**God is a Consuming Fire**

Many Christians are living very frustrated lives because they have unknowingly mixed the Old Covenant principles with the New Covenant principles. The Old Covenant was weak because it was founded upon the ability of man to measure up to God’s standards of expectations *according to the law of commandments. It produced judgment and* condemnation. It was a failure formula. It did not work for those who lived under it in the Old Testament and it will not work any better for us if we try to live under it now.

God replaced the Old Covenant with a better covenant because He understood man’s weakness in his flesh. It is not based upon man’s ability to conform. It is based upon God’s ability to deliver. It causes man to become conscious of the power of God rather than the weakness of man. It reveals God as a God of mercy and compassion. The law of commandments has been replaced with the law of love.

***John 15:8*** *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

***9*** *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

***10*** *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

***11*** *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

***12*** *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

How did we become a mixture? We interpreted scriptures through the letter of the Word, rather than through the Spirit of the Word. We listened to the doctrines of men who were ministers of the letter rather than ministers of the Spirit. There are plenty of scriptures that seem to portray God as a God of vengeance and judgment. Short of getting a revelation concerning those scriptures, we will continue to receive a mixed message.

One of the concepts that I have been meditating on for some time is the fact that the scriptures call God a God of consuming fire. We read those scriptures and immediately think about God being a God of judgment who is out to destroy those who do not conform. After studying those scriptures I gained some insight that I believe is worth sharing because it caused me to look at things in a completely different manner.

***Hebrews 12:27*** *And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

***28*** *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

***29*** *For our God is a consuming fire.*

**Strong’s Concordance definitions:**

**Shaken:** to waver, that is, agitate, rock, topple, destroy; to disturb

**Moved:** shaken

**Grace:** divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life, favor

**Consuming:** to do away with completely

**Fire**: fire lightning, illumination

What are the things that are going to be removed? Everything that can be shaken. What is he referring to? To get the answer to this question we need to read the chapter.

***Hebrews 12:1*** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset* ***[Strong’s*** *thwart-to oppose successfully****]*** *us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

***2*** *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

What is the weight that is opposing us, that is opposing God? Our opposition comes when we look to ourselves or to the strength of our flesh rather than to Jesus. In other words, when we resort back to the Old Covenant way of doing things in the flesh, it opposes the work of Jesus and thus the work of God.

**God is a consuming fire!** Our first impression is that God will destroy those that oppose him. It almost takes us back to a “law” mentality that causes us to shrink back from God in fear. It causes us to think of hell fire and damnation and the consequences that God will bring our way if we don’t conform.

By doing a simple word study and relating relevant scriptures, a whole different picture and application begins to emerge. The word “consuming” means to totally do away with, and the word “fire” means to illuminate. What is it that God wants to illuminate and what does He want to do away with? Does He do away with those things literally with fire, or does fire refer to something else?

***Jeremiah 23:29*** *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

***30*** *Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.*

***31*** *Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.*

***32*** *Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.*

**Jeremiah 23:29** Is not my word a consuming fire that breaks **[disperse, scatter, retire]**. . . .The rock **[stronghold, fortress-]** in pieces.

***AMP*** *Is not My word like fire [that consumes all that cannot endure the test]? says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks in pieces the rock [of most stubborn resistance]?*

**V 26-27** What is the stronghold? What is it that consumes the stronghold?

**V 30-32** I am against those that cause my people to err by lies

**2 Corinthians 10:1-4** “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,” that is the battle! How do we overcome in the battle? Not through carnal weapons, but through the power of God that pulls down the strongholds or lies that come against us.

God’s Word is the fire. It is the one thing that can separate the truth that sets us free from the errors of deception that seek to destroy us.

Going back to Hebrews: How do we receive a kingdom, which cannot be moved?

***Heb 12:28*** *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear*

Let us have grace. What is grace? From the definition, grace is the divine influence of God upon men’s hearts and its reflection in their lives. In other words, God influences our thinking and that changes our lives. How does He influence our thinking? He does it all through the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** Without the Holy spirit we can’t perceive spiritual things.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** The Spirit gives the Word life in a manner that set us free. The letter of the Word without the interpreting power of the Holy Spirit will produce spiritual death.

**John 16:13** The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.

***1 Peter 1:23*** *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

***24*** *For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*

***25*** *But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

Only the “Spirit inspired” Word of God is incorruptible. It will stand the test. It will not be shaken. It will endure forever. Everything else is corruptible and will not stand but will instead fall away!

When we look to Jesus and the things that He accomplished for us on the cross, nothing can beset us. **Hebrews 12:1-2** Nothing can be shaken. We serve God acceptably when we receive grace **Hebrews 12:28.** In other words, when what we know about God is inspired by the Spirit, we will be receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved. Things won’t be frustrating because we will not be walking with God according to a mixture of the flesh and the Spirit.

The principles of the New Covenant Kingdom transition us from being directed by the flesh to being directed by the Spirit through grace! **Hebrews 12:15-25**

**Isaiah 40:1-8**

***Isaiah 40:5*** *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

***6*** *The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:*

***7*** *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.*

***8*** *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever*

The grass withers and the flower fades because the spirit of the Lord blows upon it. In other words, the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth of God’s Word and that truth will stand forever. The same Holy Spirit will expose the error for what it is and it will be consumed or done away with because it is not based on principles that are eternal.

***Hebrews 12:27*** *And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

***28*** *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

***29*** *For our God is a consuming fire.*

The word consuming means to totally do away with and the word fire means to illuminate. When the errors and lies in our thinking are illuminated, they lose their power over us. Truth exposes error and that sets us free!

***John 8:32*** *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**John the Baptist’s Words**

***Luke 3:6*** *All flesh shall see the salvation of the Lord*

***Luke 3:9*** *Every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire*

***Luke 3:16*** *John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

***17*** *Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.*

*chaff.*

Jesus said in **John 14:16-20** that he would come to live in us in the form of the Spirit of truth.

Jesus baptizes us or fills us with the Holy Ghost and with fire. In other words, we become a new creation that is able to spiritually discern the word. The voice of the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to separate the things of the flesh **[chaff]** from the things of the Spirit.

This takes us back again to **Jeremiah 23:29** The Word **[God’s Spirit revealed Word]** breaks the stronghold in pieces-separates the wheat from the chaff.

Every weapon or false word formed against God’s children will be exposed and destroyed by the discerning power of the Holy Spirit.

***Isaiah 54:13*** *And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.*

***14*** *In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.*

***15*** *Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.*

***16*** *Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.*

***17*** *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of* the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

All of God’s children will be taught by Him **[b**y **grace or by the**

**influence of the Holy Spirit]** and it will bring peace.We

are established in His righteousness. Whosoever gathers

together against his children shall fall**-[He is after what gathers**

**against us-not us]** Everything that comes against us will be

destroyed.Everything that is formed against us cannot prosper.

God has created the smith **[The Holy Spirit that separates truth**

 **from error]** thatblows the coals in the fire**. [Is 40:7-8]** The word

**[inspired by the Spirit]** refines out anything that cannot prosper.

Every tongue that rises against us in judgment will be condemned.

The Spirit revealed Word of God is powerful. It separates the things

of the soul from the things of the Spirit. That brings rest!

***Hebrews 4:9*** *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

***10*** *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

***11*** *Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

***12*** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

We find grace **[revelation that changes our lives]** to help us in our times of need when we boldly look to him-to the things of the New Covenant.

***Hebrews 4:16*** *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

The integrity of our Christian foundation is revealed by fire.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15** Jesus is the only foundation that we can build on. If any man build on this foundation, it shall be made manifest whether it is gold or wood hay and stubble because it shall be revealed **[take off the cover, disclose]** by fire

***Mirror 3:13*** *Everyone’s work shall be tested in the real scrutiny of life; it shall be made apparent as in broad daylight just as gold is tested in fire; what you teach will either burn like stubble or shine like gold.*

Everything that is based on the foundation of God’s Word will stand the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit. It will last forever! Everything that is not founded on God’s Word will be exposed by the Holy Spirit and will be eliminated!

***1 Corinthians 3:13*** *Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try* ***[Strong’s –examine, discern]*** *every man's work of what sort it is.*

***14*** *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

***15*** *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

The Word is the Fire that separates that which can be shaken from

 that which cannot be shaken. The Word preserves everything that is

built correctly upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. The same Word

exposes and destroys everything that is incorrectly built.

 We have mixed the things of the Old Covenant with the things of

the New Covenant. Those things that we have done through our own

strength will be exposed for what they are. They will be eliminated.

We will suffer loss! We have invested a lot of time doing things that

won’t stand. But, we will be spared because our eternal position is

held in place by God’s word, not our works.

Our salvation is based upon the integrity of God’s Word and His

Faithfulness. Nothing that comes against the Word of God can stand

Because it is incorruptible!

**1 Peter 1:2** We are the elect according to the sanctification of the Spirit.

**vs4** to an incorruptible, undefiled inheritance that can not be shaken.

**vs5** kept **[hemmed in, protect]** by the power of God.

Our faith is being tried **[tested, examined]** and refined. Is the Word we know based on the incorruptible truth, or is it based upon errors that will fade away? Even though it is tested, we will be found full of glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus.

***1 Peter 1:6*** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

***7*** *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

Though our faith be tried or examined by fire-by the discerning power of the Holy Spirit-it will be found worthy of praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Everything that does not relate to what Jesus has done for us will be discarded. Then there will be no charges against us! We will shine forth as pure gold!

**1 Peter 1:5 We are** kept by the power of God to an inheritance that can’t be corrupted

***1 Peter 1:18*** *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

***19*** *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

***20*** *Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

***21*** *Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*

**Malachi 3:1-3** . .”And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi , and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

God wants to purge out everything that is mixed with truth and grace.

**Hebrews 10:14-17** We have been perfected forever. God no longer remembers our sins and iniquities. Whereof the Holy Spirit is a witness to us!

The Holy Spirit reveals to us that we are righteous! The Holy Spirit refines us and sets us free from opposing impurities by revealing truth and error to us.

**Isaiah 48:10-11** refined **[become free of impurities]** with furnace of affliction so my name wont be polluted **[dissolve, misrepresent, stain]**

The word we know is being tested and refined. God is using the Holy Spirit to reveal all of our false beliefs because they are like dross that is mixed in with silver or gold. The dross keeps us from shining forth as pure gold. It keeps us from experiencing God as he really intended us to.

God is a jealous God. He has made a way to provide for us as His children. That way has to be preserved and the Holy Spirit is the instrument that he uses to do it.

**We are being trained by the Word-by the Spirit inspired word to recognize the difference between the truth and error so that we can be delivered from the bondage of corruption**

***Romans 8:20-22*** *For the creature was made subject* ***[subjected to]*** *to vanity* ***[that which is useless, worthless, can not produce]****, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

***21*** *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God*

**John 16:8-11** The Holy Spirit will reveal the truth

**John 16:32-33** You will have tribulation but I have overcome the World

**James 1:12-17** Blessed is the man who endures temptation **[putting to proof]** It is not God who tempts us-it is the false word

**James 1:18** We were conceived with the Word of truth

Satan comes to steal the word by substituting a false word, which cannot stand the test.

Satan’s seed won’t prosper. It will be exposed. The veil will be taken off. The fire will illuminate it. **2 Corinthians 3:15-18**

**Matthew 13:24-30** The kingdom is like a man who sowed good seed

in his field. God has sown Holy Spirit inspired truth in the hearts of his

children. But, the enemy comes and sows tares among the wheat.

The word tares means false wheat. It looks like wheat. It grows like

wheat. But, it cannot bear fruit like wheat. Satan has sown false words

that have become mixed with God’s incorruptible words. We have a

mixed word before us. God’s Word according to His plan always bears

good fruit. But the enemies word is a counterfeit word that sounds

good. It sounds like truth, but it shows up for what it is because it

does not bear the fruit of the truth. The tares will be removed from

among the wheat because they are corruptible. When this is done,

only the truth will remain. We are righteous because Jesus made us

righteous. Nothing that comes against us will prosper because the

truth is based on God’s incorruptible Word.

We can’t uproot the tares in the natural because it would disturb

the wheat. The tares have to be spiritually uprooted by the consuming

fire of God’s word. The Spirit inspired Word brings to light the hidden

things of darkness. There is coming a day at the end of the age where

every hidden thing of darkness will be openly exposed for the lie that it

 is. It will be forever separated from the incorruptible truth.

***1 Corinthians 4:3*** *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.*

***4*** *For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.*

***5*** *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will*

 *bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the*

 *counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

***Hebrews 12:27*** *“And this word* ***[God’s Holy Spirit inspired Word]*** *once more signifieth* ***[makes plain]*** *the removing of those things that are shaken, as of the things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

***28*** *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

***29*** *For our God is a consuming* ***[to do away with completely]*** *fire* ***fire, lightning, illumination]****.*

Everything that can be shaken will be shaken. God is a consuming fire. He reveals and preserves the truth of His Word through the revelation power of the Holy Spirit. He exposes every lie that opposes His truth. When the lie is exposed, it loses its power of opposition. It is done away with completely.

All of God’s children are established in righteousness and no weapon that comes against this righteousness can prosper! The same fire **[illumination by the spirit]** that saves us, also purifies and refines us so that we will shine forth as pure gold. We are held together by the “incorruptible” Word of God. By His grace we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be moved.