



The Book of Hebrews

Faith and Fire

Our God is a consuming fire!

“Who among us can dwell with the **consuming fire**? Who among us can

dwell with everlasting burnings?” He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly...” Isa 33:14b-15a ESV

“Know therefore today that he who goes over before you as a **consuming fire** is the Lord your God.” Deut 9:3 ESV

“Then there appeared to them divided tongues, **as of fire**, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:3-4 NKJV

See also: Mal 3:2-3; 1 Cor 3:11-16

Holiness: It’s core meaning is ‘be separate from.’ His command is, “You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.” *Lev. 19:2 and 1 Pet. 1:15*

A. By Faith **Pursue Holiness** Heb 12:14-17

(1) **Looking carefully:** This means to ‘focus’ upon [pursue] peace and holiness. This is NOT about salvation—but about seeing the Lord’s grace in our lives and those around us.

(2) **Obstacles to holiness:**

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Rom 13:14

(a) **Personal sin:** ‘Fornicator’ here [*vs 16*] refers to one who is living in intentional sin. Personal sin will not separate us from our salvation but it will from the active presence of God.

(b) **Not living in my inheritance:** Esau forsook his birth right for a bowl of soup. He had blessings available to him because of his birthright but he failed to take hold of them. As a ‘child’ of God all of our Father’s Kingdom provision is available to us—are we living in our inheritance?

B. By Faith **Live in Holiness** Heb 12:18-24

(1) **Running from the fire: Mount Sinai**[:18-21] The children of Israel ran from the ‘fire’ of Mount Sinai and built an altar of their own. To them God was ‘terrifying.’ Even Moses the mediator of the Old Covenant was apprehensive.

(2) **Running to the fire: Mount Zion** [22-24] There is nothing to fear here. Because Jesus our Mediator has shed His blood for us we can live in the shadow of heavenly Jerusalem. Cain shed his brother’s blood—a type of the Messiah’s shed blood. Abel’s blood cried out until the Messiah’s death on the cross.

C. By Faith **Receive the Kingdom of Holiness** Heb 12: 25-29

(1) **All shook up:** The wilderness generation turned from the voice of God. The earth shook and swallowed all who joined Korah’s rebellion. Num 16:31-35 There will yet be a shaking from heaven when the Lord returns. Hag 2:6

(2) **No shaking here:** God’s kingdom can’t be shaken—it is a kingdom of grace and power and it is the ‘realm’ in which we live and move.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [His kingdom benefits] shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33

Hebrews 12:14-29 (NKJV)

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **15** looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; **16** lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. **17** For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

18 For you **have not come** to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, **19** and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. **20** (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” **21** And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”)

22 But you **have come** to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, **23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24** to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, **26** whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” **27** Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **29** For our God is a consuming fire.