



HOLY GHOST AND FIRE

MATTHEW 3:8-12

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Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire** 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Questions To Address

A person wearing a dark jacket and a green beanie is crouched next to a campfire. The fire is built with sticks and stones, and it is burning brightly. The background shows a body of water and some trees.

1. What is fire?
2. What causes or produces fire?
3. How does it affect its environment or what it interacts with?

Fire Facts

1. Fire is neither a solid or a liquid. It is not an element and not exactly matter.
2. It is the visible side effect of what happens when matter undergoes a change of state by means of a chemical reaction called combustion.
3. Atoms, that are connected together to form molecules, are broken from their chemical bonds and recombine into different bonds to form new elements.
4. The new bonds that are formed are stronger than the previous ones.
5. Magnet Analogy: More energy is produced by bonding a piece of metal to a stronger magnet then it takes to break from the weaker magnet.
6. The light we see and the heat we feel from a flame or fire is the excess energy released after atoms from molecules with weaker bonds separate and then recombine into molecules with stronger bonds.

Holy Ghost Fire Fact 1



Just as fire is neither a solid or liquid the Holy Spirit can not be defined by material or physical means.

John 3:8 - The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Holy Ghost Fire Fact 2

Just as fire is the visible side effect of matter changing states by chemical reaction, when a person is baptized with the Holy Ghost's fire there is a change in spiritual states that is clearly visible.

Acts 2:3 - And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Holy Ghost Fire Fact 3

Just as the atomic connections that form molecules are broken to form new ones, when the Holy Ghost comes in, it breaks the bonds of sin and reforms our spiritual structure to form a new spirit like Christ's.

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the **law of the Spirit** of life in Christ Jesus **hath made me free from the law of sin** and death.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature: old things are passed away;** behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 6:16 - What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 **But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.** 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Holy Ghost Fire Fact 4

Just as the new atomic bonds that are formed are stronger than the old ones the bond we have with Christ is stronger than the bond of sin. The attraction of his love pulls away from the desires of sin.

Jeremiah 31:3 - The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: **therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.**

Romans 8:35 - **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 **For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Holy Ghost Fire Fact 5

Just as light we see and heat energy we feel is released when the atoms are split and recombined, there is a tremendous amount of energy that is released when the Holy Ghost separates us from our sin and joins us to his love. When we finally let go of our old ways and cling to Christ the energy is released can be seen and felt.

Matthew 5:14 - **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Acts 1:8 - **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

The Fire Triad

The background image shows a close-up of a person's hands using a knife to strike a flint or similar material, creating a shower of sparks. The sparks are falling onto a pile of dry, brown leaves and twigs, which are beginning to catch fire. The scene is set outdoors, with the ground covered in more dry leaves. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by browns, oranges, and yellows, emphasizing the heat and fire.

There are three things that causes the separation of atoms and decomposition of molecules which results in fire.

- Fuel
- Heat or an ignition source
- Oxygen

The Fuel Is Our Flesh

Leviticus 6:12 - And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; **it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning,** and lay the burnt offering in order upon it; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings. 13 **The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.**

Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,** holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The Heat & Ignition Source

The heat or ignition source is the combination of God's will and our will. When our will and desires become intense or hot enough it will ignite or sacrifice the fleshly sinful nature.

Proverbs 20:27 - **The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD**, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Matthew 6:22 - **The light (Luchnos) of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.** 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luchnos: Lamp, candle, that is placed on a stand or candlestick.

The Word Ignites The Flames

Because our will is divided the heat is dissipated and our flesh never reaches ignition temperature. Our will has become fire resistant in that it is stubborn and doesn't want to yield to God. This is why the word of God must be preached with power to break it.

Jeremiah 23:29 – **Is not my word like as a fire?** and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 20:9 - Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. **But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones**, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

The Oxygen = Holy Ghost

John 20:21 - Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, **he breathed on them**, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost**:

Acts 2:1 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven **as of a rushing mighty wind**, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 **And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them. 4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Main Text

John the Baptist is baptizing people and he sees the Pharisees and Sadducees coming. He then rebukes them.

**Matthew 3:8 - Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:
9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham**

Main Text

John warns them that God's judgment is ready to remove anyone who is not truly sincere. He uses fire to illustrate the destruction of the wicked. He points to a person who alone has this fire. He can only baptize an individual in water but this person baptizes with fire. He points out the fire has two purposes.

Matthew 3:11 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:** 12
Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

The Dual Nature

Fire throughout the scripture has multiple purposes. It is used **to destroy the wicked in judgment but it's also used to purge, cleanse and purify.** The fire of God burns away sin out of the godly but it consumes the ungodly if they cleave to that sin. The Godly love the fire of God but the hypocrite is terrified of it because they won't let go of the thing that God wants to burn up

Isaiah 33:14 - The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised **the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?** who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

Fire Is A Sign of Acceptance

1 Kings 18:22 - Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. 23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire 24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: **and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.** And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

Picture



Fire Breaks The Bonds

Holy Ghost Fire is the only thing strong enough to break apart the spiritual bonds that hold us down. The problem with the church is that it doesn't want let go of that which is necessary to fuel the fire. Our passion is hot enough to ignite it but our will blocks the wind of God's spirit from blowing on us. Fire reveals what's within something. It breaks down the elements. The only way that we can defeat Satan is through the fire of the Holy Ghost.

Deuteronomy 9:1 - Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, 2 A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak! 3 Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a **consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face**: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.

Starting A Fire

Tinder: Anything that catches fire quickly like dry bark and leaves

Hebrews 4:15 - By him therefore **let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually**, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Starting A Fire

The background image shows a pile of dry, light-brown sticks and logs stacked on a bed of dark, jagged rocks. A small fire is visible in the background, with orange and yellow flames rising from the wood. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the fire providing the primary light source.

Kindling: Small sticks that burns longer than tinder and helps ignite the fuel wood

Matthew 3:6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Starting A Fire



Fuel Wood: Larger logs that are used to burn for long periods of time.

Matthew 10:22 -
And ye shall be
hated of all men
for my name's
sake: but he that
**endureth to the
end shall be
saved.**