

WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET

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July 2023



FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello.

I welcome you to this new month and present to you July 2023 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Fire Baptism".

Fire is one of the forms adopted by God in manifesting His glory, power and presence in the Bible. In some instances, this fire appears physically and destroys as a token of God's displeasure and judgment. At other times the appearance is visionary and leaves remarkable, refreshing and rewarding impact in the lives of those who witness and received the experience. Careful reading of John's prophesy in our lead text Mathew 3:11 revealed that John has both perspectives in mind.

The context of His prophecy Mathew 3:5-12 like that of Joel years before him (Joes 2: 28-32) makes an interesting reading. Specifically, John was preaching to Pharisees and Sadducees who came to his Baptism. He called them generation of snakes. He admonished them to repent and not think that historical relationship with Abraham was sufficient to protect them from imminent divine judgment. Like fruitless trees to the farmer, fire is reserved for them; fire of God's judgment. Next, he introduced them to the judge. This judge (Jesus Christ) will baptize those who repent with Holy Spirit and fire and those who continue in wickedness, He will cast into unquenchable (Hell) fire.

Clearly, John the Baptist has two fires in mind though they are related because they originate from God. A fire Baptism is reserved for repentant sinners that will empower them for service and fulfillment of ministry.

However, there is also the fire in Hell reserved for those - Jews, Pharisees, and Sadducees, and by extension all men who continue in wickedness and die without repentance. The first fire (Baptism fire) is visionary, allegorical and parabolic while the second is literal and physical. The first refers to divine power fuelling supernatural possibilities in men while the second refers to divine punishment. This month's edition of Watchman's Trumpet with clear illustrations emphasize the two perspectives and by it warn all men to embrace rewarding relationship with God and serve reverently and acceptably. It is my sincere prayer that this will be accomplished in your life and in the life of all readers in Jesus name. Welcome!

THE FIRE IN SPIRIT BAPTISM

"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:



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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" Mathew 2:11, 12

Hebraic language and expressions are rich, deep and full of symbolisms. Sometimes the words used apply to the images in mind that these words and their uses convey, at other times we have to take these words as real and literal. One of such word is "fire". Fire obviously is to be taken literally in most of the several hundred references to it in the Bible.

Its figurative or theological attestations are also numerous. In the study and activities of the Holy Spirit, both forms of usage, that is the literal and symbolic must be considered plausible depending on the context of His manifestation and man's conduct and choices in God's presence.

We shall consider three subtopics:

- 1. Understanding fire Baptism
- 2. The sufficiency of God's power to bless and judge
- 3. Earthly and eternal consequences of today's choice

1. Understanding fire Baptism

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

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire"Hebrews 12:28, 29

Some interpret the baptism of fire as referring to the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven (Acts 2:2-3). These were tongues as of fire, not literal fire. Clearly, this Baptism refers to the Holy Spirit's office as the energizer of the believer's service. It aligns with Paul's injunctions to Thessalonians. He said "Do not quench the Spirit" 1Thessalonians 5:19. command to the believer is to not put out the Spirit's fire by suppressing His ministry. Another interpretation reflected in Matthew and Luke is judgment; that baptism of fire refers to judgment (Matthew 3:7-12; Luke 3: 7-17). In related reference in Mark and John (Mark 1:1-8; John 1:29-34) fire was omitted.

All the four Gospels speak of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but only Matthew and Luke mention the baptism with fire. All these writers may in reality be speaking of the same experience but viewed from different perspectives and together captures God's sufficiency to bless and judge by His Spirit. Undoubtedly, the first phase of John's prophesy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost but Mathew and Luke took it further by emphasizing the divine judgment that the Jews (and eventually all men) who reject Christ will face in the future and eventually in Hell fire.

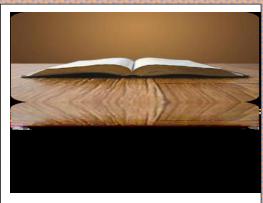


2. The sufficiency of God's power to bless and judge

"When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning" Isaiah 4:4

"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" Luke 24:32

Instances exists in the Bible in which God practically and physically judged the wickedness of men by pouring upon them literal fire. Since the triune God always act in unison, we should never doubt Holy Spirit's involvement in these judgments. Hence he is described as the Spirit of Burning and Judgment". On the other hand, when the travelers on Emmaus Road encountered post resurrection Christ and claimed that their hearts burned within them as He expounds the scriptures to clear their doubts, fears and confusion about the events of the previous week, they are talking about Holy Spirit's application of the preached word to their hearts and life; the reality, liveliness and power of the word in their souls and spirits. God's fire blesses but could also be the same means of judging the wicked.



3. Earthly and eternal consequences of today's choice

"With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury" 2 Samuel 22:26, 27

One thing that careful readers of the scriptures and church history will not fail to notice is that Holy Spirit revival down the ages and generations have not been only about healings and deliverances, there were miracles of judgments too. It started with Ananias and Saphira Acts 5:1-5, 9-10. The life we daily live in and outside God's kingdom are all before God and He is keeping record. Faithful, thirsty and desirous believers will receive fire from the Lord that will purify their affection, enhance their commitment and dedication to Mission and the service of the Lord including world evangelization as early disciples did. On the other hand, those who chose to remain in wickedness in spite of Holy Spirit's warning shall eventually be exposed to the fire of His judgment on earth, in hell and sometimes in both before and after their time of sojourn in the world.





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a transtrans-denominational ministerial. mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles practice Christian and of discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slepť Mathew 25:5. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise prophesies. visions revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord's parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord's return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training. conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord's return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers' spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For July 2023

- Pray against any tendency to offer strange fire on God's altar, pray for infilling and overflow of God's anointing upon your life
- 2. Pray that God's anointing will give power to your work, authority to your words, freshness to your presentation, and relevance to your actions.
- 3. Pray for impartation of spiritual power for spiritual living and service, pray for discernment.
- 4. Pray that the anointing will fuel, energize, invigorate, embolden your total being to do what God appoints.
- Pray for manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit in your life and ministry.
- Pray for continuous guidance instruction and influence of the Holy Spirit
- 7. Pray for grace not to tempt, resist, grieve, blaspheme against the Holy Spirit.

" men ought always to pray, and not to faint;' Luke 18:1

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan. Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digtal addresses.

PENTECOST FIRE AND POWER

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

Fire as a symbol of Holy Spirit and His activities in the Bible is figurative of the revival, warmth, power, zeal, dynamism and vitality evident in those who receive Holy Spirit's Baptism. The early disciples had their lives and ministry transformed by fire Baptism on the day of Pentecost. The same thing God will want to do in our lives today if we allow Him.

- 1. Promise of fire Baptism
- 2. Purpose of fire Baptism
- 3. Preparation and prayer for fire Baptism

1. Promise of fire baptism

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me".

Acts 1:4

God through John the Baptist stated that those who experienced water Baptism after their repentance and conversion shall yet receive another Baptism which is Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus explained further in Acts 1:8 that the experience will be followed by power demonstration and manifestations. Those who receive Baptism in the Holy Ghost will begin to manifest and demonstrate God's supernatural power in teaching, preaching, prophesying, prayer and healing. The promise of Baptism with Holy Ghost and with fire (or power) is for all who have repented from their sins.



2. Purpose of fire baptism

"... 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" Acts 1:8

Fundamental purpose of Holy Spirit's Baptism is evangelism and church growth. We can assess the genuineness and effectiveness of individual's Holy Spirit Baptism by the level of their participation and involvement in evangelism and church growth activities. When the fire of God (or power of God) comes upon our lives like the early disciples (a) We initial experience of speaking in tongue. The Spirit's fire or power when it comes upon us will give us utterance (it will activate our vocal system to speak in a language we never knew and had never learnt). (b) The fire or power will burn within us and remove any chaff of impurity and affections, feelings and desires for sins and all selfishness. It will fill us with perfect love for God, for Christ, for the church and for fellow believers. We love sinner too and want to do whatever it will take to bring them to Christ. (c) The Holy Spirit fire or power makes us more receptive to the word of God. It makes the messages of the word of God burn in our hearts. Luke 24:32. (d) The fire or power gives us utterance in preaching, praying and prophesying. It puts into our mouth what to say, when to say it and how to say it. Acts 2:4, Mathew 10:19-20.(e) Holy Spirit's fire or power fills our hearts with boldness especially when speaking for God or speaking the word of the Lord. Acts 4:31. (f)Holy Spirit's fire makes our word to be effective and to convict those

who hear us to submit to God and repent.

(g) Holy Spirit's power refreshes, strengthens, revives and heals the one who received His Baptism. His energy that flows into us during ministration makes us stronger, healthier and refreshed both spiritually and in our body. He quickens our body Romans 8:11. (h)The Spirit's power, fire and energy can be transferred to those under our ministration making them to receive the same Baptism too and begin-to speak in tongues Acts 10:44-46, receive healing and deliverance Acts 3:4-7 like the lame man at the beautiful gate that Peter healed, their body parts and systems can receive strength to function normally. (i)Apart speaking in tongues the Holy Spirit's power confer on us the ability to interpret utterances in tongues. faith, demonstrate unusual discern prevalent spiritual climate in a place, give word of knowledge, apply supernatural wisdom to solve problems and work miracles 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. (i) The power and fire of the Holy Spirit can transform our dream life after Baptism. We may begin to see vision. Acts 1:17-18. (k) Holy Spirit's power breaks vokes, casts out demons and brings great joy to those set free from the clutches of Satan Acts 8:5-8. (1) Fullness of the Holy Ghost and power can suppress appetites of pains and hunger. It makes those under its influence to endure extraordinary suffering and inconveniences Acts 7:55-60, Ezekiel 4:4-6. (m) Holy power paralysis the enemy of the Gospel, God's people and Christ's ministers, who may want to harm them. 1 Samuel 19:19, 23:24.

3. Preparation and prayer for fire baptism

"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room,... These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" Acts 1:14, 15, 2:1



TESTING THE SPIRIT AND JUDGING PROPHECIES

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God" John 4:1 "Let the prophets speak two or three and let the other judge. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the Saints. Let all things be done decently and in order "1cornithians 14:29, 33, 40.

Accepting and following every prophecy and any revelation, dream or vision that comes to us as individuals or to the church without proving, testing or judging such is not the will of God as indicated in the above scriptures. "Believe not every spirit". "Try every spirit".

We shall consider three subtopics:

- 1. Sources of prophetic messages, visions and revelations.
- 2. Importance of testing and judging prophetic messages, visions and revelations.
- 3. Testing methods and personal/church leaders, responsibilities for consequences of failure to test

1. Sources of prophetic messages, visions and revelations

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" Mathew 24:11

It is very clear from the scriptures that not all PVRs (prophecies, visions and revelations) come from God. Generally sources of PVRs can be classified into three:



- 1. The Holy Spirit Act 13:1
- 2. Demonic spirit Acts 16:17, 16-18
- 3. Human spirit Jeremiah 23:14,16-17, 29:30-32

Undoubtedly, there are curses on anyone who tries to mislead believers or God's people through false PVRs. However, those who are deceived and fall into error from their position of steadfastness will also be judged and condemned with the false prophets that deceived them. So we must all be careful and vigilant Jeremiah 28:10-17

2. The importance of testing and judging prophetic messages, visions and revelation

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" 1 Thessalonians 5:21

(i). It is commended by God 1John 4:1(ii). There is an enemy on the prowl 1Peter 5:8 (iii). Pretense and deception in ministry is real 2corinthians 11:13-15 (iv). The consequence of ignorance 2corinthians 2:11 (v). Eternal destiny of believers is at stake 2cornithians 11:2,3 (vi). Failure to test may compromise the health and unity of the church revelation 2:14,15,20,1 Cronithians 1:10 (vii). Readiness for the rapture Revelations 3:11 (viii). To escape from curses and divine judgment Galatians 1:6-9

3. Testing methods and personal/church leaders, responsibilities for consequences of failure to test

To avoid confusion and disorderliness, individuals are to judge PVRs given to them individually as commanded by the

Lord in 1John 4:1 while the church leaders have responsibilities for judging congregational PVRs. The Pastors in charge of each congregation on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ, Church leaders and church authority reserve the right to cancel or amend PVRs that does not pass quality test. The tests are

Mathew Test 7:15-23-Conduct Examines the vessels or source of the PVR to ensure that those who are ungodly are not trying to woo us to follow their footsteps and lifestyles of ungodliness. Content Test. Isaiah 8:20 To ensure that the PVR or prescribed solution is biblical. Submission Test -1cornithians 14:32, 33 to evaluate the PVR or the giver's submission to church authority and leadership. Effect Test Jeremiah 23:22, 1 Samuel 28:19, 20 Does it promote repentance or enhance evangelism? Does it increase decrease church membership or attendance? Does it promote faithfulness, steadfastness or godliness in the lives of those to whom it is given? Does it draw men closer to God or increase their faith? Solution Test Deuteronomy 13:1-5 Does the solution prescribed by the PVR or giver send the receivers back to Egypt or create faith and trust in God for scriptural intervention. Presentation **Test** 1cornithians 14:40 **PVR** is the presented in an orderly and God glorifying manner? Is the presentation in tune with previous operational guidelines or directives given to the church on use of PVRs. Confirmation Test 1 Acts 16:17, 18. How do more experienced ministers or spiritual leaders feel in their spirit when the PVR is being given? Does their spirit confirm it that it is of God or does it produce grieve, uneasiness and irritation in their spirit? Do they instinctively feel that something is wrong with the message even though they may not know exactly what it is? Does it establish the heart or produce confusion? Fulfillment Test Deuteronomy 18:21, 22. Care need to be taken in this area. It is not all bad or negative prophecies that are fulfilled that come from God. The purpose of giving negative prophecies ahead of time is to avert it through repentance or taking appropriate precautionary measures.

DANGER OF OFFERING STRANGE FIRE BEFORE THE LORD

"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD" Leviticus 10:1-2

In temple's sacrificial system in the Old Testament, lighting of the candlesticks and offering of incense on the Golden Altar during service was the highest most solemn and sacred duty of the priest. At the inauguration of Tabernacle worship, it was a duty reserved for only Moses and later Aaron at specific times under God's instructions.

The two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu neither waited for God's instruction or Moses' or their father's guidance. On their own initiative, they took their censers, put fire and incense into them and offered them before the Lord. Both the act and the offering dishonored God. Fire came out from the Lord's presence and destroyed them for offering strange fire before the Lord.

We shall consider three subtopics:

- 1. The meaning of strange fire
- 2. Examples of strange fire today
- 3. Consequences of bringing strange fire to God's presence

1. The meaning of strange fire

"And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones, But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against

the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. 2 Chronicles 26:14,16,19

The account of what happened to Nadab and Abihu; and the statement of God and Moses after the incidence gives us clear ideas about what strange fire is. "Strange fire" is a wrong act during worship service or a right thing done at the wrong time or done in a disorderly manner - in such a way or in a measure or extent that dishonors God and disrespects church leadership. God gave Moses clear commandments on when and how incense should be offered in the Tabernacle. Incense was to be offered by the presiding priest using fire from burning coals taken from the altar of burnt offering in association with morning and evening sacrifice and on the Day of Atonement. During the services, there is a specific time and procedure for offering of incense.



It was doubtful whether the fire or the incense Nadab and Abihu offered was from the right source. Even if it was, the time, circumstance and the manner in which the incense was offered was completely out of order. They died on their first day on duty for dishonoring God, disrespecting Moses and their father. God killed them. They died because their offering of incense before the Lord was (1) a breach of procedure or protocol (2) untimely (3) impulsive (4) presumptuous (5) disorderly (6) dishonoring disrespectful (7) unacceptable damning. Whatever we do in worship or during church services that conform to these characteristics is "strange fire".

Strange fire is any act or behavior that contravenes the commandment of God or principle of decency and orderliness in service before God. Incense offering by Korah, Dathan, Abiran and two hundred and fifty famous princes of Israel in the wilderness as well as that of king Uzziah would be considered strange fire and offering too.

2. Examples of strange fire in bible days and today

"And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? ..." 1Samuel 13:9-11

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" Acts 5:1-3

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. Joel 2:28-32

Ananias and Saphira's hypocritical offering is strange fire. Uzzah's service in attempting to steady the Ark with his bare hands contrary to God's instruction is strange fire, Uzziah a king usurping a priestly role and attempting to offer incense on the altar in the temple as well as Saul's presumptuous sacrifice at Gilgal because Samuel delayed coming at the appointed time are example of strange fires. The sons of Eli's desecration of offerings that was offered in Shiloh including sleeping with women who come for service are all strange before God and attracted judgment.

Today -

- i. Any emotional activity or manifestation like that of Uzzah; out of control, disturbing and distracting the attention of worshippers from Christ or from following the instruction of the pastor or service leader is a strange fire.
- ii. When we sing or preaching in a manner that is not scriptural or biblical, we are offering strange fire.
- iii. Any initiative by an individual member or worker to start or do anything during service without pastor's permission and/or outside the order of service for that day is strange fire.
- iv. Distorting or disturbing the sanctity of worship by an unholy act.





- v. Prayer or praying pattern that is not according to the word of God e.g cursing enemy in Jesus' name
- vi. Songs or poetry that reminds people of Egypt and not the Promised Land.
- vii. Whatever we do during service and in the church to attract attention to ourselves, promote self or win the approval and praise of men.
- viii. Giving as offering earnings from prostitution and such wicked practices Deuteronomy 23:18

3. Consequences of bringing strange fire to God's presence

"These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the priests which were anointed, whom he consecrated to minister in the priest's office. And Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father." Number 3:3-4

Every sin that man commits has consequences especially sacrilegious sins. What happened to Nadab and Abihu, Annanias and Saphira, Uzzah, Uzziah, the house of Eli and Saul Israel's first king should sound a clear warning to every member, worker or leaders in the house of God today to tread carefully during worship service or any church meeting.

The lord is in His holy temple let all the earth keep silence before him" Habakkuk 2:20.

Church workers and leaders must pray for daily grace to "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for our God is a consuming fire" Hebrews 12:28-29, we must reverence holy institutions and ordinances. Concerning the sins of Nadab and Abihu, God said "...By those who come near me, I will be honoured" Leviticus 10:3 (NASB). We here learn that dishonoring God and disrespect to appointed leaders attracts serious consequences. Strange sicknesses, demonic oppressions, satanic attacks, failure, accidents, calamities, spiritual weakness or untimely death may happen to those who presumptuously rubbish holv institutions and ordinances. We must be careful and prayerful at our duty post. Abundance and sufficient grace to render rewardable service the Lord will pour upon us in Jesus Name!





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Aimee Semple McPherson was born on Oct. 9, 1890, on a farm in Salford Ontario, Canada. Her father, James Kennedy, was a farmer and came from a Methodist background. Her mother, Mildred, known as "Millie," came from a Salvation Army background. Although she was raised in a Christian home, she began to question the Bible during her teen years.

When she was 17, she attended a revival Pentecostal meeting hosted by evangelist Robert Semple, where she gave her life to Christ and was filled with the Holy Spirit. The evangelist Robert Semple later became Aimee's husband. They were married when she was 18. After their ministry trips in Chicago and the Ingersoll area, they headed to China as missionaries. In 1910 while in China, Robert and Aimee contracted Malaria within months of arriving in Hong Kong. Robert didn't survive, leaving Aimee pregnant and a widow at 19.

When her daughter, Roberta Star, was a month old, Aimee returned to United States to raise her. Aimee and Roberta lived in New York with Aimee's mother. She assisted her mother raising money for the Salvation Army. It was there she met and married a Christian businessman named Harold McPherson. They had a son, Rolf Kennedy McPherson.

After a decline in health, two major surgeries and a near-death experience, God asked her one last time, "*Now, will you go?*" She answered yes to God's call and almost immediately was healed. She never again questioned the call to preach the gospel.

Aimee founded the Foursquare Gospel Church in 1918. The name Foursquare Gospel originated from the Book of Ezekiel. It represents the four phases of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the face of the Man, she saw Jesus our Saviour. In the face of the lion, she saw Jesus the mighty Baptizer with the Holy Spirit and fire. In the face of the ox, she saw Jesus the Great Burden Bearer. In the face of an eagle, she saw Jesus the coming King, who will return in power and glory. In Aimee's opinion, it was a complete gospel for body, for spirit and for eternity.

She witnessed thousands saved and healed during her evangelistic meetings. Aimee used drama, music and opera to appeal to the audience. Her faith healing demonstrations were written about extensively in the media.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON 1890 - 1944



She built a 5,000-seat auditorium in an influential area of Los Angeles and named it Angelus Temple, she also established the first Christian radio station and a Bible college. In 1917, she had started her own magazine The Bridal Call, for which she wrote many articles about women's roles in religion.

Angelus Temple was opened in Jan. 1, 1923 in a flamboyant style. Aimee was seated on a red velvet throne dressed in a nurse's uniform and cape. Accompanying her were 200 singers, three bands, two orchestras and six quartets. Foursquare Gospel filled four times each Sunday and twice weekly. Aimee welcomed all walks of life. She became a well-known voice among civic leaders, politicians, actors and actresses, and pastors from various denominations. She treated everyone equally regardless of race, gender or status.

Her sermons were reprinted in hundreds of newspapers in Canada, the United States and Mexico. In 1927, she opened a commissary to feed the marginalized and supply them with clothing and other necessities. She set up a 24/7 soup kitchen at her temple in 1936 to help families through the Great Depression.

Aimee passed away due to an accidental overdose in 1944 and was buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in California. Her son, Rolf, has kept her memory and ministry alive by carrying the ministry for 40 four years. The Foursquare church is still standing strong with 8 million members worldwide.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

""... serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire". Hebrews12:28,29

SONG OF THE MONTH

HOLY SPIRIT OF FIRE

1. Holy Spirit of fire, flame everlasting, so bright and clear, speak this day in our hearts. Lighten our darkness and purge us of fear, Holy Spirit of fire.

The wind can blow or be still, or water be parched by the sun. A fire can die into dust: but here the eternal Spirit of God tells us a new world's begun.

- 2. Holy Spirit of love, strong are the faithful who trust your pow'r.
 Love who conquer our will, teach us the words of the gospel of peace, Holy Spirit of love.
- 3. Holy Spirit of God, flame everlasting, so bright and clear, spark this day in our hearts. Lighten our darkness and purge us of fear, Holy Spirit of God.

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