

The Spirit in the Fire

Luke 9:51-56

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Message

Undoubtedly, you've seen this clip:

Clip from Raiders of the Lost Ark:

The power of the Ark of the Covenant is being released. Beautiful white streams of light and an inviting presence emerge.

Nazi Soldier: *It's beautiful.*

The inviting, flowing, light presence transforms into a frightening symbol of death. Everyone who has been hunting the Ark of the Covenant begins to scream in terror, except for Indiana and Marion. Wind and smoke fiercely blow.

Marion: *Indy?*

Indiana Jones: *Don't look! Keep your eyes shut.*

A blazing fire begins to emerge from the Ark of the Covenant as the Nazi soldiers and leaders continue to look on in curiosity. One of the leaders screams out in fear when he begins to realize what is taking place. Suddenly, lightening bolts jut out of the fire. The lightening bolts penetrate into the chests of the Nazi soldiers and the soldiers instantly fall to their death. The faces of the Nazi leaders begin to gruesomely melt, and they scream out in agony as they wither to nothing, the fire utterly obliterating and destroying them.

A wave of fire and smoke completely covers the area surrounding the Ark, continuing to cleanse it from all life. Only Indiana and Marion remain alive because they have kept their eyes closed and have not looked upon the Ark of the Covenant. A final blast of light shoots from the Ark and reaches into the clouds.

People always want "practical application points," so there it is: "Don't play with fire, particularly if you're a Nazi."

This is a Jesus story that I've never preached and one for which I've never heard a sermon, at least that I can remember.

Luke 9:51

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

James and John (whom Jesus nicknamed “the sons of Thunder”) say. “Lord shall we call down fire from heaven?” That’s a rather obvious question if you know your Bible, because Fire comes down from Heaven throughout the Bible.

In Genesis 18 God destroys Sodom with fire from heaven.

Jude 7 tells us that they experienced a punishment, or vengeance of *aionios* or eternal fire. So, the Fire is eternal but the burning is not, for Sodom is not still burning; It’s past tense. They experienced a punishment of eternal fire because they practiced “sexual immorality” and “unnatural desire.”

Some practice that today and then others, who are sexually immoral in different ways, write laws about the sexually immoral in the first way and so they all deserve the vengeance of Eternal Fire.

In Exodus 16:49 God says, “*Behold this was the guilt of your sister Sodom, she and her daughters had pride, excess of food and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy...*” And that sounds kind of familiar, sounds a bit like me.

Well fire comes down from heaven and consumes sinners...not just from Sodom – but Jerusalem, and in Jerusalem Fire comes down and consumes sacrifices. And remember that is was Eternal Fire, the Perpetual Fire that came down from heaven and set the altar ablaze in the temple in Jerusalem. It consumes sinners and it consumes sacrifices. And when Israel invades the Promised Land they are often told to present Canaanites-*Haram* as sacrifices to God. In Hebrew ironically, it doesn’t mean something worthless, but something holy and priceless to God. The Canaanites are *Haram*. “They are mine,” says God.

In I Kings 18 Elijah refers to God as “*the God who answers by fire,*” which means the word is fire. “*Is not my word like fire?*” says God through Jeremiah (Jer. 23:29).

I Kings 18 Elijah calls on God and fire comes down from Heaven and consumes the sacrifice in front of the priests of Baal.

In II Kings 1, the King of Israel, in Samaria, seeks the aid of Baal-zebub. At this time “Israel” refers to the Northern Kingdom with its capital in Samaria as opposed to Jerusalem. Samaritans come from Samaria.

The king of Israel, in Samaria, seeks the aid of Baal-zebub, a pagan deity. It was those foreign deities that seduced Israelites to sacrifice their children in fire – most notably in the Valley of *Hinnom-Gehenna*, yet Isaiah says that *Gehenna* itself is set ablaze by Fire and brimstone from the mouth of God. So they sacrifice to Baal = but become sacrifice to Yahweh. *Gehenna* fire is often translated – Hell fire.

Well, like I was saying, The King of Israel, in Samaria, sends messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, and Elijah stops them and sends them back to the king. The King then sends fifty men to get Elijah, and Elijah calls down fire on these Samaritan soldiers. The King sends another fifty, and Elijah calls down more fire from Heaven. This is what James and John are referring to when they say, “Jesus, these Samaritans are against you... can we nuke ‘em – like Elijah?”

In 2 Kings 1:13 The king in Samaria sends a third group of fifty, and the commander of fifty begs Elijah for his life. At this point, the Angel of Yahweh shows up. This Messenger of Yahweh, He's like a God -Man and called the Word of God. He appears as fire and in fire, the angel in the Fire). He appears as fire and in fire, the angel in the fire. He shows up and basically says, "Elijah, Stop it, don't be afraid, and go with these guys and talk to the King."

Well, in the Old Testament, fire comes down from Heaven and God's Prophets speak fire.

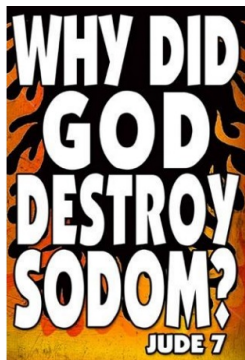
Jeremiah 5:14 – God says, *"Jeremiah... behold I am making my words in your mouth a fire and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them."* And now He's not talking about Sodom and Gomorrah...but Jerusalem, and Jerusalem is the people of God. *"Jeremiah – speak fire to Jerusalem"*

Well, the disciples ask, "Is it the time for fire?" Maybe we should preach some fire?



This is one of the placards from Westboro Baptist Church.

Here's another.



Most Christians distance themselves from groups like Westboro Baptist, and yet preach the fire in the very same spirit: "Unless you repent before the day you die, it means that God does not love you and will never love you and so will torture you endlessly with fire."

Westboro Baptist may just be a little more forthright than most. Now, you may think, "Well, calling down fire is an Old Testament phenomenon, now we do the Jesus Thing." Well, listen to Jesus in the very next chapter of Luke. Jesus is talking about towns that reject them, towns like the Samaritan village in Luke 9.

Luke 10:12

But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida!... And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades."

We know what happens to Hades - - On that Day, it's thrown into the lake of Fire.

Luke 12:49

I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! (RSV)

In places, it sounds like the fire that Jesus casts on the earth is Himself.

2 Thessalonians 1:7

When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, that comes from [literally "from" not "away from"] the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day. . .

And the very next chapter 2 Thessalonians 2:8

And then the lawless one (the anti-christ, the false christ, the imitation christ) will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

It's like Jesus is the burning Angel of Yahweh. He's transfigured on the mountain, before the disciples, to look just like that. He manifests just like that to Saint Paul, on the road to Damascus – destroying old Rabbi Saul and creating the Apostle Paul. He appears that way in the Revelation. And it's His Blood – the blood of the Lamb – that's poured out on the earth from the bowls of wrath like fire from heaven. So, maybe preaching Jesus is calling down some fire. And maybe James and John are making some sense when they ask Jesus, "Should we call down fire from heaven?"

Heaven can also be translated "sky." Out of all the people in all the world, Americans are probably most adept at calling down fire from the sky: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Shock and Awe. We have the most terrifying Air Force the world has ever seen. We love to call down fire. That's why we hire policeman, and lawyers, and soldiers, and preach Hell fire to our enemies. Maybe we should do it more, for isn't that just what our Father in Heaven does?

Comedy clip:

Comedian: I wore a what would Jesus do bracelet in a movie theatre once to see if it would work. A cell phone went off, one of those obnoxious rings where it's a song, and he doesn't want to answer it because the good part is coming. I had my hands on his neck and then I saw my bracelet staring right back at me: "What Would Jesus Do?" So I lit him on fire and sent him to Hell.

I'm sorry, but I just love that clip "WWJD?" Isn't that what Jesus would do? James and John ask, "Isn't it what we should do?"

Luke 9:54

And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But he turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went to another village.¹

That's fascinating!

He rebukes James and John: *"You do not know what spirit you are of."* Maybe "calling down fire" isn't the real issue, but the Spirit in which you do it. Maybe Jesus would call down Fire – but not with the same spirit.

Did you see the Spirit in the Holy Fire in that clip from Raiders of the lost Ark? "It's beautiful!" cries the Nazi. But the Nazis weren't beautiful, and so the fire burned them. Maybe the Spirit in God's Fire is always the same, and the Spirit in us is not always the same so sometimes it burns

A spirit is a thing that's not a physical thing. -That means that two actions, two persons, places or things may look exactly the same and be entirely different, for the Spirit is different.

Turn to your neighbor and repeat after me: "My Soul is aflame, with Love for you. Would you marry me? See that's interesting...not much response. Yet on Oct. 30th, 1981 I said those exact same words to my girlfriend, Susan, and she jumped in the air, knocked me over, surrendered everything to me and gave birth to my four children, the exact same words – but a different Spirit, and the Spirit was me.

Maybe it's the Spirit in the fire that makes all the difference. The difference between making love and rape. Isn't it the Spirit in that fire? The difference between discipline and torture is the Spirit in the Fire.

¹ Now some of verse 55 and 56 aren't included in some translations because those phrases aren't included in some of the ancient manuscripts, yet what Jesus is recorded as saying here, he clearly says in other places. In all manuscripts, He rebukes James and John and in some the details are filled in.



I haven't told many people this but several years ago, on more than one occasion, my daughter Elizabeth had a very traumatic experience. A man struck her, overpowered her, and violated her will. His actions burned her dignity and pride. Although she kicked and screamed, he held her down until she passed out. When she woke up, hours later, she smiled and said, "Hi, Daddy" and gave me a big kiss.

Let me explain: She was two at the time and such a little hot head that she'd go into a rage she could not control. When spankings wouldn't work and she was actively terrorizing the whole Hiatt household, I'd have to just hold her down until she fell asleep. I'd be an utter basket case, in need of extensive counseling, but in the morning she'd hug me and kiss me as if to say, "Thank you for stopping me." You see? She knew the Spirit in the fire. She called him "Daddy." She knew I loved her with all I am.

But now imagine if she didn't know that. Imagine if someone else did that to her. Imagine if another spirit was in that fire. Parents, you know what I mean: Its one thing for you to spank your child, hopefully you agonize, you struggle, you inflict pain and you feel the pain. The fire burns you even more than it burns them. It's one thing for you to spank your child, but it's an entirely different thing for some adult you don't know to come along and spank your child. Odds are you'd have them arrested for abuse.

If you ever do allow another adult to discipline your child you make sure that you know them and they know you, that your spirit knows their spirit because spankings can burn sin, and burn little hearts, and the spirit in that fire makes all the difference. Scripture says that there is: *"One God and Father of All."* *"God is Spirit."* *God is a consuming fire."* So you ought to think twice before you play with fire, with people that God loves.

Well, James and John said "Can we call down fire on these Samaritans?" Jesus turned and rebuked them sharply saying *"You don't know what Spirit you are of."* Humans seem to be awfully susceptible to spirits. Do you remember that once (when Peter thought he was protecting Jesus) Jesus looked at Peter and said *"Get behind me Satan."* Peter did not know what spirit he was of.

In Scripture, there are lots of spirits, including each one of us. Yet, in any given moment, every spirit appears to be under the dominion of one of two spirits that are absolutely not the same. They are as different as light and dark, truth and lies, love and nothingness, substance and

absence. Both are non-physical, but one is reality and the other is the void. One is the Spirit of the Creator and one is the Spirit of the desecrator. One is the Spirit of God and one is Satan – the Adversary, the Accuser, the Dragon– the antichrist and false prophet.

In Scripture, Fire belongs to God and the Eternal Fire is said to come from His mouth like a word or a breath. And yet Satan seems to steal fire and put it on his arrows (Like in Eph. 6). In Rev. 13:13 The Dragon's false prophet is allowed (as if God must permit this) to call down Fire from Heaven.

Satan uses fire, but ultimately he hates fire, for he comes to an end in the lake of fire. Put Satan uses fire for desecration, but God *is* Fire and with His word and Spirit he creates creation. There is a Spirit of creation and a spirit of desecration.

So, Jesus says to James and John, *"You do not know what spirit you are of."* And I think this is why God the Father says in so many places, *"Vengeance is mine – I will repay."* See? It's like saying to the babysitter, "Spanking is mine – I will discipline." "Vengeance is mine," says God. And even when He has the Israelites enact the vengeance, He makes it clear that the sinner – those Canaanites are His. They are *Haram*–they belong to Him: *"Vengeance is mine. I will repay."* I think we just don't understand God's Vengeance. We think it's an act of desecration when, in fact, it's an act of creation.

How did I repay my 2 year-old daughter when she reigned down terror on our household? I repaid her by creating her...in my own image. I burned her bad will, and I gave her my will – a good will. That's the point of all discipline.

Deuteronomy 32: 35

"Vengeance is mine. I will repay."

The word is *Shilame* , or *Shawlawm* from *Shalom*. Before they put the vowels in the Hebrew alphabet they were all one word; it means "make peace."

In Psalm 62:12 God Shawlawms – repays our works and to Him belongs *Hesed* – Relentless Love called Grace. On the cross, God repays our sin with Grace: *"Where sin increased Grace abounded all the more,"* writes Paul.

But, just ask two year-old Elizabeth: Grace can burn. Grace burns in order to create. So what does Grace burn? Well, in Luke 9 it burned James and John. And what did it begin to create? It burned the Sons of Thunder and created James the first martyr and John the Apostle of Love. It burned their pride and created their faith (men in the image of God). It burned that thing in them that wanted to burn Samaritans...and made him in the image of the "Good Samaritan"

Jesus tells that story of the good Samaritan in the next chapter.

Well, imagine how the word of Jesus burned... especially after the conversation they'd just had. There's a context for the incident in Samaria. In Luke 9:44, Jesus foretells His sacrifice of love, and the disciples just don't get it – evidenced by the fact that in verse forty six they start arguing about who is greatest. They compete for Jesus' approval. Jesus picks up a child and says, *"he who is least among you all, will be great* (Literally "the great one")." Luke 9:48

“The last will be first” – “the least of all wins it all” That pretty much obliterates all forms of pride and makes all competition absurd.

Luke 9:49-53

Now John “Son of Thunder” answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.” But Jesus said to him, Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.”

Now that’s an outrageously magnanimous statement if you think about it. Those who aren’t against us are on our side, but what about those that are against us?

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

The Samaritan hated the Jews, and the Jews hated the Samaritans. And the problems started back in the days before Elijah, when the kingdom was divided between Israel in the north and Judah (or the Jews) in the south. Samaria was the capitol in the north and Jerusalem the capitol in the south. And they competed against each other for Yahweh and His approval.

By the time of Jesus, the Samaritans were considered half-breed; they were despised by the Jews. And the Jews were despised by the Samaritans. Samaritans worshipped on Mt Gerizim, and Jews worshipped on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. They were arch-rivals, competitors so when the Samaritans found out Jesus was going to Jerusalem, they wouldn’t receive him. James and John wanted to call down fire like Elijah and Jesus rebukes them and said, *“You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”* “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of!”

Scripture claims that the devil is the ruler of this world and that there is a spirit of this world. Under the sway of that spirit, we try to make ourselves in the image of God by taking knowledge from the tree of the knowledge of Life. It’s the spirit of pride and it causes us to compete. It tells us that the one who makes himself first is the one who is greatest. In other words, “the least don’t survive.” “The fittest survive.” For, life is a competition.

I find it fascinating that the Nazis were the first modern government to officially incorporate that idea into their political agenda, arguing that the Arian race was the next evolutionary step. And so, of course, the Ark of the Covenant would just fry the Hell right out of them. The Ark of the Covenant was literally stone laws – covered with a mercy seat that formed a throne, on which the pillar of Fire would rest. It was a picture of Grace sitting on the seat of judgment.

Grace destroys competition and creates life. Competition explains death – why species die out, but only Love explains Life –why one molecule or cell would sacrifice for another molecule or cell. Competition, pride, and envy are what? They are the spirit of this world. And we all assume it – we swim in it, knowing not “what spirit we are of.” It’s the spirit that drives me to make myself first by making another last, to make myself great by making another least, to try and create myself by desecrating another.

Sometimes when I suggest *that “God will reconcile all things to himself making peace by the blood at His cross,”* people will say “Then what’s the point of the cross? If all will come to believe and be saved, what’s the point of a savior?” Upon reflection – that’s an utterly bizarre question. It’s like saying “What’s the point of the lifeguard if he saves every kid in the pool?” See? I mean we all assume that “salvation by grace through faith” is a competition, and so “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” is not how we’re saved, but a test to see who’s smart enough to choose to be saved.

We assume that we’re saved by our “knowledge of good and evil and the power of our pride, which we refer to as human dignity or free will. We assume “I am my own salvation,” which means we don’t believe “God is Salvation” – *Yeshua*, so we’re not saved.

We assume salvation is a competition to love, which means we can’t love because we try to beat the neighbor we’re trying to love. In fact, in the name of love, we try to save ourselves by accusing our neighbors. What spirit is that? The Accuser?

We assume that Heaven is the survival of the fittest, not the survival of the last and least. What spirit is that?

We assume that we save ourselves by calling down fire on abortion doctors, homosexuals, Muslims, unbelievers, and Samaritans.

You know, according to numerous verses in Scripture, the fire doesn’t only fall on Sodom or Samaria, it falls on Jerusalem. And listen to God describe how He’ll save Jerusalem:

Ezekiel 16:51-63

Samaria has not committed half your sins, Jerusalem. “I will restore their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters.

So God can destroy a thing and remake a thing- - In fact, that’s what it is to be saved - - It’s to lose your life and find it; it’s to become the least, (with Jesus) and the great, (with Jesus)

“I will restore their fortunes... and I will restore your own fortunes in their midst, that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all that you have done, becoming a consolation to them.... Was not your sister Sodom a byword in your mouth the day of your pride, before your wickedness was uncovered? ... yet... I will establish for you an everlasting covenant. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of the covenant with you. I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD, that you may remember and be confounded and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done.”

Did you get that? Let me paraphrase: “Jerusalem, I’m gonna save you by saving Sodom. Sodom needed to be destroyed by fire but she will be remade and filled with Holy Fire.

Jerusalem, I'm gonna save you from your pride and the Spirit of this age... I'm gonna save you, by saving Sodom and Samaria and then saving you in their midst. Then you'll shut up and bless your sisters like daughters. This will happen when I atone for all that you have done."

And when did He do that? He did it on the "day of Vengeance" (Isaiah 61 what he read in the synagogue.) "The beginning of the year of the Lord's favor" when He repaid all our sins with *Hesed*—Mercy. He did it as Jesus lifted His head and cried, "Father, forgive them they know not what they do." "They know not what spirit they are of." There his blood was spilt, blood that is wine and wine that is fire. Wrath that is poured from the bowls of wrath, and yet, with these bowls, wrath accomplished its purpose. With Him, old Jerusalem is devoured by fire, so the New Jerusalem may be filled with fire.

Isaiah prophesies that instead of empty shame for her sin, Jerusalem will receive a double portion of everlasting Joy. Isaiah 40:2, 61:7

There on the cross He lifted His head and cried "it is finished, accomplished, ended" and then, He delivered up His Spirit – the Spirit of God – the Spirit of the Creator. That Spirit fell on the new Jerusalem at Pentecost. And when that fire fell all the disciples began praising God in the languages of all those different nations – nations that had warred with each other for thousands of years.

You see: the Spirit of God fell like fire and burned away the spirit of this world and set Jews and Samaritans and Egyptians and Romans and Cretans and Arabs –set them free to love and be loved – free to live.

In Acts 8, Peter and John "the Sons of Thunder" are sent to Samaria where John finally calls down Fire on the Samaritans. He prays for them to receive the Holy Spirit – the Spirit that burns the spirit of the Accuser- the Spirit that burns the Spirit of the Anti-christ-the false Christ-the imitation Christ that believes "I am salvation." The Spirit burns the old man, the false self, the pride – the flesh. John calls down Fire on His enemies... Fire that destroys enemies and creates friends. And you can call down that same Fire...

In Romans 12:1 Paul writes: *"Present your bodies as a living sacrifice."* Present your self to God's Holy Fire. Then in verse 19, he writes: *"Beloved do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,'"*

Maybe He will repay through you. "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Then in verse 20, he writes: *"Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For is so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."*

I don't think Paul is speaking metaphorically...He met this Fire on the road to Damascus. It burned the Hell out of Saul and created Saint. Paul. You can call down that same Fire and cast that same Fire on your neighbor by repaying sin with the Grace of God. It's not that sexual immorality, abortion, greed, idolatry, and unbelief are okay. It's just that you can't overcome evil with more evil.

Then in the next verse, 21: *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*

Maybe we've tried to overcome evil with more evil and Jesus is saying, *"You know not what manner of spirit you are."* Don't misunderstand. I think sometimes each of us is called to preach Fire. But, before you do ask Jesus, "Jesus what Spirit am I of?" And you see, It is a spirit. I can spout all the correct theology but do it in the wrong spirit and be a tool of Satan.

So how do I have the right Spirit? How do I know the right Spirit?
I'd suggest:

- 1) Spend time with Jesus, talk to Him, walk with Him. Know His story and seek His Face.
- 2) Go to the cross and watch how He searched for you.
Let His love burn the pride right out of you. He sacrificed for you and for your enemies.
- 3) Present yourself as a sacrifice to Him.
Call on the Spirit to fill you and use you.

Maybe even better yet: "Whenever you feel the need to call down fire, just pray for the person on whom you feel the need to call down the fire.

Have you had that experience? You're furious at someone and ready to call down fire and then you pray for that someone and everything changes. You may still have to speak fire, but there will be an entirely different Spirit in the fire, not the spirit of the desecrator, but the Spirit of the Creator. The Spirit of Jesus is the Spirit in the fire.

I have a bunch of amazing stories about that involving exorcism, Satan, earthly fire, and God's Fire. A vision revealing that Jesus is the Spirit in the fire, for Jesus even redeems and inhabits stolen fire so you don't need to fear any fire. They are amazing stories, but we don't have time to tell them, and maybe it's best not to tell them because you don't have to perform exorcisms or have visions to call down the Holy Fire. You just have to give some food and water to your *enemy* and you burn Satan and set people free. You just have to be nice to a Samaritan the way God your Father has been nice to you.

In Luke 6:35 Jesus said, *"But love your enemies... and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil."*

The Spirit in the Fire is Kind.

Communion

This is the Spirit in the Fire of God. And in the days of His flesh, He took bread and He broke it saying, "This is my body given to you; take and eat; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup, and He said, "This cup is the covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins, drink of it all of you, and do this in remembrance of me."

Now that you know the Spirit in the Fire, let's call down Fire...on us.

Prayer

Lord God, I believe that you are the fire and that you are grace, and that the grace burns our pride and sets us free to love like you. So, Lord God, in the name of Jesus, even though at times it hurts, would you please send your fire? Come Holy Spirit and fall upon us; judge us Lord God

and set us free. Fill us and use us. Call us into your service, for your purposes because we see it now, you are good. You are the One we wanted long ago in the garden. You are the Good One. We praise you, we worship you, and we say come Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Come Holy Fire. In Jesus' name, Amen

Worship leader sings ["Love is a Burning Thing" by Johnny Cash]

Benediction

I think you just fell into a burning ring of fire children of Adam and Eve. That's good news because now I know what Spirit you are of, and you know what Spirit you are of. So if, this week, you do something or say something, or you think something, or you just have a really bad attitude, just stop and say to yourself: "That's not me because that's not Jesus." And Jesus is the Spirit that I'm of. And anything else...just surrender it to the fire." In Jesus' name that's good news.

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