

BURNING HEARTS!

Leviticus 6:12-13

INTRODUCTION: We desire this year and all the other years our Lord allows us to live to be another year for Him and His glory! Are you dreaming of greater exploits for your God's glory? Are you dreaming bigger or has the fire in your heart gone out? If the following years of our lives are too used greatly for our God we must keep the fire in our hearts burning for His glory! Leviticus 6:12-13. The fire was ignited by God when the Tabernacle but had to be kept going by the priests: Leviticus 9:22-23. Like the fire on the altar in the Tabernacle the Lord started a fire in our hearts when we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we must never let the fire go out in our hearts. Why must we keep a burning heart for our Lord's glory?

I. WE NEED A BURNING HEART TO KEEP US GOING FOR OUR LORD!

Jeremiah is a good example for us to see what his burning heart did for him and those he served for God's glory. Jeremiah 20:9. Jeremiah wanted to quit preaching and prophesying. Jeremiah was a fearless and faithful preacher for God but he was experiencing persecution for it. Jeremiah 20:1-2. We like Jeremiah will have some trouble as we seek to serve our Lord: 2 Timothy 3:12. Jeremiah went through many discouraging experiences and so will we as we strive to serve our God: Jeremiah 20:7-8. We become discouraged when we face derision. No one likes to be mocked and laughed at. No one likes being deceived, especially if you think it is God that deceived you. Jeremiah 20:9. Difficulties can bring discouragement that just makes it all the more important to keep throwing on the wood to keep the fire of God burning in our hearts. What kept Jeremiah going when he wanted to quit? It was the Word of God that was like a burning fire in his heart. We need to read and heed God's Word every day! It and it alone is the source of a continually burning heart for our God!

II. WE NEED A BURNING HEART TO KEEP US GROWING!

King David also experienced the continual burning of God's power in his life: Psalm 39:3. A burning heart keeps us growing for our Lord. Psalm 139:1-2. King David made some resolutions before the Lord and we should too. How about making a resolution to read your Bible daily, to pray regularly, to attend a Bible preaching church faithfully, to give regularly to the Lord's work as He has blessed you, to witness personally to others, to work energetically and to live devoutly for the Lord's glory. David's burning heart brought about a personal revival and renewal to keep his covenants with his God. We need a burning heart to keep growing toward Christ-likeness! 1 Thessalonians 5:19. A burning heart will keep us reaching higher! Meditation is a match that ignites God's fire in our hearts.

III. WE NEED A BURNING HEART TO KEEP US GLOWING!

The two disciples on the Emmaus road learned about a burning heart: Luke 24:32. Before Jesus talked with them their hearts had been sad but Jesus re-ignited the fire in their hearts: Luke 24:15-17; Luke 24:21. Our Lord's death had thrown cold water on the fire in their hearts. Luke 24:27.