

## LIVING IN AND SERVING BY THE MINGLED SPIRIT

### Message 4

#### **Being Burning in Spirit to Serve the Lord and Fanning into Flame the Indwelling Gift to Preach the Gospel**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 12:11; 2 Tim. 1:6-7

- I. Those who have a desire to serve God must know that God is a consuming fire that burns and energizes—Heb. 12:29; Ezek. 1:27; Dan. 7:9-10; Luke 12:49-50; 1 Thes. 5:19; Rev. 4:5:**
- A. God is a consuming fire—Heb. 12:29; Deut. 4:24; 9:3.
  - B. The Lord Jesus came to cast fire on the earth; this fire is the impulse of the spiritual life—Luke 12:49-50.
  - C. The Holy Spirit is symbolized by fire, and the seven Spirits of God are the seven lamps of fire burning before the Throne—Ezek. 1:4; Acts 2:3-4; 1 Thes. 5:19; Rev. 4:5.
  - D. The divine fire, the burning Triune God, enables us to serve and even sacrifice our lives—Rom. 12:11:
    - 1. Our service must come out of the burning of God's fire; this fire should be the energy, the driving force, the impulse, within us; if we have this fire, our service will be out of God, not out of ourselves—Exo. 3:2, 4, 6; Lev. 6:13; Luke 12:49.
    - 2. The burning of the seven Spirits as seven lamps of fire motivates us to rise up and take action for the carrying out of God's economy—Rev. 4:5; Dan. 11:32b.
- II. “Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord”—Rom. 12:11:**
- A. Concerning practicing the church life, Romans 12 tells us that we need to present our bodies a living sacrifice (v. 1), be transformed by the renewing of the mind (v. 2), and be burning in spirit, serving the Lord; only if we are such persons can the church have a way to go on:
    - 1. The common problems in the church life lie in our presenting our bodies insufficiently, that is, not offering enough of our time; in our being lukewarm in spirit; and in our mind being strong in expressing opinions.
    - 2. Romans 12 shows that when our bodies are presented, our mind is renewed, and our spirit is burning the service will surely be successful; this is the secret for the church life to be strong.
  - B. If we desire to serve, not only must our body be presented and our mind be transformed by renewing, but our spirit must also be fervent and burning—v. 11; cf. Acts 18:25:
    - 1. Our spirit being burning refers to the exercise of the human spirit, the mingled spirit; our spirit must be burned and burning, on fire all the time—cf. 2 Tim. 1:6-7.
    - 2. We may have presented our body and been renewed in our mind, but after a period of time, our spirit may become cold; although we still serve, there is no vigor within.
    - 3. Although the Lord is in our spirit, if we are not burning in spirit, He cannot burn; only when we are fervent and burning in spirit will the Lord burn within us.
  - C. The apostle Paul says, “Be burning in spirit”—Rom. 12:11:
    - 1. The word *be* here means that we need to take the initiative.
    - 2. Whether or not we are burning in spirit is our responsibility, not the Spirit's responsibility—2 Tim. 1:6-7; cf. 1 Cor. 14:32; Isa. 64:7.

3. We must not be passive and slothful in exercising our spirit; if we are diligent to rise up and exercise our spirit the indwelling Spirit will follow us and manifest His unlimited riches and inexhaustible power—Rom. 8:6, 9-11.
- D. The unique requirement to be burning in spirit is to contact the Lord—cf. Eph. 5:18; 6:17-18:
1. We need to use our spirit to contact the Lord so that our spirit may be made alive; as a result, our spirit will be fervent and burning within us.
  2. We can be burning in spirit by praying in order to spend more and more time in the presence of the Lord; when we are genuinely burning in spirit, we are beside ourselves and are fools because of Christ—Matt. 6:6; 2 Cor. 5:13; 1 Cor. 4:10.

**III. “For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness”—2 Tim. 1:6-7:**

- A. Second Timothy 1:6-7 indicates that we need to fan our spirit into flame:
1. We may say that the gift of God that we must fan into flame is a spiritual gift; but the spiritual gift is in our spirit—vv. 6-7.
  2. There is fire in our regenerated spirit, which is indwelt by the Holy Spirit; actually, we may say that our spirit is the fire; Paul reminded Timothy that there was a small fire within him, which he needed to fan into flame.
  3. The way to fan our spirit into flame is to open the three layers of our being: to open our mouth, to open our heart, and to open our spirit.
  4. To use our mouth with our heart and with our spirit to say, “O Lord Jesus,” is to open up our spirit from deep within; then the fire burns.
  5. When we are down, we should call “O Lord Jesus” again and again from deep within with the exercise of our spirit; then we will be up.
  6. Whenever there is the fanning, there is always a battle with Satan who tries to quench the fire being fanned within us; today there are many things that are like cold water, trying to quench our inner flame; when these things come, we have to fight and fan our spirit into flame; then we will be the highest persons, the super persons.
- B. We need to fan into flame the gift of God within us in order to preach the gospel—v. 6:
1. In order to do anything, we must know the secret of how to do it.
  2. We have been speaking about the God-ordained way for many years, and this speaking has been accepted, received, and honored in the Lord’s recovery; however, it is not sufficient to stir up the church to accept this way; what we need now is not more speaking, but for some to enter into the practice.
  3. Paul reminded Timothy to fan the gift of God into flame; it is not adequate merely to have a gift; we need to fan it into flame—v. 6.
  4. In every church there should be some individuals who are burning to contact people and bring them in—Acts 18:25.
  5. “I dream that the brothers and sisters would be burning to gain others. I can forget about eating and sleeping, but I cannot forget about this burden”—*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1991-1992*, vol. 3, p. 171.