The Fires of Life

Ken Chapman · 1 Peter 1:6–7

INTRODUCTION

- But the Bible speaks of fire in a positive sense as well. In fact, if you count the references, there's more positive said about fire than negative.
- He appeared to Abraham and to Moses in a flaming fire. He led the children of Israel with a pillar of fire.
- Both of the fires that we're going to talk about this morning that we experience in life can again be viewed positively or negatively.

1 The Fire of Testing

1 Peter 1:6–7; 2 Timothy 3:12

- In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials.
- That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to the praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- How do you know that your faith is genuine? That you trust in God, that it's real, that it's not just that I trust God on the mountains, but I don't know about in the valleys of life.
- Every test, every trial, every temptation, every persecution either makes me weaker, or as it should, it makes me stronger.
- When I come through it, I am now equipped, better equipped to help others who are coming through the storm of life.
- Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2 We Must Cultivate the Fire of Zeal

Titus 2:14; Hebrews 10:24–25; Romans 10

- We all face the fire of trial and testing. And we must cultivate the fire of zeal.
- He gave himself for us that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself his own special people, zealous for good works.
- Zeal must be based not just strictly upon emotion. But it must also be based upon logic and understanding and knowledge of God's word.
- And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.
- So we need this fire of zeal, and we need one another to stir that up and to keep that fire going.
- If it's burning so bright within me, it can't be contained. It can only be channeled.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you become a Christian? Would you light that fire this morning?

MY NOTES