**Jesus Keep My Fire Lit**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 12:9-17**

**Sunday Morning**

**October 20, 2019**

**Romans 12:9-17**

9 Love must be honest and true. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. 10 Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. 11 Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord. 12 When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Welcome others into your homes.

14 Bless those who hurt you. Bless them, and do not call down curses on them. 15 Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. 16 Agree with each other. Don't be proud. Be willing to be a friend of people who aren't considered important. Don't think that you are better than others. 17 Don't pay back evil with evil. Be careful to do what everyone thinks is right.

Saints, our Father wants us to live godly lives and has provided His instructions for righteous behavior in the Bible, Let’s Look at:

**Psalm 25:8**

“Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.”

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Saints, those instructions are the same for everyone and will never change.

**Matthew 24:35**

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Saints, but He also has a specific plan for the lives of all His children, and He will help us find and follow it.

**Ephesians 2:10**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Saints, God’s path for us might not always be easy, but it will be rewarding for us and will glorify Him.

**Have you ever sensed you were hearing from God?**

Saints, throughout my life I’ve had some powerful encounters with the Lord that had far-reaching effects. When I was at Mission Valley Christian Fellowship is where I started to truly hear from God to Preach His Word!

Such experiences will be different for everyone, but they’re not limited to a select few. God still speaks to His children. His main channel for directing us is through His Word, though He will also speak to us personally and specifically—especially if we’re willing to listen and obey.

Saints, in the Old Testament, one of the most well-known dramatic encounters with the Lord happened to Moses.

After fleeing from Egypt, Moses spent many years tending sheep for his father-in-law. One day while he was alone in the wilderness with his flock, God spoke to him unexpectedly from within a burning bush:

**Exodus 3:4-6**

4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." 6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

So, God then commissioned Moses to be the leader of His people and bring them out of Egyptian slavery. The main way God speaks to us today is through His Word.

But He may also speak to us directly at times. There’s a certain type of encounter with the Lord that we could call a “burning bush experience,” and it’s not limited to the patriarchs or to pastors. A burning bush experience is possible for anyone, and it will probably have the following characteristics:

**It will be unexpected**

Even if we’re praying to hear from God, He usually answers in a way that catches us by surprise.

**It will be unique to us**

God’s personal messages are different for everyone.

**It will challenge us to trust and Obey Him**

We’re called to make a decision—to obey or not. And obedience often won’t be easy.

**It will prompt an Emotional Response**

We might be moved in some powerful way, such as through tears, relief, or even fear.

**It will have a Powerful and Lasting Effect**

God often communicates this way about significant situations. If we’re listening, our obedience could have a dramatic impact on us and others.

**A “burning bush” experience might be preceded by:**

**Circumstances not Working Out**

When things are going wrong around us, God may be asking us to stop and listen.

**Crisis**

A critical situation is an important occasion to seek God’s direction.

**Discomfort**

God may cause us to feel deeply uneasy without apparent reason, in order to get our attention.

Saints, Proverbs 3:5-6 promises that God is willing direct us:

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

How do we acknowledge God in all our ways (v. 6)? Before Moses saw the burning bush, he may not have been praying for a sign from God.

But prayer is one thing that will keep us close to the Lord and ready to hear from Him. Under the new covenant, God speaks to us through our relationship with Jesus.

**We carry His Spirit within us and have access to His guidance, if we’re willing to listen**

**1. Stay Close to Jesus**

**James 4:8**

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you…”

Our ability to hear and recognize God’s directions will improve if we maintain a close relationship. And anything that damages this relationship, such as sin or prayerlessness, will hinder communication.

**2. Ask**

**Matthew 7:7-8**

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

**James 4:2**

“…Yet you do not have because you do not ask God…”

God may wait to provide information until we turn to Him. This helps us recognize our dependence on Him.

**3. Be Patient**

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-15**

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

We won’t always receive an answer right away.

**4. Practice Surrender and Trust God Always**

**Proverbs 28:13**

“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

God might instruct us to do something we don’t want to do. But it’s always in our best interest to obey.

**Psalm 33:18-22**

18 The Lord watches over those who obey him, those who trust in his constant love. 19 He saves them from death; he keeps them alive in times of famine. 20 We put our hope in the Lord; he is our protector and our help. 21 We are glad because of him; we trust in his holy name. 22 May your constant love be with us, Lord, as we put our hope in you.

**5. Pay attention to your spirit**

An agitation in our hearts that isn’t related to sin and won’t go away may be God’s way of telling us to seek Him.

**James 1:19**

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;”

**Proverbs 20:27**

“The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts.”

**6. Expect an Answer**

When we pray repeatedly and seem to get no response, we may be either not listening, or unwilling to accept the answer God has sent.

**1 John 5:14-15**

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him

**7. If you’ve made a mistake in following God’s will, ask Him for help**

Taking a wrong turn can happen, but God will often provide us with a way to adjust our course.

**Why should we seek God’s will for the life-path decisions we make?**

**He’s God**

His sovereignty means we should seek His plan above all others.

**He’s omnipotent**

We can’t see every part of a situation, but God can. He knows the beginning and the end of every story.

**He loves us**

Like a loving father, God always wants what’s best for us.

**1 John 4:10-11**

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**It Glorifies Him**

Seeking God’s direction and obeying Him brings Him glory and honor.

**It becomes a Witness for Others**

Our experiences with God show others that He is a personal God who cares about the concerns in our hearts.

It’s incredible to think that the God who created the universe is willing to speak to us personally. Whatever you are going through, He loves you, He has a plan for your life, and He will show it to you, step by step.

If you’re willing to ask, listen, and obey, your heavenly Father will guide you daily on the unique path He has chosen for you. Start communicating with Him today and watch Him work in your life.

**1. Has God ever spoken to you through a “burning bush” experience?**

**2. If so, what changed in your life as a result?**

**3. Why do you think God involves Himself in our lives at a personal level?**

What do Ephesians 3:20 and Romans 11:36 tell you about His goals

**Ephesians 3:20**

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us…”

**Romans 11:36**

“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**