

Our God is a Consuming Fire

People generally think of fire in regards to punishment or the fire of hell...
But God's presence is represented often in Scripture through fire:

- Speaks to Moses Through the Burning Bush
- Leads the People of Israel through the Wilderness Nights as a Pillar of Fire
- The Fire of His Presence on top of Mount Sinai
- In the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshack, and Abendego
- Jesus said "I have come to cast fire on the earth..."
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit Signified by fire at Pentecost

**"Put everything on the altar, and God will either burn it up,
or give it back to you on fire."**

He Will Burn it Up

- **What would Threaten or Destroy Your Faithful Bond**

Deuteronomy 4:24 For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

- Many people misunderstand the meaning of this.
- Jealous in this context does not mean envious or coveting (I want the nice car he has, "I covet my neighbor's wife...")
 - God is rightly and lovingly protective of those He loves, and will fight for the security and safety of those with whom He has built intimate, holy, and eternal relationships...
- Just like when we say "take pride in your work" we don't mean be arrogant about what you can do...but rather, care about it to the point that it matters to you to do a great job...

- **The Giants in Your Life That Threaten to Harm You**

Deuteronomy 9:1-3

"Hear, Israel! You are crossing the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities *that are* great and fortified to heaven, ²a people *who are* great and tall, **the sons of the Anakim**, whom you know and of whom you have heard *it said*, 'Who can stand against the sons of Anak?' ³ So be aware today that it is the Lord your **God who is crossing over ahead of you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you, so that you may drive them out and eliminate them quickly**, just as the Lord has spoken to you.

He Will Give it Back to You on Fire

Exodus 3:1-3

Now Moses... came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, **the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not being consumed.**

Tested, Tempered, and True

1 Cor. 3:10-13

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each person must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ **each one's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work.**

Don't Be Afraid to Meet God in the Fire

Daniel 3:16-18, 24-27

"Nebuchadnezzar, we are not in need of an answer to give you concerning this matter. ¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But *even* if *He does* not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods nor worship the golden statue that you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up quickly; he said to his counselors, "Was it not three men *that* we threw bound into the middle of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Absolutely, O king." ²⁵ He responded, "Look! I see four men untied *and* walking about in the middle of the fire unharmed, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the* gods!" ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego came out of the middle of the fire...the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men, nor was the hair of their heads singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had *even* the smell of fire touched them.