

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
Reverend Wendell G. Parker, Pastor Elect
Thursday Night IMPACT Bible Study
Reverend Gary Noble, Lesson Instructor
09/21/2023

SUBTOPIC: "How Much of God Do You Want- Part B"

Would like to have a close relationship with God? How close of a relationship do you want to have with Him?

Every person here will eventually need to make a decision. And that decision will be, "How much of God do You want?". It's up to you!!! It's not up to God!!! You can have as much of God, as you want to have!!

The *Holy Spirit* lives inside of you. And His presence throughout the Bible is described as "**fire**".

1). Jeremiah 20:9- "...his word was in mine heart as a **burning fire** shut up in my bones,...

2). Matthew 3:11- I indeed baptize you with water...but he that cometh after me...he shall baptize you with the **Holy Ghost**, and with **fire**:

3). Acts 2:3-4- ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues **like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,...

This "fire" inside of you, will burn as brightly as you want it to. This internal "fire/light" should also shine through you.

4). Matthew 5:16- Let your **light** so shine...

5). Matthew 5:14- Ye are the **light** of the world...

This "**internal**" light/fire, can actually be described in three ways:

a). A Fire- Here the Holy Spirit is ablaze internally. It also radiant on the outside. Obedience to what God says to you, is one of the *main* things that keep your fire burning *bright*.

- **Acts 5:32 (AMP)**- And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the **Holy Spirit**, whom God has bestowed on those who **obey** Him."

b). A Flame-Here your fire has began to die down, and has now become a small flame (similar to the pilot light on a gas stove or water heater). This happens as a result of *disobediences*, or *delayed obedience*.

c). A Flicker- Here your flame is barely visible.

THE HUGE PROBLEM: When the "**fire**" become a "**flame**". And what use to be a "**flame**", now starts to "**flicker**".

The "flame" itself can never be completely put or snuffed out, or extinguished. But it certainly can begin to burn very low. Do understand that it is a bad thing when your flame starts to flicker.

The Bible speaks about this situation:

6). I Thessalonians 5:19- Quench not the Spirit.

This refers to suppressing fire, or stifling a flame. It speaks directly about your internal fire and flame. Paul is referring directly to the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you. When we do not do what we know to do, we quench the Holy Spirit. We nearly smother the flame.

7). Ephesians 4:30- And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,...

Paul says it another way; he mentions something similar... He tells us to keep that internal fire burning high!!!

8). II Timothy 1:6 (ESV)- For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame** the gift of God, which is in you...

9). II Timothy 1:6 (AMP)- That is why I **remind** you to **fan into flame** the...gift of God, [**that inner fire**...which is in you...

Fan the flame literally means to blow oxygen onto your fire to increase the intensity of the fire/flame. This is done through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, Bible study, meditation, and humbling yourself before God.

How do we keep the flame burning high?

First, we must *want* or *desire* to be filled.

10). Matthew 5:6- *Blessed* are they which do **hunger** and **thirst** after righteousness: **for they shall be filled.**

11). John 4:14-15- ¹⁴ But whosoever **drinketh** of the **water** that I shall give him shall **never thirst**; but the water that I shall give him shall be **in him** a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I **thirst not**,...

Secondly, you must **ask** God to fill you.

12). Luke 11:9; 13- ⁹ "...Ask, and it shall be given you; ¹³ ...how much more shall your heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit to them that ask** him?

