

SERMON NOTES

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WOOD IN THE FIRE

I. DON'T THROW WOOD IN THE FIRE

- **Proverbs 26:20** — *“Without wood, fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down.”*
 - Wood keeps a fire burning. In the same way, certain things keep conflict, anger, division, and strife alive.
- **James 3:6** — *“And the tongue is a fire, the very world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our body’s parts as that which defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.”*
 - The tongue can become a source of destructive fire.
- What can become “wood”?
 - Words spoken in anger / Gossip and criticism / Arguments and offenses / Unforgiveness / Repeating someone's failures / Strife and division / Negative attitudes

II. THROW WOOD IN THE FIRE

- There is a holy fire that God wants us to keep burning.
- **Acts 28:3, 5** — *“But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand...However, Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.”*
 - What was intended to harm Paul could not destroy him.
- There are things that must be shaken off and put back into the fire rather than carried with us.

1. THROW THE WORD IN THE FIRE

- **Jeremiah 20:9** — *“But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.”*
 - God's Word was like a burning fire shut up in Jeremiah's bones.
- **Jeremiah 23:29** — *“Is not My word like a fire?”* says the Lord.
 - Put the Word into your heart, and the Word will keep the spiritual fire burning.
- The Word Corrects us, Cleanses us, Strengthens us, Gives us direction, Produces conviction and Keeps us spiritually alive.
- Don't feed the fire with opinions—feed it with the Word of God.

2. THROW THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE IN

- **Matthew 3:11** — *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*
- **Acts 2:3** — At Pentecost, divided tongues like fire appeared upon the disciples.
 - The fire represents the powerful presence and work of the Holy Spirit.
- God does not want us to live spiritually cold. He wants the fire of His Spirit active in our lives.
- The Holy Spirit gives Power, Boldness, Spiritual passion, Purity, Witness & Strength for ministry.

3. THROW SERVICE IN THE FIRE

- **1 Corinthians 3:13** — “...each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”
 - Every person's work will be tested by fire.
- **2 Timothy 1:6** — “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”
 - Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift of God that was in him.
 - Our gifts and our service must not be allowed to become dormant.
 - Your gift needs to be stirred up and put back into the fire of service.

4. THROW FELLOWSHIP IN THE FIRE

- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-11** — “Two are better than one...”
 - God designed us to strengthen one another.
- A fire burns better when the fuel is properly gathered together. Likewise, believers need one another for encouragement, strength, prayer, and spiritual growth.
- Fellowship provides Encouragement, Accountability, Strength, Prayer support, Unity, and Spiritual warmth
- Don't isolate yourself from the people God has placed around you.
- We need the Word, the Spirit, and the fellowship of believers to keep the fire burning.

III. KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

- **Revelation 3:16** — “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”
 - Jesus warned against being lukewarm (stale, stagnant).
 - The danger is becoming neither hot nor cold.

LESSONS

1. **Some fires need to go out.** Don't keep adding wood to conflict, offense, and division.
2. **Some fires need more wood.** The fire of God should be continually fed with His Word, His Spirit, service, and fellowship.
3. **The Word produces fire.** God's Word is not dead information—it burns within the heart.
4. **The Holy Spirit brings holy fire.** We need the continual work and power of the Spirit.
5. **Our gifts must be stirred up.** Don't allow spiritual gifts and calling to become dormant.
6. **Fellowship helps sustain the fire.** We are stronger together than we are alone.
7. **Beware of becoming lukewarm.** God desires a people who are spiritually alive, passionate, and devoted to Him.
8. Whatever you keep putting into the fire will help determine what kind of fire continues to burn.