

WILDERNESS WANDERERS v POSSESSING PEOPLE

Message #5: “GOD’S FIRE - PURITY”

General Introduction – Just as Israel went from being “wilderness wanderers” to “possessing people”, God is wanting us to first change our mentality (mind set), then our very landscape. What an exciting time! Please pay very close attention to each word in this prophetic series as they all fit together to make one word. Then determine to embrace, obey and possess! Finally, hold onto your hats – it’s going to be a fun ride. ☺

Deuteronomy 2:3(NASB) / Joshua 3:3b(NIV) – “YOU HAVE CIRCLED THIS MOUNTAIN LONG ENOUGH. NOW TURN NORTH. / “...YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE.”

*MESSAGE #5: GOD’S FIRE: PURITY – THE MISSING INGREDIENT

Intro – Fire from heaven represents God’s holy presence, and His fire brings both purity and power! We learned in our last teaching that one without the other is incomplete – that they must be balanced in our lives. Purity without power spurs futility and failure, while power without purity is both dangerous and destructive. Unfortunately, the modern church often lacks both. Simply we put, we desperately need God’s fire to consume us again. Today our focus will be on purity and why it is that there is often little difference between the church and the world. Is it because there’s a missing ingredient in both our teaching and lifestyles?

FIRE = PRESENCE, POWER & PURITY

Joshua 3:5 – “Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate (set apart, purify) yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you’” ... Hebrews 12:29 – “Our God is a consuming fire”

2 Chron 7:1 – “When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple.”

*THE MISSING INGREDIENT IS:

1. REPENTANCE

**Mt 3:1 – “In those days John the Baptist came, preaching ... ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.’”* /// ** Mt 4:17 – “From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.’”* /// **Acts 2:38 – “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’”*

- THE VERY FIRST MESSAGE OF JOHN, JESUS AND PETER
- “REPENTANCE AND FAITH ARE INSEPARABLE TWINS, THE ONE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT THE OTHER.” (MATTHEW HENRY)
- FAITH WITHOUT REPENTANCE ENDS IN HYPOCRISY; REPENTANCE WITHOUT FAITH ENDS IN FAILURE & DESPAIR. (ERN BAXTER)

Further Discussion:

1. What is the significance of “repentance” being the very first message of John, Jesus, and Peter?
2. Explain & Expound upon the two quotes.

2. REPENTANCE DEFINED: TURNING

Acts 26:20(NLT) – “And so, ... I was not disobedient to that vision from heaven. I preached ... that all must turn from their sins and turn to God – and prove they have changed by the good things they do.”

a. TURNING FROM: SIN *(REMORSE, RENOUNCE, REMOVE)

**Acts 26:20 – “TURN FROM THEIR SINS and turn to God– and prove they have changed”*

**Mt. 3:8 – “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance”*

**2 Kings 22 & 23 – Ill of “Josiah’s Revival – COMPLETE REPENTANCE”*

**Acts 19:17-19 – “A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. A number of them who had been practicing magic brought their books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.”*

**2 Cor. 7:10-11 – “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.”*

***REPENTANCE THAT IS COMPLETE IS MADE UP OF THE FOLLOWING...**

- NO COMPROMISE
- NO MIXTURES
- NO LUKEWARM

Further Discussion:

3. Repentance involves two movements of turning. What is the first?
4. What is the difference between “worldly” and “godly” sorrow?
5. Why was Josiah’s revival so pleasing to the Lord? What did it include? Expound on how this relates to us.

b. TURNING TO: GOD *(FORGIVENESS, FREEDOM)

**Acts 26:20(NLT) – “... turn from their sins and TURN TO GOD”*

**2 Kings 23:21 – Ill of “Josiah’s Revival: – King Josiah then issued this order to all the people: ‘You must celebrate the Passover’”*

***REPENTANCE THAT IS COMPLETE IS MADE UP OF THE FOLLOWING...**

- FAITH WITHOUT REPENTANCE ENDS IN HYPOCRISY; REPENTANCE WITHOUT FAITH ENDS IN FAILURE & DESPAIR. (ERN BAXTER)
- HIS MERCY & HIS BLOOD COMPLETE THE SEPARATION (“Israel & Egypt”)

Further Discussion:

6. Why is it important we not only “turn from sin”, but that we also “turn to God”?
7. How does Josiah’s revival and his final command (after purifying the land from wickedness) to celebrate the Passover speak to us?

CONCLUSION: Remember that our God is a “REFINING FIRE”. Let him totally consume the “SACRIFICE OF YOURSELF.”

2 Chron 7:1 – “When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple.”