

THE FIERY BELIEVER

JESUS CHRIST AND THE FIERY HEART

Christianity in its essence is a personal meeting with our Lord Jesus Christ who came to our world to reveal His divine love towards every single person as to the whole mankind as the dearest creatures to Him. He reveals His practical love through His Cross, asking us to be united with His Father in Him by His Holy Spirit. Thus, we become His icon sharing Him His divine nature.

The Logos became Man. He emptied Himself and in His love and humbleness He became a slave, taking the last place among us. Still He is **the Fiery God**. St. Paul says, "*For our God is a consuming fire.*" (Heb 12:29) St. John says, "*His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.*" (Rev 19:12) He took our humanity so that we may share Him His Fiery characteristic by His divine grace.

Our Lord Jesus Christ advised His Apostles not to quit Jerusalem until they received a **Power** from above (Acts 1:8), so that they may become fiery apostles who are concerned in bringing mankind to God as **His fiery people**. The Psalmist says, "Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire." (Ps 104:4)

HUMBLENESS AND FIERY HEART

Christian humbleness in fact does not mean belittling ourselves. It doesn't mean that we despise our energies, abilities and our gifts. But it means our supernatural abilities in the Lord Jesus Christ. Real humbleness create a fiery heart and spirit. Solomon states that a **flaming heart** can never be quenched "*nor can the floods drown it*" (Eccl. 8:7). It is God's loving image - The consuming fire!

A **flaming heart** is one that holds the true living image of God's Spirit the consuming fire (Heb. 12:29), who lives with the devouring fire (Is. 33:14). Who came to send fire on the earth (Luke 12:49). Thus God then makes of the believer a creation similar to the fiery Cherub, and from the Church He makes a fiery vessel carrying God's throne!

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. (Ex 13:21-22)

The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire. (Ps 29:7)

A FIERY AGREEMENT

God was eager to constitute an agreement with man and make a covenant. So He asked Abraham to offer a sacrifice divided into two, after which, "*there was a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces*" (Gen. 15:17).

Do you want to enjoy a covenant of love with the Lord? Then first you have to enjoy real reconciliation with God! Through His sacrifice on the cross where you will meet the Lord, the consuming fire! He will then transform you to a burning torch with His Holy Spirit, extricating all coldness from your heart, creating out of you a spiritually inflamed person!

A FLAME FROM HEAVEN

Elijah was in great distress, when he thought that the priests were killed and the people turned their backs on God, the Living Fire! They became like icebergs who do not know the meaning of spiritual warmth. Elijah offered the sacrifice and poured many waters on it (12 jars). "*Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench*" (1 kings 18:38).

If you lose hope and think that everyone around you has lost their living practical faith, do not

despair! Have faith in the fiery Spirit of God, who is capable of licking up the water from our hearts, consuming our earthly nature to make out of us a fiery chariot fit for the dwelling of the fiery God therein.

A FIERY GUIDE

The first encounter between God and Moses, the prophet and first leader of God's people, was in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush! Moses was attracted by the beauty of the burning bush, and was fascinated as the bush was not consumed! Afterwards God anointed Moses with the spirit of leadership.

Moses perceived the incarnate God in this burning bush, which represented the blessed Virgin Mary, who carried the Word of God, without being consumed of God's Divinity. For this, the Holy Spirit prepared the Virgin Mary for the unique task.

Moses also saw the Church of Christ in the burning bush! The Church which, through Jesus Christ, is empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, thus grew to be an inflamed fire.

A WALL OF FIRE

The people of Israel lost hope that they would ever be free from bondage, but the Lord assured Zechariah, "*I will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst*" (Zec. 2:5).

VOICE OF GOD AS FIRE!

David experienced a period of great depression, and fervently called on the Lord; and "*He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering*" (1 Chr. 21:26).

THE FIRE OF WONDERFUL GLORY

Solomon had made an altar for the Lord as an icon of heaven. God gave him a confirmation that his sacrifice was acceptable. Thus to declare His glory in His house as soon as Solomon had finished praying, *fire came down from heaven and "the glory of the Lord filled the temple"* (2 Chr. 7:1).

The Light of Israel will be for a fire, And his Holy One for a flame; It will burn and devour. His thorns and his briars in one day. (Isa 10:17)

I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! (Luke 12:49)

And of the angels He says : "Who makes His angels spirits, And His ministers a flame of fire." (Heb 1:7)

When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. (2 Chron 7:1)

And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (2 Kings 6:17)

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. (2 Kings 2:11-12)

HOW CAN A BELIEVER BECOME A BURNING FIRE?

- 1. The way the believer looks at materialistic things and the world has its influence on how his heart may become enflamed with divine love.**
- 2. The enjoyment of the continual newness.**
- 3. The need to learn from others.**
- 4. Knowing his position in the Church.**