

Set Me On Fire

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INTRODUCTION



Sometime ago while going through the book of Psalm, something was stirred up in my spirit that prompted me to hunger and thirst for the fire of God upon my life. Since then, I have witnessed it spreading to many people and places where God has opened doors for me to minister. I trust that God will set you on fire or ignite a desire for His presence in your life and endeavors as you go through this book.

This fire was specifically ignited when I came into contact with **Psalm 89:20-21**. Out of it we see David who was set apart or consecrated to the kingly office. He was to establish God's purpose and God's arm was to strengthen him to fulfil that purpose. In simple terms, David **was anointed for a specific purpose** of which God's arm would help him accomplish.

If we can agree to a specific purpose, then the

same could be true of Samson who was conceived and consecrated or set apart from the womb for a **purpose**. *For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazrite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines (Judges 13:5).*

For him to accomplish the **purpose** that he was born for, he needed the Spirit of God to help him. He could not do by himself and had to rely upon or had to depend upon the spirit of God which we are told that it; **began to move upon him (Judges 13:25), came upon him mightily (Judges 14:6; 15:14), came upon him (Judges 14:19)**, his spirit returned or his spirit came again and he was revived (**Judges 15:19**).

Out of this, one can establish that there was a starting point, of where it was ignited, then progressed to where it was much just like what fire does. There was a day when it **began** and continued to spread and increase in different occasions and to different audiences. It **began and spread** just like on the day of Pentecost. I pray that something will begin in your life, calling, ministry, career or business as God sets you on fire to accomplish your **purpose** on this earth.

You are born for a purpose, regardless of how

people have called you names or the circumstances surrounding your birth. Just bear in mind that Samson's mother, Hannah, Elizabeth and Sarah were barren while Bathsheba had been hurt and grieved yet gave birth to children who had **purpose**.

It is my prayer that God will set you on fire just like Samson did when he set the 300 foxes on fire to get to the Philistines who had denied him his wife. *And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!" Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. **When he had set the torches on fire**, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as vineyards and olive groves.*

Samson's purpose was established and announced even before he was conceived while David openly confessed that he was conceived in sin and nothing spectacular is mentioned about his birth, yet God had a great plan for both of them. God is not a respecter of persons; He can use anyone to accomplish His purpose regardless of their background whether born in a palace or a manger.

CHAPTER 1

Clean the place - Preparation



According to *Dictionary.com*, fire is a state, process, or instance of combustion in which fuel or other material is **ignited** and combined with oxygen, giving off light, heat and flame. The *Cambridge dictionary* defines fire as material that is in the state of burning that produces flames that send out heat and light and might produce smoke.

According to the two definitions, fire is a **state** that cannot go unnoticed, unfelt, unheard or unseen. When it passes by, it clearly leaves its traces. Its impact

cannot be underestimated, its presence cannot be ignored and its significance cannot be trivialized. It's a necessity that we **cannot live without**.

Bearing in mind that it produces light, heat and flames, we can then safely say the absence of it makes the surrounding dark and cold which can be a dangerous state to be found in since there are many things that thrive in darkness which only need light to be exposed. A cold stove can be a nice playground for roaches just as it is for demons in a cold church or individual who can be religious yet void of the presence and the power of God.

Allow me to use an earthly example that most of us could be acquainted with. The process of lighting up fire on a fireplace:

- **Step 1** – ensure that you have big logs depending on the size of the fire you want, you also need fire starters like small pieces of dry wood or twigs, newspaper sheets and matches.
- **Step 2** – Clean the place and remove the ash.
- **Step 3** – Place two or three medium sized pieces of firewood.
- **Step 4** – Add natural fire starters; small

pieces of dry wood or twigs.

- **Step 5** – Start off by twisting a single sheet of newspaper and light it while holding it, be careful not to burn yourself.

- **Step 6** – Slowly light the kindling with the burning paper.

- **Step 7** – Once a fire is established, add firewood as needed and make sure to keep flames visible.

In a nutshell, preparation is crucial before setting up fire. This was true for Elijah who prepared the altar that was in ruins before calling out for fire. *Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord which was broken down (1 kings 18:30).*

The same could be true about Jesus who prepared His disciples after His resurrection in the book of Acts in chapter 1 before they received the fire in chapter 2. He appeared or presented himself after he was killed. He had died a vicarious death that could have shaken many.

It was a horrific death, which could have been difficult to erase in the memory of many. It

was traumatic. The level of pain and agony was unbearable. The mockery he received was something else.

It was against such a background that he appeared to them and gave them proofs. Why did they need proof? Could it be that these disciples were worried or uncertain bearing in mind that their much anticipated deliverer had died a pauper?

Could it be that their expectations were cut off since they were looking for a military leader who would deliver them from the Romans? Could it be that they had written Him off looking at His horrific death? Could it be that they were traumatised and even forgot that He promised that he would rise again?

What we are sure of is that He gave them proof. He convinced them that He was alive or He had risen from the death. He had made them catch fish that broke the nets among many things he did.

He repeated the same miracle with different instructions. He did it when he was beginning his earthly ministry (when He called Peter) and again when he was about to resume His heavenly ministry (When he was to commission Peter).

He gave them proof that He was the one who had

promised His return or resurrection. *For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40);*

“Behold we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again (20:18-19).

Isn't it wonderful that after giving them proofs He gave them a promise. The promise of His resurrection had been fulfilled and chances were high that the second would be fulfilled too. This then would have raised their **expectation**.

The second promise would be easier to believe because of the first that had been fulfilled. This could have come as a welcome relief or a cure to their fear, worry, anxiety and mockery. This surely had an impact on their level of expectation.

From this, we are able to establish that Jesus had to remove the “ash” from His disciples before setting them on fire. Their emotions had to be in the right place.

While meditating on it, a thought passed through

my mind, can any sensible person apply lotion on top of sweat or one had to bath then apply oil. I am of the conviction that He refreshed them or cleansed them by the word He spoke to them before He set them on fire.

He restored their confidence and raised their hopes again. I am sure they moved to the next level with a changed mindset and healed hearts from the trauma they went through when they witnessed His death. You might have been shattered, broken, and are even bleeding because of what you were exposed to. This might have had an impact on your emotions and your energy.

It is my prayer that God will wipe your tears, heal you and restore you before setting you on fire. Out of this, I discovered that healing is very crucial for your next level. If you go to the next level without healing, you can become a bitter man like Simon the sorcerer who wanted to buy the spirit for prestige and to amaze people.

Healing is important before moving on. This was the reason why David comforted his wife Bathsheba before she could conceive Solomon (**2 Samuel 12:24**). It's very unfortunate that many rushed into new relationships, ministries, businesses without having healed from past hurts.

If Jesus had to minister to His disciples after such an ordeal or traumatic experience, then you and I need God to help us **clean** the ash in our lives.

This ash can be a result of betrayal, bitterness, anger, resentment, abuse and broken trust which has caused you to bleed and are hurting. In Acts chapter 8, we see a man who wanted to be set on fire but his heart was poisoned with bitterness.

He previously was a sorcerer who had astonished people with his sorceries for a long time. He wanted to get saved but had a wrong motive. Thus, he wanted to be set on fire for the wrong reasons. His heart was **unclean**. It is my prayer that our hearts are clean.

The second example is that of a fresh fire or something that was new. In Acts chapter 10 we have a group of Gentiles who had never walked with Jesus. The Gentiles also were expectant after being prepared by Cornelius the centurion.

This Cornelius had an angelic visitation that brought the news that his prayers and gifts had arrived as a memorial before God. The angel told him to call for Peter and he gladly did so.

While others were sent for Peter, others gathered at his house and were in expectation. *The following*

day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and he had called together his relatives and close friends (Acts 10:24). Other versions says he was waiting for them. It is possible they could have heard what Peter did before and they waited in expectation.

What they heard made them to abandon their programme on that particular day. They cancelled certain schedules in order to wait for what they actually did not know would happen but trusted the source.

They could have understood the importance of what was about to happen. It is also logical for me to say these guys could have come with questions and that Cornelius' explanation could have made them wait calmly rather than with tension.

In both examples (**Acts 1-2,10**), we can establish that **waiting took place**. They waited **expectantly** and their expectations were met. Also that they were promises that had been fulfilled before. It was not the first time neither the last time.

It did not end with them. There are many others who many centuries later were set on fire and did mighty exploits. There are many but I can only mention a few of them as picked randomly from *The Revival Study Bible by Steve Hill*:

I. Charles G Finney the father of Modern Revivalism. He was a young lawyer who vowed one Sunday evening in the fall of 1821 to settle the question of his soul's salvation at once and make peace with God under deep conviction from the scriptures and the Holy Spirit. He had a revelation of his pride. He was ashamed of being seen on his knees bowing to God by other humans.

When set on fire, he became one of the well-known revivalist that ever hailed from America. Over half a million souls were converted because of his direct contact.

II. Agnes Ozman was amongst those who first received the gift of tongues in Topeka in 1901. She was able to speak and write Chinese for three days after her experience with the Holy Spirit.

III. Smith Wigglesworth the plumber who was almost illiterate, was taught to read the Bible by the Holy spirit and his wife Polly. He was able to memorize the entire New Testament, had a daily fellowship in which he spoke in tongues, and had meditations that lasted him 4 hours. His remarkable ministry saw millions being saved, miraculous healing and deliverance.

IV. John Wesley together with his brother Charles impacted England and many nations thereafter. It was

a movement that affected or started in a nation and spilled to many nations. He was an author of more than 13 volumes of songs and poems. He wrote more than 230 books and was also a travelling minister who rode on a horseback a distance equivalent to 10 times around the globe.

He is the men who said “**Leisure and I have parted company**” . From his biography, I can say truly when you are on fire you have no time to waste on the things that have no eternal value and even the stress and strain of reaching out will not bother you. He rose at 4 am to preach at 5am almost daily and preached more than 5000 times a year to congregations that had more than 20000 attendees.

V. John G Lake the healing evangelist. He was born in Canada and his family relocated to the United States. His ministry was both in USA and in SA. His legacy was, “If we would grasp the reality of our position through Jesus Christ, every nation would ring with the praises of God”. He was a man who walked, talked and breathed the fire of resurrection.

He tirelessly investigated the bible to prove its accuracy. He was deep in science and spiritual matters. He established the Apostolic Tabernacle, which in the same year birthed a hundred churches. Now this is fire! It spread in SA before he returned to

the states. It is my prayer that what God did before in SA will happen again!

VI. William Branham the healing evangelist of hard cases. It is recorded that in one meeting nine deaf mutes came in his prayer line and were healed in 1950. His ministry was so powerful that he filled stadiums.

VII. Maria B Woodworth-Etter who had an influential healing ministry around 1876. She was a woman who suffered many tragedies. Her tragedies did not push her away from God but rather closer to God. She lost her drunkard father to sunstroke and was married at 16. How immature could she have been. She also constantly suffered with ill health. She also lost five of her six children. She was so broken and sought only God's will and she received a call to ministry and launched a mission against sin. She did not allow her situation to overwhelm her but instead she was set on fire.

VIII. I just gave you a few examples, there are many that I haven't mentioned, the likes of Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, William J Seymour, Billy Graham, Kathrine Khulman, Archbishop Benson Idahossa, Kenneth E Haggin and many more of others who are still alive even today and continue to do exploits.

Therefore, if He has done it for these he truly

can do it for you and me. I am convinced there is a generation that God is setting on fire in these last days. It is therefore my prayer that you **maintain a clean and a pure heart as you wait in expectation to be set on fire.**

Here are a couple of verses regarding **expectation**:

I. *For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever (Psalms 9:18).*

II. *My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him (Psalm 62:5)*

III. *For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off (Proverbs 23:18).*

IV. *So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off (Proverbs 24:14).*

V. *In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water (John 5:3).*

CHAPTER 2

Conductive Atmosphere



Fire need a conducive atmosphere to start and for sustenance. If one is using the conventional method of using the matchstick, one has to make sure they confine or cover the match stick otherwise the wind will blow it off.

When lighting it up, little amount of air or oxygen is required, something which is contrary to sustaining it or spreading it. It starts from a single spot then allowed to spread.

In scriptures, we see the early church **confined** to the upper room where they were gathered together and tarrying waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. They were gathered together from different backgrounds and different genders and age. They were in one place when the Holy Spirit came. We can also see how the Gentiles who were gathered in Cornelius' house were set on fire in **Acts 10**.

The fire started from a place of confinement and latter spread to other places. Confinement can be by choice or by circumstances. As for the Gentiles, they came by choice after they were invited by Cornelius whom they regarded highly.

However, in the upper room the disciples gathered after Jesus was killed and they were in fear; they had unanswered question which they latter asked, *"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel."*

These people were in a place where they were latter given proof and assurance having seen their master being ploughed by the Roman soldiers. The pain or agony was unbearable. The sight was horrific and traumatising. The experience was gruesome and the community could have segregated them.

For guys like Peter they had left all to follow Him and at one point had even said to whom shall we go. Imagine the friends and the family they had left

behind for the three and half years that Jesus was here on earth. How were they going to fit in?

Were they not covered in shame that their leader had been killed alongside thieves? Just imagine those who knew the thieves but didn't know the scriptures. It was easy for them to conclude that He was a thief also and had to die a vicarious death.

The society could have segregated them and they were a **tiny group** which did not know that like a match stick, **they will light** up the entire globe. Is it not amazing that the fire that was ignited many years ago in Jerusalem is continuously spreading with different waves having taken place after the 16th century reformation.

According to *Revival Library*, there has been six major waves that took place in 1727, 1792, 1830, 1857, 1880 and in 1904. There has been mighty revivals that have impacted many and I still believe that if Jesus tarries we will witness the fire spreading even into nations that are trying relentlessly to kick God out of their systems as if God is a man who can be chased.

It is then crucial for me to say they are certain things or movements that were birthed in confinement or that needed to be covered for a while before being left to spread. This was the story of Moses who

was born at a time when things were not pleasant in Egypt. He was hidden temporarily until when he could not be hidden anymore.

Many years latter, He came and was the instrument that God used to deliver the nation of Israel. The Egyptians never knew that what was concealed in them would spread until it impacted the whole earth. The Israelites were not the greatest nor the strongest but a small group that was confined only to come and set fire to nations.

To help us understand the issue of confinement, I came across a passage in Acts 16 where Paul and Silas were confined into the inner prison after being beaten for setting a girl free who had a divination spirit. The magistrates who put them in the prison had no clue that they were actually creating a conducive environment by placing them in confinement and fire was to spread from there.

When placed in confinement, Paul and Silas did not wallow in their pain but instead started singing at an hour when many could have desired to sleep. They were in their own cell and could not be stopped by anyone. They sang and prayed.

I often ask myself which language were they using in prayer given that they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit and that Paul spoke in tongues more

than many? Chances are that many who were in the prison heard what they had never heard before. Paul and Silas set the prison on fire such that the keeper of the prison also caught the fire together with his household.

The mission was accomplished in that night and many didn't know what could have transpired during the night. The keeper of the prison together with his household were impacted tremendously. The man was saved together with his household while the other prisoners whose chains were loosened we are not told if they were chained again.

The hermit in **Mark 5** was set on fire and went about ten cities spreading the fire. This man had a legion of demons and stayed by the tombs. Chains and pain failed him. Psychologists could not help him.

The society could not handle him and consequently he found himself confined by the tombs where there were no people but graves. He was associated with death until Jesus came to set him on fire with the glad tidings. When this man was set on fire, he was told to go to his relatives and friends.

These were people who knew him and directly connected to him. These people knew his struggles and had seen his suffering. It was a perfect audience

to spread the fire to. I have observed that they will always be those that know your struggles and are left on purpose to see your success.

Again, we can talk about the Samaritan woman who was **confined** as a social outcast because of her moral failure. Other women could have dreaded her. Possibly women of her age had their own husbands and she would not hang around with the young ones lest be rebuked for that. She was confined in her own world yet she was the much-needed spark that would turn Samaria upside down.

With the above examples, we can safely say a place of **confinement** can be a conducive environment to start the fire that will eventually spread. Joseph found himself in a prison where he was confined but he sparked something that spread to the palace.

What he did to the butler spread to the Pharaoh. I have always asked myself, after interpreting Pharaoh's dreams did it end there or it was the major thing that we are made aware of. If it was a gift, was it taken or did it stop working?

Another one who was confined and was set on fire is the Ethiopian Eunuch. He was alone in the wilderness coming back to Africa. He was not touched in a crowd in Jerusalem where he had gone for worship. He was alone on his chariot and was

struggling to understand what he was reading. His struggle was used by Phillip as the entry point to set him on fire and eventually he went home a different person.

Having said all this, ones challenges, circumstances and choices can be avenues of sparking fire that will subsequently affect many others. It is then crucial to have a right perspective when you find yourself confined, sometimes it's an opportunity for something to be started in your life and through your life.

There are many who were confined to barrenness and yet were used to start something great. Hannah found herself in a situation where she made a choice not to wallow in mockery but took it to God in prayer and gave birth to Samuel while Elizabeth gave birth to John whose birth and life was a wonder to many.

It is my prayer that you will come to terms with the fact that there is a need for a **conductive atmosphere** for the fire to start. Peter was confined at the lake after he failed to catch all night. He was confined to his boat while Jesus was preaching. Jesus used that opportunity to light up something in Peter that would latter spread. It was at the time he was broken and beaten and was tired.

I have said it somewhere that if he had caught

fish that day, it could have been difficult to get him. The same is true for the butler, if he had not been put to prison, it would have been difficult for Joseph to meet him or talk to him. He was deliberately put down for him to be accessible.

You might be down as we speak; it is very possible that God could have brought you down so that he can set you on fire. Before you complain or justify or defend yourself, you need to look beyond, it might be a set up that something can start with you and through you.

Esther was confined in Babylon. She was an orphan and had to hide her identity until the right time. I am sure when they were taken down to captivity in Babylon none of them had a clue that God would set fire in the Babylonian empire.

Who could have known without a mother figure to look up to that she will become a star that every woman would look up to. She became a mother that was better than Vashti in character and conduct and even used her influence to romp in Mordecai into the forefront such that the Jewish presence was felt.

In the same Babylon, Daniel and his friends were also confined as captives and were instrumental in spreading the fire. Firstly, they refused to eat the king's delicacies that the system could have

regarded highly as nutritious. Their choice not to defile themselves but to eat vegetables with water sparked something that made the chief steward to scrap the menu. It was something new to him. Later their presence was felt when they did what had never been done in Babylonian history by telling the king his dream and giving its interpretation.

In addition, Daniel's three friends found themselves being thrown into a fiery furnace. What the people of Babylon did not know was that the God of the Hebrews was and is a consuming fire. The Babylonians had no idea of what was coming. What they thought they were stopping, was actually putting fuel to make it spread.

Indeed a conducive atmosphere is necessary to start up a fire that will eventually spread and become greater or bigger than the initial spark. This conducive atmosphere also uses confinement to kick-start the fire. It is then imperative for you when being confined to know that there is a divine way out.

Sometimes you are confined so that something can start or begin. You might just be the much needed spark that will spread fire in your family, community, company, church and even nation.

The choice of firewood matters when lighting up

fire in a fireplace. You cannot just to pick anything and everything, but you choose carefully the wood that will serve the intended purpose. It is from this background that we need to draw something from the book of Acts 1 as we develop our case of set me on fire.

According to Acts 1:1-4, Jesus presented Himself alive to the Apostles whom he had **chosen**. We are told from **Mark 3:13** that Jesus went up the mountains and called those He Himself wanted. It is important to stress that those He wanted are the ones He called.

Though there were many people around, He chose those that He knew would accomplish the task or serve the purpose. *Jesus answered them, Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? (John 6:70).*

I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me (John 13:18).

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give you (John 15:16).

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own, but because ye are not of the world, I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you (John 15:19).

The Bible is particular that He chose those that He wanted. When choosing there is a criteria that one uses or follows. I am reminded of Samuel who chose Eliab, David's elder brother and wanted to anoint him king on the premise of his physical stature after he had been told to go and anoint a king in the house of Jesse. The Lord told him that he was not the one and that the Lord's criteria of choosing was different from man's.

So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!" But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or physical stature, because I have refused him, For the Lord does see as men sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one"

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by, And he said, Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen

these.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.”

*And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, For we will not sit down till he comes here.” So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good looking. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, **for this is the one!**” (1 Samuel 16:6-12). David was the chosen one!*

But God has chosen the foolish things of this world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of this world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not , to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence (1 Corinthians 1:27-29).

Just imagine Saul was a **murderer** who persecuted the church yet he was chosen. *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel (Acts 9:15).*

Peter was a fisherman and was **uneducated** yet he was chosen. *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And*

they realized that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13).

Solomon was **young and tender** yet he was chosen to be king succeeding his father to the throne. He was not his eldest son or even the son of his first or second wife. *And of all my sons, (for the Lord hath given me many sons) he hath chosen Solomon my son, to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father (1 Chronicles 28:5-6).*

Furthermore, David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord God. (1 Chronicles 29:1).

Moses who was slow of speech and a murderer was the Lord's chosen who stood in the gap and turned God's wrath away when he wanted to destroy the Israelites who were stiff-necked. *Therefore, he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them. (Psalm 106:23).*

The nation of Israel was chosen though it was

not the greatest or the strongest. In fact they were actually the least. *For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all the people that are upon the face of the earth.*

The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for you were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt (Deuteronomy 7:6-8).

If you look at most of the examples I have given, you will discover that it wasn't based on merit but purely on his love and grace so that none could boast. He even took others from darkness with a purpose.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

The same God who loved Israel and chose them still loves even today. He again has a purpose to be fulfilled even today. If He chose and set on fire

before, He can still do the same today.

CHAPTER 3

Connection



If we are to take firewood as an example, we know that one would need logs and twigs to light up the fire. There is need to have the big and the small together. If one is to use twigs alone, the fire can start but would soon run out while using the big logs alone might make it impossible to start the fire.

Therefore, both twigs and logs have a crucial role to play and need to be connected. This was true for John the Baptist and Jesus, they were connected for divine purpose. John had his significance though

Jesus was greater and set many on fire.

Their mothers were connected and had something in common. They were cousins who both had what looked like impossible situations. Elisabeth the mother of John was well advanced in age while Mary was a teenage virgin who was to conceive without a male though she was pledged to be married to Joseph.

They both had their relationship with God in place and their children were all of great destinies to the extent that they were to be **set on fire** from the womb. Prayer was involved in both children with Zachariah praying for John while Prophetess Anna and Simeon had spent many years praying for Jesus.

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lords Christ (Luke 2:25-38).

Jesus and John were connected though different in nature, function and fame. John understood his part and never competed with Jesus but rather ignited something in people and pointed them to Him. It is then pivotal for me to say if the fire is to last long there is need for genuine connections from

one generation to another.

The small needs the bigger and vice versa. The big also need to be connected lest the smaller ones suffer. If you track the history of revival you will discover how interconnected or how the waves moved from one generation to another and one place to another even cutting across racial boundaries.

In the upper room, they were both known and unknown disciples. They were also women who were in one accord with the men present. There was no gender issues nor size issues. The disciples were connected or had **something in common**.

Some years ago, I ministered on the story of the four lepers who were outside the city gate in Samaria who made a resolve to move into the enemy's camp with the intention of looking for food. These guys had leprosy in common and we are not told on which parts of the body. They agreed to go but unknown to them their first step was amplified and a **sound** was heard.

Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die?" ...For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses- the noise of a great army (2 Kings 7:3-6).

In **Acts 2:4** a **sound** as of a mighty rushing wind was heard to the extent that those who received the fire began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. These guys were connected. Earlier on, I did mention that Samson took 300 foxes and tied them or connected them two by two.

Where would you find 300 foxes of the same size? I am convinced they were of different sizes and also that they never fought one another. Imagine if they were male and female, chances are that males could have fought over females. If they were male alone they could have fought for supremacy.

These foxes were connected and never set each other on fire but instead went to the standing grain focusing on their assignment. We are not told which pair out did the others because they all were with one mission.

It's actually sad that many seek to outdo others or to prove supremacy over others and again others instead of focusing on the assignment they bit one another something you are not wired to do. The motive or inspiration must not be to outdo but to do with. There is so much that God has placed in others that we need for the fire to spread.

Another example is of Paul and Silas connection, and that of Peter and John. Isn't it amazing that

the foxes pulled together and not against each other. They flowed together to achieve their purpose. They worked together in agreement.

This issue can be seen clearly in **Acts 3** where a crippled beggar was healed and set the place on fire. This chapter stands out for me. In it, we see a man who was born crippled and was brought to the temple to beg. Thank God for those who carried him.

He could not carry himself and had to rely on others just like all of us when we came into this world. Not only were we carried when we were young, but also in many areas that we cannot carry ourselves. Remember we are talking about connection.

If one being carried fails to connect with the one carrying, chances are high they will fall or one will fall. There must be perfect harmony between the one being carried and the one carrying otherwise one will end up like Mephibosheth who was dropped by the nurse.

The crippled beggar cooperated with those who carried him to the gate where he was eventually set on fire after an encounter with Peter and John. It is interesting to note that there were others who were religious who went into the temple and left him in that condition. Peter and John gave him what they had and he walked.

The other religious folks who went in first had nothing to give him except money. Allow me to say they were cold and hence nothing significant took place until Peter and John came. Peter and John who were connected used the opportunity to heal the beggar and many were converted.

Peter and John did not even compete to address the people. John was gladly standing in connection to Peter who ministered healing. Peter did not say look to me but to us. He understood the power of working together for a cause. One must recall that in **Luke 5**, Peter had to summon other partners who were in the other boat to come and help after the miraculous catch of fish.

Connections are so vital in spreading the fire or if the fire is to keep on going. Naomi who was confined in Moab ignited a fire in Ruth who got connected to her and followed her when she came back to Bethlehem. Naomi was old and Ruth young.

The two worked together such that both benefitted in the end. Without this connection, Jesus would not have been born as the seed of David. Jesus Himself sent the disciples two by two (**Mark 6:7**) while Moses went with Aaron (**Exodus 4:14-16**).

It is very crucial then to be rightly connected to both God and man or women that has potential to

keep you burning. Ecclesiastes tells us that, *Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor, for if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.*

Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

In the book of Haggai, we see or encounter people who were cold and complacent. They had neglected the house of the Lord that was in ruins and concentrated on their own luxury. After they were told to consider their ways, they obeyed and they were set on fire and began to build together. They were connected.

So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God (Haggai 1:14).

They were set on fire and began to build that which was in ruins. We can be set on fire and work together to build our cities or nations which have been ruined

or ravaged by gross wickedness, corruption, divorce, drugs, immorality, witchcraft, satanism, and all other works of darkness. May God connect you with relevant people that together with, you will be able to bring light where there is gross darkness.

The idea of connection or working together brings us to a point where we need to embrace others with total understanding that we are interdependent. None can function by himself or herself. Even animals were created in pairs. God had to stress that it was not good for a man to be alone and hence he made him a helper that is comparable to him. Some versions say a suitable helper.

Elsewhere Apostle Paul used an analogy of the body to explain the need for oneness and interdependence. *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us (Romans 12:3-13).

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. ...But now indeed, there are many members, yet one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-20).

We strongly need to connect rightly for us to spread the fire. This connection will enable you to look beyond yourself such that you will be able to impact those around you. These connection goes across race, denomination, gender, age and even nationality.

God in His wisdom knew the importance of connection and has never given a single person or nation all that is there. Isn't it amazing that Africa, though labelled a dark continent has the most minerals. There are nations that cannot survive without Africa and even The Middle East. There will always be someone who has what you need that you do not have. Nobody has it all hence the need to connect.

How can two walk together unless they agree. You are not just to connect but do you agree? Where there is unity the Lord commands a blessing.

CHAPTER 4

Contact



Fire needs to meet a combustible material for maximum effectiveness. It needs containers that will conduct heat or containers that will carry the heat and subsequently pass it to other contents. When fire come into contact with ore, precious minerals will come out of it.

When fire comes into contact with something, change usually follows. Nothing comes into contact with fire and remains the same. Fire can strengthen, weaken, cut, cook, color, what it comes into contact

with.

Many in the New Testament understood the need to establish contact to the extent that others were healed when they came into contact with Peter's shadow. His shadow was connected to him and virtue flowed out through the shadow. Have you realised that when the flame is big, heat travels further. You don't need to stand near but even at a distance you can be affected or impacted.

There were those who like the woman with the issue of blood wanted real contact. It was her touch that made her receive what was in Jesus. Virtue came out and she was healed. Jesus understood this and He went about establishing contact.

Jesus came into contact with Zacchaeus who was hated for his allegiance to the Romans and was abusing his office as a tax collector. When Jesus came into contact with him, he was changed. Many people who could have been taken advantage of were the first ones to have proof of his conversion after contact with the fire.

Jesus went to events, temples, people's houses so that He could establish **contact**. It is one thing to be on fire and its another to let the fire spread. David needed a Goliath for the fire that was in him to manifest. Philip established contact with the

Ethiopian Eunuch.

Through laying of hands, there was transference. This happened either in receiving the baptism of the spirit or in praying for the sick. The fire had to flow through contact to the extent that even handkerchiefs and aprons were carried along and placed on the sick and they were healed.

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and evil spirits went out of them (Acts 19:11-12).

Just think of it, a piece of cloth conducting or transferring fire that discharged unclean spirits. If it was so with cloth what more you who have accepted Christ and have Him as your Lord and saviour? I believe you are more than a cloth and again even your own clothes can pass fire.

It is imperative that we **establish contact**. We need to come out of our comfortable zones and go out and establish contact. The early church was on fire and confined in Jerusalem until the death of Stephen. They were scattered through persecution to spread and establish contact.

Have you ever seen that wind can cause the fire

to spread rapidly? Sometimes God will allow **storms to rise in order to establish new contacts for the fire to spread.**

Over the years, I have come to realise that not all storms are there to destroy. Apostle Paul had to separate with Barnabas because of John Mark. This made Paul to go with Silas while Barnabas with John Mark.

They went their separate ways establishing contacts and consequently spreading the fire. Many years later after they had covered ground, Paul realised how important John Mark was.

It is not every fight or strife that is really against us but it comes to spread the fire. If the early church had not been persecuted, they would have remained in the comfort of Jerusalem. Many of us we get comfortable with our churches and we forget to reach out. We tend to forget that Jesus said go yea.

It is in going out that we can set our communities on fire. I've discovered over the years that no matter how good ones products can be, unless they are to come into contact with people, they might actually rot in the house if they are perishables. Even salt, unless it comes into contact with meat it cannot give flavor.

We are the salt of the earth but we are afraid of contact and consequently fail to spread the gospel. We hide with our testimonies like Elisabeth who got pregnant in her old age and failed to be like the Samaritan woman who went to men and told them about another man.

The Samaritan woman established contact with people who were familiar with her. Do you know that your testimony works better to people who knew what you were? Such people will say what happened?

It can be like the crippled beggar who sat by beautiful gate (**Acts 3:16**). Some could have given him alms. Many passed him by while he was begging. After he was healed, he went to his contacts so they could see his change (**Acts 3:7-11**).

The man established contact and fire spread. May God give you courage to spread the fire among your contacts. These can be your friends, family, your relatives, associates and colleagues. So that they can notice the transforming power of the gospel.

I discovered throughout the book of acts that contact was established through people who were connected to many people. Also, it was established through prominent places. In Jerusalem they were many who were from every nation. *And there were*

dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, from every nation under heaven (Acts 2:5).

Some of the people whose contacts were touched and spread the fire:

- The crippled beggar whose condition was known by many
- Simon the sorcerer who astonished the people of Samaria for a long time with his sorceries.
- The Ethiopian Eunuch who held an important position under Queen Candace.
- Tabitha was a philanthropist who was famous among the less privileged widows.
- Lydia who was a business woman dealing with purple.
- Publius was a leading citizen of the island of Malta.

This is to show that even prominent people are required to spread the fire. It's unfortunate that many who come into contact with prominent people are afraid of spreading the fire. We ought to be like Philip who though was on foot was not intimidated by the Eunuch who was on a chariot.

The fire spreads faster with prominent people. It is

my prayer that God will connect you with prominent people to spread the fire. If you are prominent already, use your influence to spread your fire.

I remember very well in 2001 when God used a prominent couple for my salvation. They were both highly educated and the husband was at a prominent school which was near the state house while the wife was working at the University of Zimbabwe.

The man did his masters in Canada and they connected with me though I was a college student. They were so instrumental in my salvation story and today 22 years later the fire is spreading. I have written four books, preached in different Southern African nations.

When Samson set the foxes on fire, they came into contact with both the shocks (many) and the standing grain. As much as I have mentioned prominent people and places, we need to know that all are equally important. Fisherman uses either nets or rods. Though it might take time to use fishing rods, it requires skill and silence.

There are certain kinds of fish that you will never catch in a crowd and where there is noise. Have you ever wondered why Jesus sat by the well and sent the disciples away? He knew how to fish using rod. With a rod, you might catch one but surely it will be

a big catch.

So then, I am simply saying for fire to spread it needs contact. What's get contacted can either be big or small but contact needs to prevail.

CHAPTER 5

Contrary Wind



Fire can either go off or spread when it encounters contrary wind. Samson whom we spoke of earlier found himself under pressure from his Delilah and he gave in (**Judges 14:15-17**). What he failed to know was that the wind will blow again or the pressure will increase until he gives in and consequently his fire would go off. (**Judges 16:5-17**).

What Samson failed to realise was that there were those who were out to take out his fire just like

many who are after your children, finances,
marriage,

business, ministry, career and position. They were prepared to pay money for Samson's fire to go out.

And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind and afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver (Judges 16:5). The question is how many were they? And if they were many then Delilah was offered a huge sum which she could not resist.

People are not afraid of paying huge sums of money just to make sure they bring someone down. *"If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they may be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries" (Esther 3:9).*

Others even went on to pay the soldiers who were guarding Jesus tomb and wanted to stop the fire that he had risen. *When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept'.*

There will always be contrary wind that will seek to blow you off. They tried to blow off Apostle Paul

on several occasion (**Acts 21:31**). Some bandits took a vow not to eat until they killed Paul. *And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. Now they were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy (Acts 23:12-13).*

They even wanted him to be invited by the commander, yet it was a plot to kill him. *They came to the chief priests and the elders, and said, “We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. Now you, therefore, together with the council, suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him before he comes near. (Acts 23:14-15).*

Not every invitation is good. Some invitations are meant to quench your fire. Ask the young prophet in **1 Kings 13** who was killed by a lion after honouring the invitation from an older prophet.

Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king. And their father said to them, “Which way did he

go? For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah (1 Kings 13:11-24).

This man was from outside the city yet he carried the word that was needed in the city. How did the sons of this older prophet feel when they saw someone who was not from their territory being used? As for the old prophet how did he feel when he heard somebody came into his territory?

This is common in many spheres of life, they are always those who feel entitled and would not want anybody from outside their circle, tribe, nation to do something greater than them. They have their own who will report you just like the sons of the older prophet.

Being on fire when you are from outside can disturb many who will want to shut you off. Daniel and his friends were something else in Babylon. The wise men wanted him out and even plotted against him.

Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and the satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or

fault found in him (Daniel 6:3-4).

Remember that not every invitation is good. Not every royal treatment is royal treatment. Your life could be at stake. Imagine asking for water and being given milk. Surely at the back of your mind you will least expect something to happen. Sometimes we ought to be very careful with people who goes way beyond the necessary. These can take your life or fire (**Judges 4:18-21**).

Zechariah the son of Jehoiada was stoned to death by those who conspired against him after he confronted the people who had transgressed against the Lord. *Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, He also has forsaken you".*

So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord. Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; as he died, he said, "The Lord look on it and repay! (2 Chronicles 24:20-22).

Jeremiah was almost extinguished because of

his stance for God. There were others who could not stand his prophecies or the words he spoke by the spirit of God. *Therefore the princes said to the king, "Please, let this man be put to death, for thus he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man does not seek the welfare of this people, but harm".*

Then Zedekiah the king said, "Look, he is in your hand. For the king can do nothing against you". So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah and the king's son, which was in the court of the prison, and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. And in the dungeon there was no water. So Jeremiah sank into the mire. (Jeremiah 38:4-6).

Herod wanted to take Peter out in **Acts 12** after he had killed James. He saw how people who loved darkness were pleased with James' elimination and he wanted to please them even more by touching Peter. Peter was placed in prison and was to be killed after Passover.

Imagine the multitudes that came for the Passover. Think of Peter's position and influence, surely by attempting to stop Peter, Herod did not know that he went into the path of fire and the fire would change direction and burn him instead. He was the one who

died in the end.

When you are on fire, those who can't stand you will definitely look for something to use against you. Stephen was on fire and they could not resist the wisdom that he operated with. They wanted to quench the fire because they could not compete with him.

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Then they secretly induced men to say "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God".

Samson, remember, he had external pressure that came from women in his life who were under pressure themselves from the Philistines. Sometimes your fire can go off because of other people whom you join yourself to or whom you marry who have their own pressures that they cannot handle.

There are many who were on fire before they got married but after marriage they are extremely cold. This is not to say marriage is bad but to even caution others to be careful whom they marry. Fire can go

by marrying a person who himself or herself has pressure they cannot bear.

The other thing we might pick in Samson is that he failed to learn from his previous encounter. He fell for it twice. The question is, was he having internal pressure? Was he insecure or was he too tolerant.

He went on to prove his love to somebody who did not love him but instead loved money. If Delilah loved Samson, she could have protected him. Instead, she was a prostitute. She was in business. The sad part is that when someone with a higher offer comes you will be dumped.

When you are on fire, know whom you deal with. They normally get to someone connected to you to bring you down. If they cannot touch your wife, children, family then they will use your friends. Pharaoh knew this; when the elders of Israel came to tell him about the need to take a journey to worship, he said leave some behind. He knew if they have left something they will always come back. (**Exodus 10:9-10, 24-26**)

The enemy usually touches what is close to you and dear to take away your fire. If he fails, he goes for what is in you. It is unfortunate that many, who were on fire, went down because of men or women, money and pride. The more famous one becomes,

the more dangerous it becomes. Sometimes we tend to forget who brought us up and become complacent.

Concisely, contrary wind is that which will rise against you to quench your fire. These can be either external or internal. We ought to be on the lookout for that which would aggressively take away our fire.

When you are on fire, you become a target to be extinguished. There are people who will go all the way to quench your fire. The more fire you have the more you will have contrary storms.

CHAPTER 6

Come Upon



I have often seen some pouring kerosene, diesel or methylated spirit to aid the fire to burn. The inclusion of flammable liquids poured upon the wood makes it easy for the wood to burn and give out a huge flame. It is important for me to stress that the flammable liquids are poured on the wood or material to be set on fire.

Looking at what we have covered so far; clean the place, conducive atmosphere, connection, contact, contrary wind, you can realise that they all deal with

something that is happening **in you, around you, with you, through you and against you**. What we have not covered is what happen **on you** which we will cover in this chapter.

The disciples were told that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them (**Acts 1:8**). This power will then enable them to witness or spread in a systematic way. It had an epicenter and would spread to other regions.

It was to spread like an atomic or nuclear bomb that spreads in widening circles from the point of impact. It was to start from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. One might even say it was to start with the pure Jews then move to the Samaritans and eventually to non-Jews.

The gospel was to spread to all people despite the social or racial status or geographical location. It was to spread and continue to spread from those who were privileged to those who were not but had received and continue to receive the gospel with gladness.

In this chapter we will focus on “**upon**” and trusting God for His fire to rest upon you. I know some reading have already received the baptism of the Spirit and understands the difference between indwelling and infilling. It is my prayer that God will

set you on fire or will increase the fire in you.

According to the Strong's concordance, **Upon** is a primary preposition literally meaning superimposition as it relates to distribution. The English dictionary defines it as (1) another word for **on**, (2) Indicating a position reached by going up, (3) Imminent for.

Let us consider examples of those whom the Holy Spirit came upon and what they were able to do or accomplish;

1. The Seventy elders including Eldad and Medad who had remained in the camp and did not cease from prophesying and were to help Moses bear the burdens of the people (**Numbers 11:17, 25-26**)

- What happens on one side can happen on the other simultaneously. The purpose of God cannot be limited by distance.
- God knows how to single out those He has earmarked.

2. Balaam

Who bountifully blessed Israel when he had been hired to curse them (**Numbers 24:2-10**).

- When the spirit comes upon you, you

will utter what the spirit gives you and not what you want. Balaam had been called to curse and had been promised a reward. He did not mind losing the reward but had to flow as the spirit gave him what to say.

3. Joshua

He succeeded Moses to lead the nation of Israel. *And the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him (Numbers 27:18).*

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him: the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9).

- The spirit can distinguish you, and cause you to do exploits. Joshua was able to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land despite them causing Moses to miss it for they frustrated him many times and brought his anger out.

4. Othniel

He went out to war and prevailed. *And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel and went to war: the Lord delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, and his hand*

prevailed against Chushanrishathaim (Judges 3:10).

- The spirit will make you go out or will cause you to prevail.

5. Gideon

He blew the trumpet to gather the Israelites for battle though prior to his visitation was hiding from the Midianites. *But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered around him (Judges 6:34).*

- The once fearful person who was hiding had boldness to come out marshalling people for war.

6. Jephthah

Jephthah advanced toward the enemy and covered a distance that could be measured from Aroer as far as Minnith-twenty cities- and to Abel Keramim. Some of you reading are aware that fire or heat can be measured. The distance covered or the degrees attained can be measured.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon. So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them, and

the Lord delivered them into his hands. And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel (Judges 11:29, 32-33).

- Impact can be measured just like fire can be.

7. Samson

He tore a lion apart with his bare hands, slew 30 men, loosened bands on his hands and had cords became like flax that were upon his arms. *Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath and behold, a young lion roared against him.*

And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or mother what he had done (Judges 14:6)

- His destiny was threatened and God raised a standard by enabling him or empowering him to tear the lion with his bare hands. It was a challenge for him but also it became an opportunity for him. He ate out of what sought to eat him. Some problems are not problems but are opportunities wrapped up in problems.

- What started with Samson would spread to the philistines. The lion, the honey and the riddle. We can then say beyond a single experience, they are many that follows or are attached to it.

8. Saul

Was turned into another man. (**1 Samuel 10:6,10**). He prophesied when he came into the company of those who prophesied. *And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing, as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. And it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise.*

And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu: and he asked and said, where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah.

*And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all day and all that night. Wherefore they say, is Saul also among the prophets? (**1 Samuel 19:20-24**).*

- The Spiritual is greater than the physical. It is possible to create an atmosphere that can affect everyone that steps into the environment. There is a place you become untouchable.

9. David

He led Israel in their battles and managed to raise the mighty men of David who did exploits that were astonishing or marvelous. He also brought refreshing upon Saul who had an evil spirit (**1 Samuel 16:16,23**).

10. Amasai

Came to David when he was in the stronghold, and was made captain. He spoke by the spirit that he was David's and was on his side. (Though David was still a fugitive and running away from Saul, many of Saul's brethren from the tribe of Benjamin followed David.) Amasai joined David leaving Saul.

*Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band (**1 Chronicles 12:18**).*

- People can easily switch to follow you when you are on fire.

- Not every leader will you train or raise, others will be trained and raised somewhere else only to join you for your next season. Most companies and even leaders are afraid of putting those who came to them in positions. David did not waste time in appointing Amasai who defected from Saul.

- Here is a reality, people will always leave one to follow another who has more fire than where they are coming from just like John's disciples left to follow Jesus and Saul's soldiers left to follow David.

- According to the New Spirit filled life Bible by Jack W Hayford, the Spirit literally clothed Amasai, that is, He took possession of him and the resultant effect was that he prophesied. The prophets understood that the source for prophetic inspiration was the Spirit of God (**1 Samuel 10:6,10; 19:20,23**)

11. Azariah

Was prophesied to King Asa. *Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you (2 Chronicles 15:1-2).*

- You determine what happens to you or the onus is on you!!

12. Jahaziel

He spoke to King Jehoshaphat and all the inhabitants of Judah strengthening them to go out against the vast army of the Moabites that had come against them.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you king Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz and you will find them at end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

You will not need to fight, in this battle, position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them for the Lord is with you (2 Chron 20:14-17).

13. Zechariah

Addressed Joash's apostasy (**2 Chronicles 24:20**).

14. Jesus

Was baptised with the Spirit and fire. His birth was prophesied and his mother conceived by the Spirit. He was on fire to the extent that scholars could not stand him. Religious people hated him and thought by killing him they were extinguishing the fire He came with.

Isaiah 11:2, 42:1, Matthew 3:16, 12:18, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, 4:18

15. Mary

She was able to conceive without knowing a husband. *And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will over-shadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the son of God" (Luke 1:35).*

16. The disciples

They were the first recipients of the fire after tarrying in Jerusalem which they were able to spread to many parts of the world (**Acts 2:3**).

From the Above listed examples, we are able to

see what the individuals concerned were able to accomplish by the help of the Spirit coming upon them.

If you and I are to allow the Spirit to take over or to be in charge then we will be able to advance significantly in our lives. From the examples above, we saw such words as baptism, which comes from baptizo, which means to immerse. Just imagine during water baptism that the whole body is immersed or covered in water.

One is literally buried in water and totally covered with water. If that's true, imagine what it means to be **covered with fire**. Does it not remind you of the bush that Moses saw? Which drew his attention (**Exodus 3:2-3**).

A strange sight caught his attention. He did not run away neither did he mock it like others did when the disciples were baptised with the spirit in. *So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What could this mean?" Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine"* (**Acts 2:12-13**).

When fire came upon them, it affected their speech and state. Others saw people who were drunk but they did not know what had made them drunk. And majority of us we know that when a person is drunk we say he is under the influence of

something.

Imagine being influenced by the Holy Spirit and the results you will be able to achieve. Think of the wisdom that cannot be contested that you will have because of Him being in your life. Not to mention the boldness He will impart on you so that you can do ventures or projects without fear denying you.

It is my sincere prayer that God will set you on fire so as to live your purpose. This is not only for those who are pastors, we all need the Holy Spirit in our lives, that He may lead us and guide us.

Without Him we will all struggle, we will be stuck and stagnant and we will not produce results. The following chapter will focus on the reasons why we should be on fire or what we can do or benefit as a result of fire on our lives.

CHAPTER 7

Reasons why you should be on fire



Bearing in mind that we have given an analogy of lighting fire on a fireplace, at this point allow me to state that there is a specific season or time that is most ideal to light up the fire. You will agree with me that in winter the weather will be extremely cold and that's when fireplaces are used the most in our houses.

Having established the idea of a particular or specific season, then allow me to bring you back to Acts 2. Apostle Peter addressed the multitudes that

mocked the disciples by saying they were drunk. Peter told them of how prophet Joel prophesied concerning a time or season when God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. (**Acts 2:17-21** and **Joel 2:28**).

The exact dates were not known by the disciples but it was said in the last days. They might have known that it will happen but might not have known that it will happen to them and through them.

This could have the predicament that Zachariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary were in. They knew it would happen but they might not have been aware of the season and their involvement in it.

The disciples not only knew the prophecy but were also promised by Jesus as days for fulfilment drew closer. It is paramount for me to stress that both the prophecy and the promise were for a specific season or time when it came to pass.

There are many whom we can give as examples where either what had been prophesied or promised came to pass. Simeon can tell you that what he was promised came to pass (**Luke 2:25-26**).

Abraham is another who was promised and what God said happened. I am keenly interested with the one he was promised that his descendants would

go into captivity and would come out much better and wealthier or simply they were to come out not empty handed (**Genesis 15:13-14**).

It was Joseph who went in as a captive after being sold by his brothers to the Ishmaelites. When he went in, he rose through the ranks and his family followed him with chariots he provided. These guys were in comfort and could not have had a clue of what awaited them.

They enjoyed the comfort because of one man and after his death, things got worse which made them cry to God who sent Moses as a deliverer to rescue them and eventually the promise to Abraham was fulfilled.

When you look at the disciples and the Jews, the coming of Jesus was a welcome relief to many. The beginning of His ministry was so glorious. Crowds followed Him.

He amazed many with the signs and wonders that He performed. Others had found solace that they had found their own king who was going to liberate them from the Roman rule. With time, things became worse than expected and many deserted Him.

Many stopped following Him and to add salt to the injury they saw Him being condemned to death.

They witnessed His death and never knew that He had come for such a purpose despite Him speaking of it repeatedly.

Unknown to them was that the prophecy that Joel had prophesied was drawing near and closer. The Spirit would not have been given without Him having gone back to the father. He would not have gone back to the Father without accomplishing His purpose.

Things in the natural tended to be going for the worst yet it was actually becoming better. After His death, the disciples were confined to the upper room where Jesus showed up several times and even told them to wait for the promise which was near. The season or time finally came and they received the long awaited promise.

The season not only came for them, but it is also now. We are living in the last days and we too can be set on fire and begin to do like Jesus did and even greater works than He did.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works I do he will do also; and greater than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12)

Let me reiterate, **The season and the time is now!**

If there has been a time that we need the **fire** is now. Our lives, churches, nations, organisations need the Fire of the Holy Spirit. One has to look at how cold the love of many has become. How the false have managed to deceive many who have fallen for the strange fires.

It is my prayer that you will maximise on this season and earnestly ask God to set you on fire so that you can be able to do exploits in this season. These exploits are not only for the clergy but for every believer who thirst and ask God sincerely.

The gifts of the Spirit will benefit many and many will be consumed by their callings or will be given or sold out to their destiny just like Elisha who followed Elijah whole heartedly after he had burned the oxen he ploughed with. He did not want to look back neither to be distracted from serving his purpose.

He also knew that he could not function without the Spirit which he asked for relentlessly. He also understood that the season for Elijah was over and it was his time. This is your season, May God set you on fire!

The following are the reasons why we should be on fire even this season or time;

When you're on fire, you / your;

1. Spread to the surrounding areas systematical from where you are to reaching out just like the waves of a bomb which spreads from the epicenter going outwards. It can start small then spread with distance and time (**Acts 1:8, 22:15, Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15**).

This tells us that you start where you are and grow until you became international. It's unfortunate that many just want to start big but don't want the process necessary for growth. When you are on fire the expectation is that, you spread progressively from one level to another or from one degree to another.

2. Move Swiftly or with **Supernatural Speed** like Elijah who ran on foot overtaking Ahab who was on a chariot (**1 Kings 18:46**).

3. Come out of Seclusion like Peter and the disciples who stood up and addressed the crowd. Some of you are aware that Peter had denied Jesus before but now he stood and was no longer hiding (**Acts 2:14**). Gideon also used to hide in the wine press and was able to blow a trumpet in preparation for battle (**Judges 6:34**).

4. Produce sound that draws attention (**Acts**

2:2-6, 16:25-26).

5. **Shake** things wherever you go (**Acts 4:31, 16:26**).

6. **Send shock waves** such that people will know you are coming even before you arrive (**Joshua 2:8-11, 2 Kings 7:6**).

7. **Presence cannot go unnoticed** (**Acts 16:25**).

8. **Perceive** things differently / See differently (**Numbers 13:30** and **Acts 7:55-56**).

- See victory before a fight.
- See Glory instead of stones.
- See opportunities instead of obstacles.

9. Will fulfill your **Purpose** (**Acts 16:32-33**)

10. Will receive **Provisions** in unexpected times or places (**Acts 16:34** and **2 Chronicles 20:25**).

11. Change **Patterns** or trends like Paul and Silas who sang at midnight in prison. Peter who had been put in prison earlier, found himself sleeping, something which was different for Paul and Silas. The prisoners were exposed to something new (**Acts 16:25**).

Like David who stepped up to confront Goliath who had come frequently challenging Israel (**1 Samuel 17:32**). Like Gideon who ended the Midianites domination which had gone for seven years.

12. Hold your **Peace** like Paul and the prisoners who held their peace. The keeper of the prison was shocked that all the prisoners were in despite the chains fallen (**Acts 16:26-28**).

13. **Pass** what you have: you transmit it (**Acts 3:6**). Like Jesus who showed up in Zacchaeus house (**Luke 19:1-10**).

14. **Shine / Radiate with glory** (**Acts 6:15, Exodus 34:29-30, Ecclesiastes 8:1 and Matthew 17:2**).

15. Cannot be **denied** for you will have proofs (**Acts 4:16**).

16. Will speak with boldness such that people will be cut to heart or convicted (**Acts 2:37-41, 5:33, 7:54**).

17. **Bring down giants** (**Joshua 15:14, 1 Samuel 17:50**).

18. Are **Defended** (**Acts 5:33-40**).

19. Will go to the **top or apex** (**Acts 23:11**,

27:23-24, Isaiah 41:10).

20. Do exploits (Acts 2:43, 4:33, 5:12).

21. Are not bothered by Daily meetings (Acts 2:46, 5:42, 24:53)

22. Receive additions (Acts 5:14, 2:41, 2:47, 6:7).

23. Declare God's wonderful works with boldness (Acts 2:11, Exodus 15:11, Psalm 40:5, 71:17, 96:3).

24. Dare your accusers (Acts 5:30, 2:23, 4:10-11).

25. Are set in charge (Acts 6:5-6).

26. Will disturb the religious folks (Acts 4:1-2, 5:17, 13:45, Nehemiah 2:10).

27. Become a distribution centre / finances will flow through you (Acts 2:45, 4:34-35).

28. Cannot be deceived (Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18).

29. Will be esteemed highly (Acts 5:13).

30. Will have favour with people (Acts 2:47, Luke 2:52).

31. Will drop something from you (Acts 9:18), the veil is removed (2 Corinthians 3:14).

32. Will cause people to glorify God (Acts 4:21, 3:8-9, Matthew 9:33, 15:31)

33. Will not rest until you find the one you love (Songs of Solomon 3:1-4).

34. Will hold on and not let go (Songs of Solomon 3:1-4).

35. Know your Priority (Acts 6:4, 2:42 and 1 Corinthians 9:16).

36. God will make a way for you (Acts 5:19).

37. Cannot be resisted / break the Resistance (Acts 6:10, 5:39, Jeremiah 1:18-19, 15:20, Luke 21:15).

38. Will make a lasting impact (Acts 20:12).

39. Speak the outcome you desire (Numbers 13:30, 1 Samuel 17:45-47).

40. Will bring great joy to the city (Acts 8:8).

41. Set captives free (Acts 8:6-7, 10:38, Matthew 4:23,9:35).

42. Cannot be bought with money (Acts

8:18-21).

43. Can move from multitudes to individuals and vice-versa / **Cater for all (Acts 8:25-27).**

44. **Cross boundaries (Acts 10:28).**

45. **Turn things upside down (Acts 17:6, Acts 16:20, 24:5).**

46. **Speech** will be amazing (**Acts 2:6-7, 12).**

47. **Do the unusual (Acts 3:4, Acts 19:11).**

48. **Attract** crowds who are fed up of lifeless services or tradition or religion (**Acts 3:11).**

49. **Not be Afraid (Acts 2:14, 3:15, 4:13).**

50. Will **rejoice (Acts 8:39).**

51. Cannot be **silenced (Acts 4:18-20).**

52. Will have **people rally behind you (Acts 5:26, 34).**

53. Need **storms / wind** to propel you further (**Acts 4:24-32).**

54. **Pave the way** or find your way out (**Acts 23:6-10).**

55. **Do not settle for less (Acts 5:2).**

56. Will affect those who come in your proximity – Peter’s shadow (Acts 5:15).

57. Will come out of confinement (Acts 5:18).

58. Will have people rally behind you (Support) (Acts 5:26).

59. Will speak in their face (Acts 5:29).

60. Will be a target for elimination because they can’t stand you (Acts 5:33).

61. Will be put in charge (Acts 6:5-6, Genesis 41:38-41).

62. Take out sorcerers out of the market / limelight (Acts 8:9-13).

63. Activate or ignite others (Acts 8:14-17).

64. Are not intimidated by rank or possessions. Philip was on foot while the Ethiopian Eunuch had a rank and was in a chariot (Acts 8:27-31).

65. People will switch camps to follow you (1 Chronicles 12:16-18, John 1:35-37).

66. Will increase in strength (Acts 9:22, Luke 2:40).

67. Will be sought after (Acts 9:38;10:5).

- 68. Will be **asked for more** (**Acts 13:42**).
- 69. Will **start again even when put down** (**Acts 14:19-20**).
- 70. Will have **prominent** people join you (**Acts 17:12, 1 Chronicles 11:7**).

THE END

REFERENCES

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Set Me On Fire

NOTES

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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