ALL CONSUMING FIRE

The Refining Fire of God



IGNITE • PURIFY • HOLINESS

"Our God is a consuming fire."
—Hebrews 12:29

UNQUENCHABLE FIRE

Chapter twelve of Hebrews speaks of perseverance. Don't give up! Stay the course and stand firm, because God will shake everything that can be shaken. He rattles our cage, so to speak. In order for us to go from glory to glory, we must yield to the LORD and let go of those things that are shaken off and need to die. We must submit to our God, the all-consuming FIRE.

Let's face it: we have a tendency to pick up those things that were shaken off because letting them go can be uncomfortable. Oh, how we like our comfort zones, amen?

Think about it: there is really nothing comfortable about FIRE unless you are at a safe distance and just feel its warmth. Yet fire can also represent protection. In Zechariah, God promised to be a wall of FIRE around Jerusalem and the glory in her midst. As believers, we can find encouragement in this picture of His protecting presence.

> *"For I,' says Yahweh, 'will be to her a wall of fire around it, and I will be the glory in the midst of her."*
> **—Zechariah 2:5**

I have spoken with other believers about this Scripture, and they shared their belief that **the spiritual world can see God's wall of FIRE around His people**, especially when we pray. What a powerful picture of His protection as we draw near to Him!

God purifies us with FIRE to make us ready to reign with Him in His everlasting kingdom, a kingdom that has no end. When we think of FIRE, certain images come to mind, and perhaps some thoughts of pain. Dying to our flesh can be quite a painful process; we love it too much, don't we?

In Scripture, FIRE can be associated with both purification and destruction. If you look in a Bible concordance, you will find many instances where FIRE is mentioned. Beloved, press into God; don't stand back and watch the things of God happen from a distance. Bow your heart in awe, respect, reverence, adoration, fear, and trembling before the great and awesome God who wants to consume you. **He wants to be your all in all—your everything!**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE?

To **consume** means to use up, take completely, or engross. In Scripture, the image of FIRE can speak of refining, purification, and judgment. As we yield ourselves to God, we invite Him to search our hearts and do His refining work within us. In a prophetic sense, we can picture ourselves fully enveloped in His presence, our attention drawn away from ourselves and fixed on Him. **We are consumed by His presence**.

Strong's References

- **CONSUMING —Greek #2654 —** *katanaliskō* — to consume completely, or to consume by fire. Used in **Hebrews 12:29**.
- **SET ON FIRE—Greek #5394 — *phlogizō*:** to set on fire or cause to blaze. This word is used in **James 3:6**, where it describes the destructive power of the tongue.

SCRIPTURES

It is a good discipline to look up word meanings in Scripture and pray for the Holy Spirit to open your spiritual understanding. There are many references to FIRE in the Bible. If you come across them in your studies, make a note of where you found them for future reference. Here are just a few:

- **Matthew 3:11** — He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with FIRE.
- **Hebrews 1:7** — His ministers are a flame of FIRE.
- **Daniel 7:9–10** — His throne was flaming with FIRE and a river of FIRE flowed before Him.
- **Exodus 13:21; Numbers 14:14** — The Israelites were led by a pillar of FIRE.
- **1 Chronicles 21:26** — God answered David by FIRE.
- **Acts 2:1–4** — At Pentecost, tongues as of FIRE separated and rested on each of them.

FIRE can display a variety of colors, including red, orange, gold, blue, and white. The following color meanings offer a symbolic and prophetic understanding for this teaching.

COLOR MEANINGS

- **Orange** — purification, warfare
- **Red** — Jesus, the blood, redemption
- **White** — purity, the Bride of Christ, the overcoming Church
- **Blue** — the heavenly realm, overcoming
- **Gold** — deity, kingdom

As the overcoming Church, His Bride, we are called to offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. Beloved, let us surrender to His refining FIRE, trusting Him to purify our hearts and draw us close to His presence. Let's walk out our consecration, letting our lives reflect His glory as we **shine for Him in a dark world**.

—Lora

Further Reading

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