

Holy Spirit's Refining, Transforming Fire

A curious thing happened after Moses constructed the ancient tabernacle in the Sinai desert. First, Aaron made sacrifices for the sins of the people; then fire fell from heaven and consumed the offering. After that, Leviticus 9:24b (NASB 1995) says, "when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces." And God told Moses that the priests were to keep this supernatural fire burning perpetually.

A similar thing happened when Solomon built the permanent temple in Jerusalem. After its construction was finished, Solomon prayed and dedicated the building to the Lord. Suddenly fire came from heaven and consumed the offerings. Second Chronicles 7:1 says "the glory of the Lord filled the house"—so much so that the priests fell on their faces and worshipped.

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I hope you realize that when you became a believer in Christ, a similar miracle happened to you. It may not have seemed as dramatic as what Moses or Solomon witnessed, but the coming of this glorious fire had the same impact on your life. God sent a fire from heaven onto you when the Holy Spirit filled you. The Spirit, who is burning presence of God's holiness, came to dwell in you, changing you from the inside out.

When Moses saw God's glory, he had to put a veil over his face because he lived in the Old Covenant time, before Jesus sacrificed His life for our sin. Now, in this New Covenant age of grace, 2 Corinthians 3:18 says we can behold the Lord's glory "with unveiled face"—and as a result we are "transformed into the same image from glory to glory."

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The Holy Spirit is working 24/7 to make you like Jesus. I hope you appreciate the various ways He is transforming you:

– He is rebuilding you. Just as Nehemiah rebuilt the ruined city of Jerusalem, the Spirit reconstructs your life. Nehemiah actually means “Comforter,” a name Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit. You are under construction, and He has strategically placed orange cones and roadblocks in areas of your life. Let Him rebuild all your broken places!

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