

## **I. The Burning Heart of Love**

- A. God revealed himself primarily as a consuming fire as He appeared to men in the fullness of His Glory. The way He reveals Himself is intended to express His emotions and intentions. (Gen. 15:17; Ex. 3:2; Ex. 19:12-20, 24:9-18, 40:38; Num. 9:15-16; 2 Kings 2:1, 1:13, 27, 8:2; Dan. 7:9, 10:6; Rev. 1:14, 19:12)
- B. His appearances as the Fiery One was never understood as His emotions of anger or rage to destroy or hurt people. Far from it, He dwelt with them as a pillar of fire for years! It did, however, become clear very early that His fiery love would not bear anything less than wholehearted fiery love in return. (Duet. 4:23-24, 8:6-7)
- C. The jealousy of God's fiery love is synonymous with His wrath and judgement against unrighteousness. Satan's intention and the condition of our fallen minds work together to make us think that His fiery judgment breaks out because of ill will rather than jealous love. We must become established in the truth that He does not suspend His love to dispense judgment; judgment is a by-product of jealous love.

## **II. Invited to share the Fiery Love of the Bridegroom God**

- A. The Holy Spirit's first priority is to establish the first commandment in first place in the Church. We are to be baptized in divine fiery love. God is a consuming fire of jealous love that demands everything. You can be assured that He wants more of you just as you want more of Him. (Mat. 22:37; Lk. 3:16; Jas. 4:5)
- B. The invitation into the divine love demands nothing less than the entirety of our heart and will consume every part of us. The jealousy of His divine love will not rest until it has all of you. His judgments will and must come in order to destroy what hinders. Jesus, in His desire for you to burn with the same love that He had for you, made a way for you to enter into it without being destroyed by it. (Heb. 12:1-29)

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"After starting a prayer time for Restoration I entered a picture as though I was standing at the window in a room, looking over Restoration Fellowship. There was a large tidal wave that came from the back of the sanctuary, then crashed over our congregation. The water settled quickly, more quickly than I expected from a tidal wave. But the water didn't become still or stagnant, it rocked back and forth like a shallow ocean pool. It was enough water to fill the whole sanctuary and reach about the height of our necks. The worship team was totally unmoved by the situation and continued to lead the congregation in worship.

As I looked around, I realized there were certain people who had been washed out of the church, cleansed from our community by the work of the Holy Spirit. It felt right and good. There was no worry or anxiety about it.

It was more unsettling to see the remaining members of our church family experience the water.

There were a few people, maybe 10 in my picture, standing, strong and stable in the water - worshipping the Lord, hands raised, with no fear. It was as though the water washing around them was refreshing. The rocking of the water was not moving them.

There were many others trying to remain standing in the water, with an unsettled and worried countenance on their faces. They wanted to praise, but were not steady enough to put their hands up. The water was pushing them from side to side and they needed to steady themselves with their arms. Many of these people seemed confused, looking around them, trying to find if they were alone in the discomfort. They weren't, but when they saw others worshipping freely, they were provoked to jealousy for that stability and firmness. Almost all who were in this situation were looking to those who stood steady, not to each other.

The last group had more than just a handful of people. These people were swimming through the aisles, towards the front stage door. Their intention was to get out of the water, as quickly as they could. They had absolutely no intention to stay in this water, they were fearful and panicked. They were swimming with their full focus, just getting out. They wanted to be comfortable.

As I looked on this scene, the Lord gently spoke a response to my prayer for cleansing, "I can't bring the cleansing in fullness because too many will not withstand the discomfort." In the picture, it was clear to me this water was conviction of sin.

I felt it was specifically around places in our hearts that are not in agreement with the Kingdom of God. Simple, every day, tolerated and accepted sin like gossip, anger, greed, sexual imaginings, overindulgence in alcohol, unmet expectations... Things that the world and most common average church goers will say are "no big deal." It was not the sins that make people gasp with unbelief.

As we prayed into the vision, the Lord brought me back to the picture and had me look under the clear blue water at the feet of these people. Those standing firm had feet on large heavy rocks, that were unmovable. Those who were swimming had a small rock (of different sizes) shackled to their ankles. The rock was slowing down the swim, but it was not enough to stop them. The group in the middle, who was wavering in the waves but remained, had medium sized rocks that they were standing on to keep their heads above the water.

It was obvious that the reaction of those in the picture was directly related to the **size and weight of the Rock to which they were anchored**. In other words, the more they were grounded and rooted in the wisdom and knowledge of God/Jesus/Holy Spirit, the easier they were going to withstand the correction and break off agreements with the wisdom of the world.

The overall feeling I got was that if people are not anchored in the man Jesus Christ, they will not withstand what the Lord is bringing to Restoration Fellowship."

- C. Vehicles of Shaking – The writer of Hebrews calls God's processes of bringing us to the depths of love, "shaking everything that can be shaken,". This generally happens through increasing levels of intensity as the Father wants to use the least severe means to bring us to the deepest levels of love. Remember, Satan and your fallen heart will never provoke you to holiness and love. This is how we discern catalyst behind the shaking. There are 3 primary vehicles through which the Lord brings correctional love-provoking shaking. (Job 5:17-18; Rev. 3:18-19)

1. Personally – God will communicate directly to our hearts through His Spirit to bring conviction: the scriptures, internal voice, prophetic dreams, etc. (John 16:8; 2 Tim. 3:16)
2. Through Others – Many times He brings correction to us through other people. Sometimes this happens through the gifts of the Spirit, but mostly it happens through the Lord placing us in relational spheres with imperfect or even wicked people. (David/Saul; Judas; The Body of Christ 1 Cor. 11-14; Marriage Eph. 5)
3. Through fallen circumstances – There are also many examples of the Lord using fallen circumstances and even allowing the kingdom of darkness to cause seasons of great suffering or discomfort in order to turn our hearts back to him and to keep us leaning upon Him in love. (Job; 2 Cor. 12:1-11)

### **III. The Posture of the Beloved**

#### **A. Three postures of receiving the correctional judgment of God.**

1. Bride/Child - Those that have understanding as the Bride who needs to be made pure and carry a spirit of adoption embrace correction. (Deut 8:5; Pro. 3:12; Eph. 5:25-27; Progression Exodus; SOS and Rev. Rev. 19:7-9)
2. Victim/Orphan - Those who view themselves only as victims of God's judgment or orphans, not sons of God, carry a spirit of fear and receive correction and judgment from God as His rejection of them demanding they perform differently to earn acceptance. (Rom 8:15; Gal 5:1)
3. Ignorance/Rejection – Those who in their ignorance or pride do not receive God's correction. They either view themselves to be in no need of correction, or worse yet, refuse to believe in God's correctional activity in their lives. (Is. 1:2; Heb. 12:8)

- B. One of the greatest prayers we need in this hour is, “Lord, help me position myself to be unoffended and open to your correction, and bring me into the depths of Love.”**