



Exodus 33:15 "If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here."

Acts 2:1–4 Tongues as of fire on each one.

Proverbs 26:20 "For lack of wood the fire goes out."

God gives personal fire, not just corporate flames. The enemy's primary target is not your stuff, status, or schedule—it's your **fire**. Don't trade God's **presence** for good **possessions** or convenient opportunities.

I. The Torch Race: What Really Counts

- **Illustration:** Ancient runners were judged not by finishing time but by finishing with the torch still lit.
- **Spiritual parallel:** God's goal is not mere activity but sustained holy fire.
- **Texts:** 2 Timothy 4:7; Matthew 25:1–13 (lamps/lack of oil).

II. Fire Is Personal Responsibility

- In Acts 2, "tongues as of fire...rested on each one." (Acts 2:3)
- God lights; we steward. Your pastor can fan your flame, but he can't carry it.
- **Texts:** Acts 2:1–4; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Romans 12:11.

Diagnostic Questions:

- Do I burn like I used to? Am I still praying, fasting, and in the Word? (Rev 2:1–5)

III. The Devil's Real Target: Your Fire

- Not after your phone, job, or parking spot—after your flame.
- His easiest tactic isn't always attack; it's settle/compromise—a slow dimming.
- **Texts:** Psalm 106:15 (getting requests without God's presence); James 4:4.

IV. Presence vs. Possessions

- You can have provision without Presence—but you'll be "miserably successful."
- Moses would rather stay without milk & honey than move without God (Ex 33:15).
- **Texts:** Exodus 33:12–17; Mark 8:36.

V. Leaving First Love While Doing All the Right Things

- Ephesus church: doctrinally sharp, endurance strong—love/fire lost.
- **Texts:** Revelation 2:2–5; Luke 2:41–52 (Mary & Joseph lose Jesus and don't notice for days).

VI. Position or Presence?

- **Contrast:** Saul craved position; David craved Presence.
- Titles, platforms, "deals," and optics can become substitutes for Presence.
- **Texts:** 1 Samuel 13–16; Psalm 27:4.

VII. How Compromise Creeps In

- **Patterns from the talk:** Convenience, comfort, craving "good things" without God; busyness that kills prayer; prophetic counterfeits (Acts 8:18–24).
- **Principle:** If God isn't in it, you don't want it—even if it looks good.
- **Texts:** Psalm 106:15; Proverbs 14:12.



VIII. Rekindling the Flame: Add Wood to the Fire

"For lack of wood the fire goes out." (Prov 26:20)

Wood to add:

1. **Obedience** — quick surrender (John 14:21).
2. **Trust** — take it to prayer, wait for green lights (Proverbs 3:5–6).
3. **Focus** — eyes on Jesus, not outcomes (Hebrews 12:1–2).
4. **Integrity** — single-hearted devotion (Psalm 24:3–4).
5. **Devotion Rhythms** — Word (Jer 15:16), fasting (Matt 6:16–18), corporate prayer (Acts 4:31).
6. **Community** — let leaders/friends fan the flame (2 Tim 1:6; Heb 10:24–25).