

A FIRE IN ME August 30, 2002

While reading and meditating on 2 Chronicles 9, I was continuing to read first of all 1 Chronicles and now was into 2 Chronicles. We, Diana and I, were searching for what God wanted to talk to us about next. We have discovered that He will give us very clear instructions about something, then leaves us to it till we have accomplished it. Then there seems to be a waiting period till He tells us the next thing. So in the midst of this waiting period I began to search God's Word because I felt there was something there I needed to get hold of. During this study time, very clearly I saw my 2 hands cupped and what looked like a small bon-fire in the midst of them. I was just holding my hands out, watching this fire burn, but my hands were not burned nor was there any smoke. Immediately I knew it was the fire of the Holy Spirit. Then this thought came to me "I have placed this fire in your hands. Be sure to watch, meditate on My Word and listen for My instructions for I have something of utmost importance to tell you".

I knew this was God. Now I was alerted. Two days later, Sept 1, 2002, while in church worshipping our Magnificent God in song, the words of this song stated that He was a "fire" within us. This added another dimension to the fire in my hands. Now I understood that He placed a flaming fire within me and it was seen in my hands. The passion that has been in me for many months regarding the leadership in all our churches is that fire within.

Seeing this leadership under duress, trying to deal with the many things that come at them, and some good leaders suffering illness, burnout, confusion, loss of jobs, etc. Now we are even seeing good churches fail and cease operations. Why? What is really happening?

Let me remind us all that God's churches and leadership have some very real enemies that are continually active setting about to destroy the shepherd and scatter the sheep. This enemy of God's church is very busy attempting to cause His church to fail by discrediting leaders, bringing illness, disruption, discontent, false doctrine, sexual perversion and anything else that can be used including the Jezebel Spirit and Freemasonry. The list is ugly indeed. But these evil things can only operate in us and in the church if we let them. They must have legal entry to operate. It is up to us in the Church to know what these legal entry points are and keep them closed to the enemy of our souls. Throughout the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus gave us many examples of shutting the enemy down and keeping him at bay. Job had a greater loss than most of us will ever experience. All his children were killed and his vast fortune lost. In Chapter 3:1 "Job, after this, opened his mouth and cursed his birthday". He had really taken a heavy hit and was wondering how come. Then in Chapter 3:25 he says, "For the thing which I greatly fear comes upon me, and that which I am afraid of befalls me". In Chapter 4:14 again he says, "Fear came upon me and trembling which made all my bones shake". The legal entry point Job gave to Satan was fear. Fear of course is the opposite of faith in God.

Our enemy, the powers of darkness, will enter through any door open to them. It is up to us as leaders and believers to see that those doors are closed. Prov. 11:14. Where no wise guidance is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

The Fire burning in me is to announce to clergymen, pastors, priests, church leaders, board members and the laity at large that God is now, again, declaring that He wants all of us to have clean hands and a pure heart. He wants each of us to judge ourselves only and our conduct according to His Word. The status quo is no longer good enough. He is demanding a new, higher level of commitment and relationship with Him. And it will not be without cost. Ezekiel 34 – God is talking primarily to the shepherds of His Church with a severe warning. Fausset's Bible dictionary tells us the duty of a shepherd is to go before and call by name the sheep (John 10:4) watch them and search for stray sheep. (Ezekiel 34:12, Luke 15:4) to see they are watered (Gen. 29:7, Ex. 2:16) and to bring them back to the fold at evening and to be sure none are missing (John 18:9; 17:11, 12). They are to pass one by one "under the rod" – Lev. 27:32; Jer. 33:13; Ezek. 20:37). Example - you shall be counted as Mine and subjected to My chastening discipline with a view to My ultimate saving of the elect (Mic. 7:14) checking each sheep as it passed; to also act as porter guarding the entrance to the fold by night (John 10:3). Tenderness to the young and feeble is the shepherds duty, not to overdrive them. (Gen. 33:13) There are chief shepherds and under shepherds (chief pastors and assistant pastors) (Gen. 47:6, I Peter 5:4) and hirelings not of the family (John 10:11-13).

The shepherd had responsibility and at the same time personal interest in the flock. (1 Cor. 9:7). Shepherds often contended with one another as to water (Gen. 26:17 - 22, Ex. 2:17).

Shepherds are called teachers. Eccles. 12:11

Zondervan tells us that in the Old Testament sheep are portrayed as helpless and dependant. They tend to go astray (Isa. 53:6), they need to be led (Num. 27:17) and guided to where they are able to pasture and rest. (Ps. 23). These sheep were the wealth of Israel. They were considered precious and shepherds devoted a lifetime to their care.

What an awesome responsibility a shepherd takes on. Now we have a better view of why we in the church need to band together to pray for our shepherds. We must forget about denominational walls, cultural differences, etc. because we are one body, the body of Christ.

Now consider Ezekiel 37:22 - 26 in the Amplified.

And I will make them one nation in the land in the mountains of Israel; and one King shall be King over them all; and they shall no longer be two nations divided into two kingdoms any more.

They shall not defile themselves any more with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgression, but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, and from all their backslidings in which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them. So shall they be My people, and I will be their God.

And David My servant shall be King over them, and they shall have one Shepherd. They shall also walk in My ordinances and hear My statutes and do them.

They shall dwell in the land which your fathers dwelt in, that I gave to My servant, Jacob; and they shall dwell there, they and their children and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their Prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will give blessings to them and multiply them and will set My sanctuary in the midst of them forever.

God is talking to His people and I believe We, His Church are a part of that. He has so much good planned and prepared for us.

So no matter what our calling in life, no matter what our office or position in life, we must remember that God looks on each individual heart. We must see what He sees in us that needs cleansing then ask Him to do it. Now we are ready for the Master to give us greater revelations of His Word.

Having said all of this, there is probably very little that is new to you in this writing. But with it comes an urgency that I'm having trouble finding words for. I heard it once said that opportunity knocks but once. I believe that opportunity is on us now. The problems, frustrations and large storms we see coming against the church today seem to be intensifying in quantify and in size. They are far more destructive and difficult to deal with than anything before. But God did say He would be with us through the storms. We all know that in the midst of a storm or problem we will find success and victory. We also know that Satan is a defeated foe.

On the other side we see God bringing about great victories throughout the world. More miraculous healings, millions of people saved daily and a cleansing of His church.

So we are seeing God speeding up His activities in the earth today and so are the forces of darkness. We really need to be fully aware of these activities and be prepared for them. Please be encouraged.

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