

# FIRE FALL

## Day 16: Experiencing the Fire

*And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces*

*...1 Kings 18:36*

We all understand, as Hebrews 11:1 tells us, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for...the evidence of things unseen.” Our faith is not dependent upon what we see, feel or experience. We believe, and based upon those beliefs, we live accordingly. However, our faith is often stirred by experiences.

People can argue with you all they want about the existence of God. Yet, when you’ve experienced His ability to change your life, (forgiveness, deliverance, healing, etc.), then all those individuals combined cannot silence your faith.

As the Apostle Paul told Timothy, “I (We) know in whom I (we) have believed...” (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul could say this because of the post-ascension, post-Pentecost encounter which he had with Christ. Though he had not witnessed the miracles of Jesus’ ministry in Judea, Paul experienced Him first hand in such a way as to completely transform both Paul and his mission. Instead of destroying Christianity, Paul became the greatest apologist for Christ!

The Wesley brothers had faith. They spoke of their faith in several meetings, yet John and Charles struggled with a faith that was mostly intellectual. They took part in a small group that met on Fetter Lane in an effort to grow their faith beyond just mental ascent. Along their journey, the questions they asked, and the faith they proclaimed in England’s pulpits, caused them to be ostracized from numerous churches. Still, Charles received a divine healing and John continued to grow in faith. Finally came the famous moment at Aldersgate that would forever change their trajectory...that moment in which John Wesley proclaimed “I felt my heart strangely warmed.” It was not the kind of revival service one would imagine. In fact, it was merely the reading of Luther’s introduction to Romans which became the conduit for this experiential faith...an experiential faith which became contagious and swept the world by storm!

There are so many ways through which God can bring His transforming fire into the lives of willing vessels. It may be through restoring an extinct coral reef, as God has done in Fiji. It may be in causing vegetables to grow longer than the length of your arm, as God has done in Guatemala. Yet, like with Elijah would experience at Horeb, God can choose to use a still small voice instead of fire, the wind or an earthquake. All that matters is that new generations have an opportunity to see God manifest His presence in such a way that faith becomes life!

*And so we pray:*

*Heavenly Father...We invite You to do such a work among us that no one can doubt that You are moving. We do not desire a fire to contain in our buildings, but instead we ask you to send a blaze into our communities that will draw people to You!*

*Bring Your presence to our cities in an undeniable way we pray!*

*In Jesus name...AMEN*