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THE BAPTISM OF FIRE

John the Baptist heralded the ministry of Jesus when he said, ***"...I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire"***

At Pentecost, the disciples in the upper room were baptized with the Holy Ghost, and spoke with other tongues. They went out into the streets speaking in this spiritual language, and brought quite a stir. Peter, the same one that denied Jesus three times, stood up and preached and brought conviction to over 3000 people that received salvation.

Jesus had told the disciples in Acts 1:8 that they would receive ***power to be witnesses***. This was so evident on the day of Pentecost. The change that it brought to those that were living in fear was drastic. From denier to deliverer.

So what about the baptism of fire? What exactly does that mean? Does it mean "fired up" like Peter was, as he was filled up with the Spirit to preach?

I think it means much more than that. I believe it is the purifying fire of God that brings sin to the surface in each of us so it can be burned out and we can be fired up to win the race we are in as Christians. The fire kindled deep in us keeps us going when we don't want to continue. It burns brightly when we witness to others, and it burns brightly when we go into the secret place of God and come out purified.

There often is much in each of us that needs to be burned away. I would not look at it as a bad thing. I think it is good that God loves us so much that he wants our "vessels" to be holy, and set apart for him.

In I Peter 4:12 it says, ***"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."***

Don't resist the fire when it comes. Let it envelope you and bring you the victory God wants you to have.