

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE	All Fired Up
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SERIES	
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DATE	5/14/2023
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KEY SCRIPTURE	1 Kings 18:21-39
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SYNOPSIS	
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HIGHLIGHTS	
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☞ Fired Up

Last week we talked about the **Renovation Proclamation**, with God promising a restoration to his people. He promises to raise up, repair, rebuild and reestablish his people. However, as usual, God is looking to partner with us. While he promises restoration and does the bulk of the work, he wants us to have a part in making that renovation a reality. We need to get fired up for the things of God. And, I'm not just talking about a self-made enthusiasm.

"He's on fire" = he's doing a great job; he's at the top of his game... Fire of God = being passionate about godliness, the kingdom, and the call of God; being filled with the Holy Spirit; being consumed with Christlikeness.

1 Kings 18:21-39 Commonly called the Contest on Mt. Carmel. Elijah confronts the people about their indecision and wavering between God and idols. Then, he challenges the prophets of Baal to a contest in order to prove the one true God.

v. 21 "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

There is a prerequisite for catching fire – you must make a decision; you must want it. Do you want God or not? Do you want his power working in you or not? You can't just add God in as something extra to your life. You must remove your other priorities and let God become the most important thing in your life!

Joshua 24:15

...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

☞ So, you've decided. Now, **how to catch fire?** Here's some things that don't work...

v. 26, 28, 29 they shouted... they danced around... they shouted louder and slashed themselves... until their blood flowed...they continued their frantic prophesying

This represents a lot of **hype and human effort**. Sometimes revival is accompanied by strong emotions and excitement, and that's a good thing. However, some people confuse the cause and effect. All the shouting, dancing and carrying on don't cause revival; but they may be an effect of revival. Elijah didn't get into a lot of hype, but he didn't just stand there doing nothing, either. The prophets of Baal did outward things and nothing happened. Then Elijah stepped up and his methods worked. God responded with fire from heaven. **What did Elijah do? What can we do?**

☞ **1. Repair the Altar v. 30**

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which was in ruins.



☞ The altar represents **prayer** and **humility**. The altar is where the priest humbly came to God for forgiveness and to present his requests to God. Peter reminds us that God gives grace to the humble and Paul tells us to be devoted to prayer. These are important in our walk with God.

☞ The altar also speaks of **right priorities**. In Luke 10, Martha was worried and upset about many things, but Jesus commended her sister, Mary, who chose to sit at his feet and listen.

Church, we need to repair the altar of our hearts. We must restore our prayer lives. We must come to God in humility and ask for forgiveness. We must get our priorities right!

☞ 2. Arrange the Wood v. 33 He arranged the wood...

To have a good fire, you must line the wood up. It doesn't burn well, being every which-way.

☞ We need to **align to God's plans and purposes**. We need to get our lives lined up with him. There's been too much of going our own way, while trying to keep a weak connection with God. It's time to go God's way and see how much better he can run things.

☞ Arranging the wood also represents **unity**. Wood burns much better when it's piled up together, not scattered all around. In Acts 2, the fire of the Holy Spirit came when they were all together in one place. There was strong unity amongst those early disciples.

Philippians 2:1-4

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2** then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. **3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. **4** Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Don't take this one too lightly! We tend to set all kinds of boundaries, even with our brothers in Christ. But, the Scripture strongly urges unity and concern for each other.

☞ 3. Cut the Bull v. 33 He ...cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood.

☞ This most literally represents **preparation**. In the Old Testament, the Israelis were instructed numerous times to make preparations for a visitation from the Lord. They needed to get ready. We also need to be ready, waiting for the Lord to come. Whether he comes with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, or he comes to take us home, we need to be ready.

☞ In our language, this represents **sincerity**; no façade. Hebrews 10:22 says we draw near to God with a sincere heart. This means to be true and genuine; not just a pretense. This goes back to the opening thought – you've got to make a decision. Do you really want to follow the Lord? Do you



really want an encounter with God, which may change your life? If we want to get close to God, which is where the fire is, we must come with sincerity and no pretense.

☞ 4. **Sacrifice Something** v. 33-35

Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood." 34 "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. 35 The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

Water was incredibly valuable after a three-year drought! If you want the fire of God, it's going to cost you something. In 1 Chronicles 21, David insisted on the paying the full price for a place to set up an altar to God. He would not make a sacrifice that cost him nothing. We want the fire of God as long as it doesn't inconvenience us. These days, almost anything can preempt our appointments with the Lord. It's been said, "show me your checking account and your calendar, and I'll know what is important to you." What do those things say about you?

☞ To catch fire for God, **it's going to cost you**. It will cost you time; it will cost you energy and effort; it may cost you some luxuries; it may cost you some money; it may even cost you some friendships. It will cost! Romans 12:1 reminds us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord. Without a doubt, this includes walking away from sinful patterns.

☞ **GROJ sale = Get Rid Of Junk**

Colossians 3:5-10 talks about things we need to get rid of and put to death...

Sexual immorality = fornication (any sex outside of marriage); (greek = porneia)

Impurity = filth; dirt; especially in regards to sex

Lust = strong ungodly desires

Evil desire = wanting things that are forbidden

Greed = the desire to always have more and more

Anger = bad temper; violence

Rage = passionate outbursts; indignation

Malice = wishing bad for someone else

Slander = serious insult; damaging someone's reputation

Filthy language = obscene, shameful language

Lies = not telling the truth; trying to deceive or mislead

These all need to go! Sacrifice!

☞ 5. **Step Up** v. 36-37

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so



these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

☞ **Move forward.** Don't stay right where you are. Grow. Follow the Lord. Keep on keeping on.

--John Hagee... *When you want what you've never had, you have to do what you've never done.*

☞ If you're not experiencing the fire of God as is, you need to **do something different!** You can't keep doing things the way you've always done them and expect different results! You've got to step up and do something different! You can't stay in the past! God is on the move; we must be, too! Haven't set aside time to pray for a while? Then change that. Read your bible daily instead of only once in a while. Try a new posture during worship. Ask someone to pray for you. Respond to the altar call. Listen to a new devotional podcast. Turn on Christian music, etc.

Repair the Altar; Arrange the Wood; Cut the Bull; Sacrifice Something; Step Up.

Then, notice God's response...

v. 38 **Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.**

☞ **God's fire fell and consumed everything!** The fire of God will take all of you. He will consume you. He doesn't want just a part of you. He wants all of your heart. He wants all of your mind. He wants all of your soul. He wants all of you! Our God is a consuming fire!

And, finally, notice the effect on the crowd...

v. 39 **When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord-he is God! The Lord-he is God!"**

☞ **The people turned to God.** This is the kind of fire I want. This is the kind of revival I'm looking for. The kind of thing that not only fires up the church, but affects the society around us. It begins with us catching on fire!

Get on fire for God and they'll come watch you burn!

We need a fresh fire!

Let's **Repair the Altar**: get our priorities straight; be humble and pray

Let's **Arrange the Wood**: align ourselves with God's plans & purposes; become more like Christ; keep the unity

Let's **Cut the Bull**: get yourself ready; be sincere; be pure

Let's **Sacrifice Something**: our time; our energy; get rid of junk; whatever God asks of us

Let's **Step Up**: follow God's leading; change what you've been doing

Let's **Catch on Fire for God!**



All Fired Up, Words and music by Bob Hartman

*When the weight of the world begins to show
When the flames of faith begin to die before I know
Time to be rekindled by the everlasting Source
The All-Consuming Fire, illuminating Force
Like a blacksmith bellows aim
He fans the embers to a flame*

*I've been told not to let my feelings go
I've been told my emotions never had the right to show
But I have this feeling burning deep within my heart
Won't wait to let this heavenly celebration start
When the Spirit gives me the nod
I'll get excited 'bout the things of God*

*I'm all fired up - I'm all fired up
There's a flame burning in my soul
And my heart is a burning coal
I'm all fired up - I'm all fired up
Those who wait upon the Lord
Find their strength has been restored
The flames of renewal burn within
I'm all charged up in my spirit again
I'm all fired up - I'm all fired up tonight*

*I feel my faith renewing - I feel revival brewing
All over the world there's a burning desire
I feel the Church is stirring and it's gonna keep occurring
Till we're all baptized in His Holy Fire*

Let's catch the fire of God! Let's take some time before we leave. Does your **altar** need repaired? You can start right now by praying and seeking the Lord. Does your **firewood** need to be arranged? Then, get back on track with God, following him wholeheartedly. Mend those broken relationships. Work on unity. **Cut the bull**. No more pretense. Have a conversation with God right now, setting your sights on a closer walk with him. Get ready to encounter the Lord. **Sacrifice**. Is there some sin issue that needs to be addressed? Confess it to the Lord. If you need help, then confess it to a trusted friend. Get right with God. Commit yourself to put God first and give him your best time, talents, and treasures. It's time to **step up**. You can't just stay on the fence like always. Get moving in your walk with God.