, where a commandment required a fire to burn continuously upon the outer altar. It was kept alight by oil on the special lampstand that was part of God's design for the temple.

Exodus 27:20-21 NIV

²⁰ "Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning. ²¹ In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the Lord from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.



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HEARTS ON File

Selah – A continuous quantity of oil was required to keep the flame in the tabernacle and temple burning. Oil is another symbol of the Holy Spirit. Why not pause for a few moments and consider whether we have sufficient oil to keep the flame of God's presence burning in our lives. Draw close to God right now, and He will draw close to us (James 4:8). Once again, stop and think about the priorities for the day today. Let's ask God to re-fill us with fresh oil. Let us make sure we keep our lamps burning.

Matthew 25:1-4 NIV

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

Source – It is apparent that keeping a flame burning requires ample fuel. On previous days we have seen that the natural world provides fuel from a variety of sources. For us as Christians this fuel comes from a single source, our relationship with the loving God. However, it is vital that we cultivate that relationship by spending quality time with our Heavenly Father. Abba is an Aramaic word for father, used by Jesus and Paul to address God in a relation of personal intimacy. We cultivate and build our loving relationship by spending time in reading the bible, prayer, meditation, and worshipping Him. Let's spend some time doing that right now. We will be pleasantly surprised about the provision God makes for us. Here is an example of God supernaturally using Elisha the prophet to provide fuel for a widow in need:

2 Kings 4:2-5 NIV

² Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil." ³ Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. ⁴ Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

⁵ She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring.

Fill up – Let us continue to use the analogy of oil as fuel to light a flame that brings light. "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" and "Sing Hosanna", is a traditional Christian hymn based on the Parable of the Ten Virgins. The song has been recorded many times and was a hit in Jamaica in 1964 for Eric "Monty" Morris. Today it is often sung in schools.



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HEARTS ON File

The song might be a bit old hat now, but its root is in the gospel of Matthew as we saw earlier. It's meaning is very profound, and very helpful for us to think about today.

Leviticus 6:13-23 NIV

¹³ The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

Prepare – How do we make preparation for keeping an eternal flame burning in our hearts? Life here and now will come to an end at some point, something we don't necessarily like to think about. However, as Christians we have eternal life that goes beyond the earthly life. All of us spend time feeding, nourishing, exercising, planning and preparing ourselves for our everyday existence in the natural realm. How much more should we then prepare ourselves for an eternal relationship with God in our heavenly home? We prepare ourselves by recognising who we are in Christ, by accepting salvation and by faith, being obedient to God every day, and by giving Him the honour and praise that He deserves.

Hebrews 13:12-15 NIV

¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Prayer:

Now, pray out loud this prayer expressing your willingness to depend on God again: Lord, please help me to be a flame that burns brightly. light me with Your holy fire and refine me too. I need Your power. Help me to radiate Your Light and not my own.

Please increase my awareness of Your light in me. Shine on the way that You want me to travel and keep help me stay focussed on You. I want to spend quality time with You. Release Your power within me so that any ties that bind me are broken. Set me free to radiate the light of Your love.

Thank You for hearing the cry of my heart. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Re-fire

It is very interesting to note that there are geographical sites in the world that have burned for thousands of years with natural gas, methane or lava and oxygen mixed. For example, Mount Wingen in New South Wales, Australia is commonly known as Burning Mountain, partly for the red regolith^{iv} that colours its summit, but primarily because an actual fire smoulders one hundred feet below its surface. It has done so for at least six thousand years!



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HEARTS ON File

This is the oldest-known natural coal fire. That is a very long time! In the spiritual realm, the eternal flame within us has been put there by our saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! We should be eternally grateful because the scripture tells us that nothing can extinguish this flame. Paul the apostle puts it this way:

Romans 8:37-39 NIV

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[a] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Be filled and released – There will be many things that happen in life that will conspire to extinguish the flame within us. We have been filled with the Holy Spirit, who has provided us with fuel and power to live. The enemy of our souls doesn't like this fact. It is very important that we recognise that our salvation came to us freely by grace, but that we need to ensure that the source of our fuel is not capped off, as with an oil or gas well. The well of our hearts and minds can get cluttered up. We counteract this by attending to a regular, daily relationship with Jesus. By giving attention to His word, His voice, His love and the need for His holiness, we can shake off the hindrances. Again, Paul the apostle puts it like this:

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Pray now.

Lord, we deeply desire to maintain a deep and lasting relationship with You. We confess our need of You, for cleansing and for re-energising in strength and power. Please re-fill our lives today. We need You more, more than yesterday, more than words can say, more than ever before, we need You more. Come Holy Spirit. Amen.

Be obedient and faith filled – It has been said that nothing in life comes automatically. Things don't just 'drop into our lap'. For us as disciples of Jesus there is a balance between faith and works. If we use our own efforts alone, we will run out of energy. God has provided us with the energy and driving force to live our lives to the full.



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Salvation and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ release energy of a different nature, it is spiritual.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NIV

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our dependency on natural strength has limits. Our dependency on God is limitless! Let us be determined to walk in God's ways, obey Him at any cost, and make bold choices by faith. Let us ensure only to do what our Heavenly Father tells us to do, which will fulfil His Kingdom purposes. Let's use the giftings that have been freely given to us and do so in His strength, with a flame burning brightly and full of vitality. This will ensure we don't run out of fuel but reach the destination that is part of our calling.

Matthew 6:33-34 NIV

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit – For us as Christians, we are called to have the eternal flame burning in our lives for the benefit of others, not just ourselves. There is a needy, hurting world that needs to hear about, and feel the power and love of God. Many people feel powerless to help themselves and others. As part of Christ's church, we are to proclaim, but also demonstrate the power of God that is at work in us. The world needs to be aware of the eternal life that is available to them in Jesus Christ. The flame burning inside of us needs to become visible and active. It's zeal and energy must be put to good use, through us. So, let's be aware and sensitive to the needs around us, and be guided by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to act as He guides us:

Isaiah 58:6-7 NIV

⁶ "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

What makes Christian action different from other charitable initiatives is the motivation that our comes from Jesus who is at work in us, burning a passion within us to serve and fulfil His purposes in the earth.



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HEARTS ON FILE

Be prepared to advance into new things – On previous days we have looked at the movement and constantly changing shape of the flame. There is a need to be open to new ways of doing things. Our God is a creative God, and He has provided us all with amazing areas of inspiration, gifts and the means to fulfil His purposes.

Today, be prepared to explore new ways of working. Approach things in a different way, as the Holy Spirit leads. Has God been challenging us about the need to adapt and find fresh expressions of His power and love? This last couple of years has clearly demonstrated the need to find opportunities to meet, pray and worship. New technology has been commandeered to aid us, and the fire and passion for Jesus has remained undimmed as a result. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us adapt, change, and remain flexible. This will keep the flame alive and vibrant.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 NIV

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

Prayer:

Now, why not pray out loud this prayer of commissioning:

Lord, please burn up the dross in my life and refuel me as I spend time in Your presence.

Come with oil and fire as I respond to Your guidance, I want to move into all the purposes You have for me.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

In Jesus Name. Amen.



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HEARTS ON FROM

Hearts on Fire Re-fuel & Re-fire

Day 6

Today: Igniting the fire

All it takes is a spark to ignite a fire. Most of us will at some point, have lit a fire with a match, taper or lighter. Sadly, we have seen the news of forest fires being started sometimes accidentally due to the sun's reflecting on metal or glass. At other times they have been deliberate acts of arson. There are consequences of a fire being lit. Explorers will often carry flint and steel to light a fire. Think, for a moment about the fire of God. Our hearts need to be on fire as Christians. Are we feeling dry inside? How vibrant and alive does our walk with Jesus seem right now? At all times God isn't very far away even though it feels like it sometimes. His closeness can be restored to us. In an instant (a spark), His presence can manifest itself again.

Lord, we cry out to You and say our hearts are open to Your power once again. Will You please ignite the fire in us again? Thank You for Your Holy Spirit already at work in me. Please release it warmth and purifying power once again. Amen.

2 Timothy 1:6 NIV

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Worship song of the day: **Set a fire** - Jesus Culture (Written by Will Reagan) YouTube link: <u>https://youtu.be/-Jzqq4B8H2Q</u>

Re-fuel

There are times when we can get a bit worn out in our Christian service and commitment. At these times we can become dry, lose zeal and energy. Our weariness becomes overwhelming, and we can easily lose heart and get disillusioned. It is during these seasons God doesn't want us to be drained. Quite the opposite in fact. God wants to get our attention again during these times.



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HEARTS ON File

We need to set aside time to take stock and find meaningful ways to acquire fresh input and renew our energy.

Isaiah 40:31 NIV

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

We should always remember that light is more powerful than darkness during these challenging passages of time. Darkness will not extinguish a lit candle; the flame that is alight will pierce the darkness!

Selah – What would we like to see re-ignited in our lives today? In which parts of our lives have we become complacent? Where has the enemy of our souls been trying to exploit our weaknesses? Where have we been worn down and become weary in well-doing? There is only one way to put a brake on and arrest the slide into compromise. It is by bringing these things to the cross of Jesus. We confess our sin, seek His forgiveness, and thereby see freedom and liberty restored as we are washed and cleansed in the blood of the lamb. We might also have lost our joy. By coming boldly to the throne of grace we can see our joy renewed.

1 John 1:8-9 NIV

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Pause for a few moments now. Stop and think about the priorities for today. Prepare well by meditating on the questions above, and on giving honest answers. When done, let us pray a prayer of confession and yielding to God once again in our own words.

Source – In order to fuel the fire, we need to build up stocks of the right material. As in the natural world so in the spiritual one. Think about it! What we listen to, read, and watch will influence us and our capacity to walk in holiness and truth. To ensure that the fire in us is not extinguished, we must guard our hearts to ensure that our spiritual state is kept on track by viewing uplifting, wholesome material.

John 10:9-10 NIV

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

We have looked previously at some of the practical way in which we keep pursuing the right pathway with discipline.



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HEARTS ON File

This not just a religious ritual but a spiritual way of life. It will bring fruit if we don't give up. Some of the personal disciplines are regular times of devotion. You will find a release of supernatural strength coming as you follow this path.

Psalm 16:11 NIV

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Fill up – How do we fill up an electric vehicle, EV? We need to plug into the source of power. It is the same for us as Christians. We can't just keep going in our own strength. We will get drained at some point. Therefore, it is essential periodically to stop, to plug into God and draw down the power to get re-filled. We need choose to remain connected, and stay close to the Lord. Keeping our distance won't work if we need to take fuel on board!

James 4:8 NIV

⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

How do we do this? By opening our hearts and reading God's word of truth. It's important to ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate it to our hearts and minds. We need to come into God's presence to worship Him and give time, and the honour that He deserves. We can do that at any point in the day, even when we are busy. We can compartmentalise our minds and focus on His grace, goodness, and faithfulness.

Prepare – The internal combustion engine in motorised vehicles need sparks to ignite the gases that force the engine to work. The forward motion of a vehicle is initiated under the bonnet and isn't generally seen. It is the same in the life of a Christian. Most of the work of Salvation and transformation in our lives goes on inside our hearts and minds. We then see the result of it by our outward speech and actions.

Luke 6:45 NIV

⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Why not think about the way we have been speaking to people this week? Are we happy with the way we have behaved and spoken? It has been said that you will know the condition of your heart not so much by your actions, but by your reactions. That is very profound when we consider the scripture we have just read! Preparation for the day will include taking stock of the purity of the fuel we have on board. Any mechanic will tell you that impurities in fuel can cause engines to stutter and become unreliable.



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HEARTS ON FILE

Let us ensure that our motivation and our motivation pure. We can be sure this happens by putting our lives on the altar before God at the start of the day. Exchange impure thoughts with His pure ones. Swap our scepticism and disillusionment with faith and trust in Jesus. By doing this the spark and flame will operate as it should, and Jesus will be glorified in and through us.

Prayer:

Now, pray out loud this prayer expressing your willingness to depend on God again:

Lord, please fill me again with Your power. I want to be a beacon of hope. Ignite my heart. May Your holy fire set other beacons alight too. Help me to shine with Your Light and not my own.

Bring a new light filled intensity in me. Spark me into action. Increase the temperature of Your presence as I spend more time with You. May the fire burn up all the impurities within me and drive out anxiety and fear. Increase my boldness so that the power of Your love is released in me to overflow to the people I meet.

Thank You for hearing the cry of my heart. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Re-fire

Be filled and released – Once a fire is ignited the flames will reach out to embrace new material to feed it. The fuel will quickly become consumed as the intensity and temperature increases. Isn't that what we want to have happen as Christians? Can we remember what it was like when first accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour? It was as If nothing could stop us talking about it and sharing the exciting encounter and truth with others. That experience was the fire of the Holy Spirit at work following our transformation. Whether we receive the Baptism of the Holt Spirit at the same time or later matters not. The fire of God is at work in believers in Jesus Christ. This fire of the Holy Spirit is what motivates and energises us to serve and witness about what God has done for us. Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection brought salvation to us all. Our acceptance of Jesus means we have yielded ourselves to God, repented and allowed ourselves to submit to His Lordship. Our God is a consuming fire who cleanses us from sin and releases new life. This passage explains the power of fire:

1 Kings 18:38-39 NIV

³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.
³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"



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HEARTS ON File

Why not take a moment right now to declare that "*The Lord – He is God! Jesus - You are Lord!*" Let the fire of God rise in us today bringing the power of His love to the surface.

Be obedient and faith filled – Today let us take time to make some clear declarations and requests, by faith:

- We choose to serve You today in obedience and faith.
- We proclaim that You Jesus, are the only true Lord and Saviour.
- We say that Your Name is higher than any other name.
- We sincerely ask that that You let the fire fall on us to cleanse, refine our hearts
- We ask that you fill us again with the power of the Holy Spirit, for Your glory.

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today our daily broad.
¹² And forgive us our dabts, as we also have forgive as

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.¹³ And lead us not into temptation,^[a] but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]

For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen!

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit – When we fully yield ourselves to the power of God, we give Him room to do what He wants to do. If we allow Him to refine us, He will burn up all the dross, (hay, wood and stubble) that clutters our lives. It just takes a spark from the Holy Spirit to ignite a fresh move of God in our hearts. It will require us to yield and submit to His ways with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Let the fire purge all pride and self seeking. See what God will do in and through us as a result!

James 4:6-8 NIV

⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."^[a] ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you doubleminded.

Be prepared to advance into new things – Once we have allowed God to do a refining work, things start to move! Firstly, the selfishness, flesh and obstacles within us start to shift as they are cleansed through our confession of sin. Then we start to see a shift in priorities. We become more available to God to be a fireball of His love, compassion and grace. Without the fire to cleanse we get stuck, but when the fire falls things start to happen. We get motivated, energised and set alight. The result is that people start to see our attitude change, and they are more likely to hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus through us. World, God's people are on the move.



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Nothing can stop the people of God when they are on fire!

1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

These are words of a familiar worship song:

"And if our God is for us then who could ever stop us; And if our God is with us then what could stand against"

We will be using this song as our focus in worship on day seven.

Prayer:

Now, why not pray out loud this prayer of commissioning:

Lord, please burn up the dross in my life and refuel me as I spend time in Your presence.

Come with oil and fire as I respond to Your guidance, I want to move into all the purposes You have for me.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

In Jesus Name. Amen.



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HEARTS ON File

Hearts on Fire Re-fuel & Re-fire

Day 7

Today: Wind and Fire together bring increase

Scientists tell us that fire is a chemical reaction that releases light and heat. It requires fuel, oxygen and heat to burn, and typically give out bright light, heat, and smoke. We are reliably informed that Earth is the only known planet where fire can burn. Everywhere else there's not enough oxygen. Emergency Services will tell us that fires can be stopped in three different ways: 1) Removing the fuel source. 2) Removing the oxygen by smothering the fire. 3) Removing the heat by absorbing it with water, dampening it down. Fire is also influenced by the wind, which will whip up a fire, causing it to spread and increase in energy and intensity.

For each natural world fact about fire there is a very interesting spiritual parallel. Let's think about the ways that fires can be put out from a Christian life perspective. We can run out of fuel, run out of air, and have circumstances that put cold water on our fire. As for wind, our life experiences see the wind of the Spirit of God blowing, pushing, stretching and bending our lives. These experiences can be both negative and positive but will always be a deep learning experience.

Ezekiel 19:12 NIV

¹² But it was uprooted in fury and thrown to the ground. The east wind made it shrivel, it was stripped of its fruit; its strong branches withered and fire consumed them.

Our focus today includes looing at the spiritually creative work of wind and fire in scripture and in our lives as disciples of Jesus..





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HEXRIS ON File

Re-fuel

Selah – Whenever wind blows on a fire there is always an increase in flame and heat. Remember what we have looked at over the last six days. As each day has passed, be stimulated to consider the following: The source of our fuel, the warmth and vibrant movement of flames, burning light, the eternal flame, and the igniting of fire. On each day we have cried out to God in prayer and asked Him to come into our lives afresh. We've asked God to deal with hindrances, but also to restore and inject fresh fire into our lives. The result being that we shine for Jesus and be beacons of light and hope in a dark world.

Today we can discover that by asking God, He will increase His power in us. If we allow the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow on the fire within us it will result in additional intensity in heat and effectiveness! This can be seen in the story of Elisha, who asked God' prophet Elijah for a double portion of what he had. Why not pause and do that right now! *Lord, please give me a double portion of Your power and presence. Please double up Your power and increase Your work in me, in Jesus Name. Amen.*

2 Kings 2:9 NIV

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

Now that you have asked this, believe that you have received it, and say thank you to God for His provision, power and anointing. Thank You Lord!

Matthew 7:7-8 NIV

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Source – Over the course of the week we have established that our spiritual fuel comes from the Lord Himself. Our eternal life as a Christian was provided by Jesus Christ, His sacrificial love was shown on the cross and through His resurrection. Our confession of sin and acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Saviour is foundational to our spiritual fuel. The power of the Holy Spirit becomes the eternal flame that burns brightly within and upon us. Our hearts are transformed, and our lifestyles are deeply affected by the change. Other people see this in us.



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HEARTS ON File

On day four we looked at these scriptures which are important for evangelism and outreach into our communities:

Matthew 5:14 NIV

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Why not ask God to let the wind of the Holy Spirit blow on the light of Jesus in your life so that it shines ever more brightly? Why not pause and do that right now? Make that our priority in prayer for today. Let's go out today singing with worship in our mind and heart.

Fill up - Let the scriptures we have read come alive in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Consider the properties of wind from a spiritual perspective: It has been often said to be the messenger of divine intervention, and it is the vital breath of the universe. Wind often represents the fleeting and transient, the elusive and the intangible. The scripture illustrates this:

John 3:8 NIV

⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."^[a]

Let us fill up with fuel again today and let the wind of the Holy Spirit cause our flame to flare up and increase in intensity. Let the warmth and heat bring overcoming victory. Why not cry out to God for a fresh infilling of His supernatural power right now? Give God maximum opportunity to cause our flame to glow with the brightest light and highest heat possible.

Prepare – Let us make up our minds to prepare well today. Let's make the choice to fill up with the right kinds of fuel, that will be certain to get us to where we are supposed to be. Let us pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), meditate and dwell on the goodness of God (Psalm 19:14), and worship Jesus in Spirit and Truth (John 4:24). Remember our journey checks should include all of the above:

Ephesians 5:19-20 NIV

¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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HEARTS ON File

Prayer:

Now, pray out loud this prayer expressing your willingness to depend on God again:

Lord, please refine me with Your holy fire again. Enlarge my heart to see an increase of power and love. Help me to depend more on You than on my own strength.

Increase a new zeal in me. I have decided to spend more time listening to You. Help me to be less selfish and more generous. I'm grateful that Your power and strength is there for me.

Thank You for hearing the cry of my heart. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Re-fire

Be filled and released – Today is a day to be filled with all that God has for us. It is also a day to be set free from anything that would get in the way of this happening. In the re-fuelling section we read earlier, we looked at what the fire of God accomplishes in us. This included increased power, increased heat, and transformation, and change. This is the work of the Holy Spirt, and will find that the wind of the Spirit increases the impact. We looked at asking God for a double portion! Why not press in to God and make a further declaration and cry to Him for more of Him, His power, and His fire. Why not pause now and articulate it in your own words.

Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Psalm 37:4 NIV

⁴ Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Be obedient and faith filled – Remember, the fire of God works in us to purify and empower. However, this is not just for our benefit. It is so that God can equip us to serve Him by sharing the fire and power with other people. There is a lost world that needs good news, and God wants to use us to reach these people. When we give away what has given us, we can be daily replenished, re-fuelled and re-fired as we spend time with God again. What a privilege, what an honour to know that our God is available to us all the time! Let's be clear, what we have will be tested! Our lives are empowered to show and implement God's plans in our world. The fire of God has an important part to play. Let's decide to be set part, sanctified and purified to do His will, His way, in His power.



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HEXRIS ON File

1 Corinthians 3:13-16 NIV

¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit – God may ask us to do things in a different way. Are we open to that, or have we got stuck in to a pattern and method that suits us, but doesn't necessarily suit the work of the Holy Spirit? We need to allow our hearts and minds to be de-sensitised to the old ways and re-sensitised to the news ways God wants to work. Ask God to increase your sensitivity and improve your spiritual awareness. Why not ask Him to do that right now? *Help me Lord to become increasingly free from the ways that have become tired and ineffective. Show me the new things that you want to do and show me how and when to do them. I ask for Your favour to be on me. Thank You Lord. Amen.*

Isaiah 61:1 NIV

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a]

Be prepared to advance into new things –The fire of God comes to purify us, but also to spark us into action. The fire comes to bring cleansing, but also an empowering and zeal. The fire of God comes to consume the dross, but also release holiness in us. The result is that people see Jesus in us. This is a good thing, and what God always intended for His people. So, let us move onwards in His power as true disciples of Jesus. Let us be determined to allow God to work in us whatever the cost and use us in whatever way He decides. Make a fresh commitment to God now. Let Him re-commission us and send us out to do His will. Why not declare or sing the chorus of this lovely old hymn right now

O God of burning cleansing flame Send the fire Your blood-bought gift today we claim Send the fire today Look down and see this waiting host and send the promised Holy Ghost We need another Pentecost Send the fire today

And finally, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven! Amen!



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Hebrews 12:28-29 NIV

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our "God is a consuming fire."^[a]

Prayer:

Now, why not pray out loud this prayer of commissioning:

Lord, please burn up the dross in my life and refuel me as I spend time in Your presence.

Come with oil and fire as I respond to Your guidance, I want to move into all the purposes You have for me.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

In Jesus Name. Amen.



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HEARTS ON File

Hearts on Fire Re-fuel & Re-fire

Daily prayer of commissioning (full version)

Why not pray this prayer consistently every day?

God, I thank You for Saving me, for Your grace, for the challenge to live a Holy life, and for the authority that You have provided by my belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of my life.

I choose to fully align myself to Your purposes, and I desire to be refuelled in Your ways, and be re-fired with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, please refuel me as I spend time in Your presence. Help me as I look to move into all You have for me. Refire me once again and release healing, strength, and power to live and serve.

Set my heart on fire for You and consume me with the Holy Spirit, and in-still in me a passion for Jesus and a passion to be good news.

I welcome the presence and power of Holy Spirit to re-fire and re-fuel me and to burn up the dross of an old season, old mindset, and old paradigms, and embrace the new and the next.

Lord, come with oil and fire to heal and strengthen me once more, to shake off weariness, doubt, disappointment, and delay.

Restore passion in me once again. Will You demonstrate Your fire and power within me, and release healing and strength to live and serve You today.

Lord, I want my life to be consumed with living Holy fire that results in a demonstration of Your glory and goodness to a world that needs to know Your love and grace.

I pray all these things for me, for my church and for my community.

In Jesus Name. Amen



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HEARTS ON File



Information about fire

As part of our research, we thought it helpful to provide some information about fire that you might find useful as you pray and study the scriptures.

It is amazing how in our world, God's creation is full of natural phenomena that is natural, but as an analogy has great spiritual significance.

Did you know that there are several places around the world where there are perpetual flames burning? Did you know that the London 2012 Olympics flame was made of petals representing every country that join to make a single, much brighter flame?

These are examples sources of flame and heat that are found to emanate underground and are fuelled by natural sources of energy.

The spiritual significance is that the fire of God is at work within us as Christians. The Holy Spirit empowers us each day, and from which there is the evidence of it seen and felt by the people that we meet. Come Holy Spirit. Refuel us and Re-fire us to shine ever brightly in our challenging world.

Eternal flame



- In ancient times, eternal flames were fueled by wood or <u>olive oil</u>; modern examples usually use a piped supply of <u>propane</u> or natural gas. They consume <u>oxygen</u>, transforming it to <u>carbon dioxide</u> and <u>water</u>. Human-created eternal flames most often <u>commemorate</u> a person or event of national significance, serve as a symbol of an enduring nature such as a <u>religious belief</u>, or a reminder of commitment to a common goal, such as <u>diplomacy</u>. There are Natural sites that have burned 1,000's of years with natural gas, methane or lava and oxygen mixed.
- Jewish History The eternal flame was a component of the Jewish religious rituals performed in the <u>Tabernacle</u> and later in the <u>Temple in Jerusalem</u>, where a commandment required a fire to burn continuously upon the Outer <u>Altar</u>.^[2]



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Modern Judaism continues a similar tradition by having a <u>sanctuary lamp</u>, the *ner tamid*, always lit above <u>the ark</u> in the synagogue. After <u>World War II</u>, such flames gained further meaning, as a reminder of the six million Jews killed in <u>the Holocaust</u>.

Olympic flame



- Whilst the Olympic Flame only stays alight for a season, there is helpful symbolism in the way that God manifests Himself through His church. Look at the 2012 Olympic Cauldron design concepts. The copper petals held individual flames, but they all came together to make one much stronger flame. The petals represented the countries taking part. So, for us as part of God's church, His flame in us multiplied by many others will bring light to us and also to the world.
- British designer <u>Thomas Heatherwick</u> was chosen by <u>Danny Boyle</u> to design the cauldron for the 2012 London Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games (the same design would serve both).^[3]
- The brief was that the cauldron should be something that connected all the nations, with the idea of them each bringing a constituent part of it, and also have a story or narrative. It was to be of a human scale, and to be placed among the people in the stadium rather than towering over it. It was also to be transient, like the coming-together of nations during each Games.^[6]
- Heatherwick said "When Danny Boyle asked us to do this we felt this huge responsibility. We asked people: 'Which cauldron do you remember?' And the answer was: none. Our role was to design a 'moment': how could we make this moment manifest in the object? We didn't just want to make a bowl on a stick."^[4] He was also keen to avoid the competitive aspect of designs for the previous Olympics: "We were aware that cauldrons have been getting bigger, higher and fatter as each Olympics has happened and we felt that we shouldn't try to be even bigger than the last ones."^[7] Heatherwick and his team spent two months researching and examining ideas, including a weekend spent looking at all previous Olympic cauldron designs.^[8]
- Another important part of the brief was "Whatever you do, no moving parts". This was due to the failure of the cauldron at the <u>2010 Winter Olympics</u> at <u>Vancouver</u>, when one of the four moving parts of the cauldron had failed to work.^[3] Heatherwick said "When we proposed the most moving parts ever in an Olympic cauldron, we were nervous and feeling a bit guilty about that. But the same man who'd said that to us was the first person to say yes."^[9]



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Note: All the above Information was sourced from publicly available sources.

Endnotes

^{iv} On Earth, regolith also includes soil, which is a biologically active medium and a key component in plant growth.



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ⁱ Selah is a word used 71 times in the Psalms and 3 times in Habakkuk. It is often thought to be a liturgical mark encouraging the lifting of voice in worship, hands in prayer and bowing in reverence. It is thought to mean a break or pause before continuing.

ⁱⁱ This is an abbreviated version of the prayer of the commissioning. If you choose to, you can use the full text, which you can find at the end of the bible and prayer plan document.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tongues – This is a supernatural heavenly language that often accompanies the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. See Acts 2:4 NIV All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.