

## WHAT QUENCHES THE FIRE IN A BELIEVER? (PART 1)

03/08/2020

*Psalms 104:4 (KJV)*

Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire.

As we can see, God wants his servants/ministers to be a flaming fire. Ministers of God must never be cold. They should always be burning with the fire of God in them. No devil should dare come against them because of the fire burning in them. Sadly, in some cases we have seen those who used to be burning with the fire of God turning cold. Those that used to run now starting to walk and some even sitting. Coldness or backsliding in believers is caused mainly by the factors we shall discuss in this series.

### 1. Love of this world

This is the biggest enemy of believers. The world seduces us every day and oftenly many **'burning believers'** have been quenched by this. We see Demas was one of those ministers who walked with Apostle Paul. He participated in setting up all those churches with Paul but the Apostle said "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia...." (**2 Tim 4:10**)

Do you see that it's not about what you did, it's about what you are doing right now?

Some people may have started well like brother Demas but they couldn't resist the force of seduction from this evil world and they left the work of God. Be careful about starting well and not finishing well. Demas started well but his finishing was regrettable. The crown is not for those who start the race well but for those who finish well. If you don't finish well, then it doesn't matter how strong your beginning was, it cannot count. Pray that you finish this race well and still burning for God. Pray that you will not finish cold. **PRAY FOR THE GRACE TO FINISH WELL.**

John writes in **1 John 2:15** that if you love the world then the love of the father is not in you.

You cannot love God and love the world at the same time.

The world is our own flesh. When the word of God is talking about the world and everything that is in the world, it is talking about your flesh and everything in your flesh or your outer man (to

be explained later).

Three things that are in the world.

**John 2:16 (KJV)** "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

**i) Lust of the flesh**

**James 1:13-14** says God does not tempt any man; man is tempted by his own lust.

If you are not careful the lust of your flesh will take you away from God's work.

Our flesh will lust for food, sex, sleep, rest, and many others...Lust of the flesh is mostly referred to as craving...what you crave. Normally lust of flesh is defeated by fasting. No one who does not fast enough can be stronger than his/her flesh.

**ii) Lust of the eyes**

You must have disciplined eyes lest your eyes will take you away from the Lord. The world will exaggerate what you see and put a desire in you to want it. Most people could not save money because their eyes lusted for things of this world, for example, "love for good women/men, love for good cars, love for good gadgets and clothes etc. If you are not careful, this will douse the fire of God in you.

**iii) Pride of Life**

This is the desire to be better than anyone else. The desire for a better status. When you want to be better than everyone else, it is called ambition. That is not faith. God blesses faith not ambition. When you want people to look at you and say you are the best. Some do not buy clothes simply to look good but to gain status. Some buy cars not just to travel in but to create status for themselves.... if this is your preoccupation, then the love of the father cannot be in you. This is what is meant by the pride of life "Status" .....Hallelujah

***To be continued***

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**WHAT QUENCHES THE FIRE IN A BELIEVER (PART 2)?**

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When your fire is quenched inside of you, it means you have started to backslide. The biggest disease in the church these days is of backsliding believers. Most believers start very well with

all zeal but get cold two years or five years later. That state is called backsliding. You know you have backslidden when what you used to do for God you now no longer do. You used to pray more but now, you cannot match or beat your records. That is a clear sign you are backsliding. Yesterday we spoke of the love of the world as the major reason many have backslidden...let's look at other reasons today...

## **2. Shallowness.**

*Matthew 13:5-6* describes how some seeds fell on a rocky ground and because they could not go deeper into the soil, when the sun came it scorched them.

These plants died because their roots were shallow, so the sun normally burns all plants whose roots are not deep in the soil. These are believers whose faith in the Lord is very shallow. They never want to go deeper with the things of God. They are comfortable at the periphery of things. They do not want to be known that they are deep in church things. Their coming to church is still a secret, most of their friends and family do not know of their new status of being born again. Such people will backslide sooner than later because their roots are not deep in the things of God. Never be a shallow Christian. Let your roots grow deeper in Christ. As shallow plants are easy to uproot, a shallow Christian is also easy to backslide.

## **3. Emptiness**

Some believers are empty inside. Ever since they got born again, they have never allowed the Word of God to develop in their hearts. They are like empty drums or clinging cymbals who just make noise from outside but with nothing in the inside. You may hear those making loud prayers but very empty prayers. Such people are candidates of backsliding.

The Bible has a very sad example of what normally happens to empty people *Mathew 12:43-45*. It says when an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes through dry places seeking rest and findeth none, it will say let me go back to check my house. *vs 44-45* says "he findeth it EMPTY, swept and garnished, it will go and invite seven more stronger demons and the end of that person will be worse.

This is the danger of emptiness. Empty people are easy targets of satan and his demons. There must be some growth within you to cover the ground of all the defeated demons that were once in your life. Empty spaces inside you should be covered with the Word of God, Christ staying richly in you. The Holy Spirit should fill up that space in you. Some believers are not even bothered if they do not have the Holy Spirit or not. They don't care about the emptiness in them

yet the Bible says *Ephesians 5:18 (KJV)* " And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be FILLED with the Spirit;" Be filled with Holy Spirit. I would rather have all our leaders and all our believers filled with Holy Spirit, not Empty. In *Acts 6*, Deacons were chosen from people FILLED with the Holy Spirit not from empty believers.

### **How do you see empty people?**

a) They don't quote any scripture in their conversations. They do not know of any relevant word they can bring in to the chat. The Bible teaches that "from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (*Luke 6:45*). You see that the mouth only speaks what is in the heart. Empty people only speak the worldly things because that is what fills their heart. The Word is not in them, how then can they quote that which is not inside them?

b) When they are praying, they pray religious prayers. They pray the prayers they learnt in Sunday school or in catechism thirty years ago, they have not learnt anything new. The same way they prayed 10 years ago is what they still do now. Such people will backslide sooner than later. That is a very dangerous place to be. Take an audit of what you have learnt this year, and which one have you implemented?

c) Just like any empty container, empty people are noisy. They are the biggest complainers, they are always murmuring, gossiping and slandering others. They have nothing to gather and do except to gossip. Their feet will never bring any glad tidings, they never carry any good news, they carry gossip, and they carry slander and many such things.

If you do not run away from empty people, they will drain what is in you and leave you half-filled or empty. Have you ever noticed that after you have spoken to some person, you are left confused, drained, tired and unmotivated, such people are empty people who are looking for those whom they can drain, they are like a flat tyre that is deflated and has no pressure anymore? Run away from gossipers and complainers, even if you do not answer their phones. You are justified because they poison your spirit. .... Hallelujah.

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### **WHAT QUENCHES THE FIRE IN A BELIEVER (PART 3)?**

What binds your faith together as a believer is the zeal and fire of God burning inside of you. The devil targets that fire, he wants you to be cold and backslide. Many people think that

backsliding is going out of church but it's not only that, backsliding means being in church but not feeling anything, being bored by everything taking place in the church. The devil wants you to operate in this zone because he knows you will be very ineffective and therefore being an easy target for him. Let us look again at what causes individual believers to end up like this....

#### **4. Offence.**

General definition of offence means to be made angry by somebody in the church. This has destroyed many believers. Offence is responsible for 90% of believers changing church since the time of the Apostles. Remember Jesus said in *Luke 17:1* "it is impossible that offences will not come," meaning no one has immunity against offences, they will just come. If you want to be offended you can be offended on daily basis.

If you are weak in dealing with offence you will never be able to consistently maintain the fire inside you. In most cases, you are offended at the peak of your serving and all the fire in you gets sucked out. Never be someone easy to offend, allow some things to just pass you without you attracting them to yourself.

#### **How do you avoid offence in church or in life?**

##### **a) Stay on the light side of life.**

There are two sides to everything in life, the dark side and the light side. If you interpret life events using the dark side of life, you will always be offended because all things will be bad to you. I have mastered the art of staying in the light side of life all my life. I look for the good in every situation. Let me give you an example Let us say a pastor/leader rebukes you publicly.... the light side will say "I think the leader is very angry with me because I did wrong and I need to improve, it is for my good, next time I should improve...." The moment you think this way, you can dodge offence. Then the dark side will say "I know the leader has always been targeting me and he/she has always looked down upon me and other people. I will tell him/her today that he should come down to earth, nothing is special about being a leader..." offence would have already crept into your Spirit at this time.

People who live in the dark side of life always attract offence to themselves. Some things will not be meant to hurt them at all but because of their negative orientation, they tend to attract them their way. Someone may not greet you as well as you were expecting. If you are from the dark side, you interpret it as if the person has looked down upon you but the one from light side will say, I can see my colleague is busy today or is rushing somewhere. Even some people have

been hurt by the behavior of even their Pastors....those who are always in the dark will say "pastor should have spent more time with me as he has spent on those other ones, is it because I don't have enough money? Those in the light side of life will say, "In his wisdom the pastor saw that my sister/brother needs more attention than me today because her/his situation is bigger than mine." In so doing he has already escaped offence.

**Which side of life are you? Light side or Dark side?**

b) When someone does something that should offend me, I first give that person a benefit of doubt, I will say to myself surely this brother/sister did not mean to be offensive to me, it is just a mistake or a wrong word has just come out. I then avoid an offence. Always think that what happened was just a mistake and was never meant to hurt you at all, then quickly take your joy and peace back.

There is a demon behind most offences which is called the "counseling demon". This demon will take you away from people first, and then start to 'counsel' you about what happened, it will show you all the negative and all the dark sides of what would have happened and in most cases will magnify and exaggerate what would have happened. It gives you emotions and you cry alone at your secluded place....and before you know it, you are already making decisions based on this demonic counseling. Avoid being taken aside by a demon to think over and over what would have happened. It can be very dangerous. Let us continue tomorrow. Amen

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