**A LIFE ABLAZE-A Sermon by Don Allen**

Spiritual Darkness No Fuel, No Fire

Different kinds of fuel we need to stay Spiritually Ablaze

**Fuel #1** (Bible) “**God’s Holy Word”**

**Ps.119:105** Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, & a light unto my path. **Ps.119:130** The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. Only the light of “God’s Word” drives away “Spiritual Darkness.”—which is why demonic forces hate the light & the light-bearers!

**Martin Luther said**: “The Bible is alive; it speaks to me, It has feet; it runs after me. It has hands; it lays hold of me.”)

**D.L. Moody wrote**: The Bible has a supernatural ability to literally speak to us. “In our prayers, we talk to God; in our Bible Study, God talks to us, & we had better let God do most of the talking.”) When the Bible is ingested into our soul, its divine fire identifies, ignites, & consumes debris that needs to be expunged from a person’s life. That fire also ignites new life in areas of a person that have grown indifferent & resistant to God’s Word.

**English theologian John Scott said**: “We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency, & to overthrow our patterns of thought & behavior.”)

**Ps.119:9** talks about the purifying effect of God’s Word: “Wherewithal shall a young man Cleanse his way? By taking heed thereunto according to Thy Word.”

**John15:3** Jesus spoke of cleansing quality of God’s Word when He said: “Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.”

**2Cor.7:1** Paul also wrote of the way the Holy Spirit uses the promises of God’s Word to take us into greater levels of sanctification & purity. Paul wrote: “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh & spirit, perfecting Holiness in the fear of God.”

When the Word of God is heeded, embraced, & believed, it continuously shines its brilliant light into the dark, murky, places of our lives. When the Bible is proclaimed, believed, & applied, it eradicates spiritual darkness, ignorance, disease, inequality, poverty, & racism. The Bible is a life-enhancer for all who benefit from its shining light.

When God’s Word is decreed from a person’s mouth, that is connected to a believing heart, that Word has a life changing & yoke-destroying effect. There is Power in the Word of God that even the devil cannot deny!

**Ecclesiastes 8:4** “Where the word of a king *is, there is* power;”

**J.C.Ryle**, a prominent evangelical Anglican bishop during the 1800s, pleaded to his readers: “I call upon you not to forget the “Book of the Soul”. Do not let newspapers, novels, & romances be read, while the prophets & apostles be despised. Do not let the exciting & sensual swallow up your attention, while the edifying & the sanctifying can find no place in your mind.”) (**Todays translation**: Shut off TV, Radio, & Computer. Put down that **People** mag. & read & study the Bible. The #1 reason there is so much “**Hatred**” in people’s hearts today, including Christians, is because they are getting all their info from the Secular, Worldly, Anti-Christian, media networks! Instead of from the **Bible** & Christian books & Mag.)

**R.A.Torrey**—evangelist, pastor, educator, & writer, stated: “99 Christians in every 100 are merely playing at Bible study; & therefore 99 Christians in every 100 are mere weaklings, when they might be giants.”) When Christians could be giants, they are often weaklings because they have ignored the source of fuel that could empower them to be mighty!

**A.B.Simpson**, the Canadian preacher, theologian, author, & pioneer of global missions, said: “The religion of the Bible is wholly supernatural. If you want to experience the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in your life, you must make the authoritative teaching of the Bible a priority. Where the Word is declared in power, it sets the atmosphere for the miraculous to take place.”)

The Word of God is a mighty sword wielded by the Holy Spirit! He uses that divine “Sword of the Spirit” to slice open lost men’s hearts, attack the works of Satan, & perform divine surgery on every category of people who are afflicted in any way. The “Word of God” which is the “Sword of the Spirit” is the instrument the Holy Spirit uses to heal, restore, & make people whole.

**Heb.4:12**(AMP) Makes this abundantly clear: “For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

**Rick Renner**, founding pastor of several significant churches, & leader of a ministry with a global outreach to many parts of the world said: I strongly affirm that a passion for the Word of God—Bible—must first be alive in the hearts of spiritual leadership if it is to be ignited in those who follow them. **Billy Graham** said: “If you are ignorant of God’s Word, you will be ignorant of God’s Will.”

**Harry Ironside**, Bible teacher, preacher, theologian, pastor, & author , said this: “It is well to remember that reading books about the Bible is a very different thing to searching the Word of God for oneself.”

**Jim Elliot**, Famed missionary, said: “Why do you need a voice when you have a verse?”

**A.W.Tozer** stated: “Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.” The only foundation strong enough to hold you steady in times of trouble is the “Word of God” (Bible).

**Think About It:** What priority do you give to reading the Bible each day? When you are faced with challenges or life decisions, does the Bible hold the preeminent influence & authority in your life? Or do you confer with people & search out trending opinions? Do you seize each opportunity to saturate your soul with the “Word of God”, or are you valuing other words above His? Is God’s Word what you rely upon to hold you steady when the pressure is on?

**Fuel #2 Prayer**: is absolutely vital in keeping the fire burning hot. A key fuel to ignite the Church & sustain its fire for God in these last days is a Vibrant, consistent, prayer life. Nothing can replace prayer as the essential fuel we must add & keep adding to keep our spiritual fire burning.

**Leonard Ravenhill**, a Prophetic minister, stated: “No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is **not praying is playing**; the people who are **not praying are straying**. We have many **organizers**, but few **agonizers**; many **players & payers**, but few **pray-ers**; many **singers**, few **clingers**; lots of **pastors**, few **wrestlers**; many **fears**, few **tears**; much **fashion**, little **passion**; many **interferers**, few **intercessors**; many **writers**, but few **fighters**; failing here (in prayer) we fail everywhere.”

**Jeremiah33:3** God extends an extraordinary invitation with great promise to every Christian who will hear His voice: “**Call on Me, & I will answer thee, & show you great & mighty things, which thou knowest not**.”

**A.C.Dixon**, a well- known Bible expositor, said: “When we depend upon organizations, we get what organizations can do; when we depend upon education, we get what education can do; when we depend upon man, we get what man can do; But when we depend upon Prayer, we get what God can do.”

**Max Lucado** said: “When we work, we work; but when we Pray, God Works.”

**E.M.Bounds**, who also wrote about the power that is released through prayer. Stated: “What the church needs today is not machinery or, better, not new organizations or more & novel methods, but men whom the Holy Spirit can use – “**Men Mighty in Prayer**.” The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through “**Men of Prayer**.”)

 **D.L.Moody** said: “We are not told that Jesus ever taught His disciples how to preach; But Jesus taught them how to Pray.”

**Charles Swindoll**, said: “Prayer is an investment. The time you dedicate to prayer isn’t lost; it will return dividends far greater than what a few moments spent on a task ever could.”

**D.L. Moody** said: “My friend, if we are going to do a great work for God, we must spend much time in Prayer; we have got to be closeted with God.” There are six different, basic forms of prayer found in the New Testament:

1. The Prayer of **Surrender & Consecration**.
2. The Prayer of **Petition.**
3. The Prayer of **Authority**.
4. The Prayer of **Thanksgiving**.
5. The Prayer of **Supplication**.
6. The Prayer of **Intercession**.

These 6 different types of Prayer specifically referred to in the New Testament are given to the Church. Each form of Prayer is to be used at different times for different situations.

**Oswald Sanders:** author of 40 books, elder statesman, & worldwide conference speaker, made this powerful statement about the Apostle Paul’s life of ministry & prayer: “It’s obvious that Paul did not regard prayer as supplemental, but as fundamental—not something to be added to his work, but the very matrix out of which his work was born. Paul was a man of action because he was a man of prayer.”

**Peter Marshall**, pastor of N.Y. Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington DC, & Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. Said: “Forgive us for thinking that Prayer is a waste of time & help us to see that without Prayer our work is a waste of time.”

 **S.D.Gordon**, a Prolific writer in 19th century. Wrote: “The real victory in all service is won in secret beforehand by Prayer.”

**Oswald Chambers** said: “Unless you learn to fling the door wide back & let God in, you will work on a wrong level all day; but swing the door wide open & Pray to your Father in secret, & every public will be stamped with the presence of God.”

**15 Things We Are Commanded To Pray About:**

1. For **God’s will to be done on earth**. (Mat.6:9,10)
2. For **physical provision**. (Mat.6:11)
3. For **us to be delivered from evil**. (Mat.6:13)
4. For **us to forgive those who have wronged us**. (Mat.6:12,14,15)
5. For **spiritual leaders**. (2Thes.3:1,2)
6. For **governmental leaders**. (1Tim.2:1,2)
7. For **all who are in authority**. (1Tim.2:1,2)
8. For **a peaceable life**. (1Tim.2:1,2)
9. For **preachers of the Gospel**. (2 Thes.3:1,2)
10. For **open doors for the Gospel**. (Col.4:3)
11. For **those who’ve been saved thru our influence, ministry**. Jn.17:9
12. For **believers who are physically sick**. (James 5:14,15)
13. For **believers who are living in sin**. (1 Jn.5:16)
14. For **Israel to be saved**. (Rom.10:1)
15. For **the peace of Jerusalem**. (Ps.122:6)
This is not all-inclusive, but gives us a good starting point.

In **1Tim.2:1,2** Paul **did not** say, “Pray for the leaders you like & the ones you voted for.” **Paul said**: “We are to Pray for **all** leaders.” This is not an option, nor is it a suggestion. It is a Command.

**Andrew Murray**, pastor, author, & missionary. Said: “Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God’s voice in response to mine is its most essential part.”

**Leonard Ravenhill** said: “A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his Soul is hungry for God.”

**Think About It:** What is your pattern of Prayer? Is Prayer a continual stream of communion between you & the Father? Do you inquire of the Lord often about matters great & small? Or do you spend so much time talking or worrying about situations that you barely pray at all? Do you watch daily at His gates in Prayer, acknowledging Him & inclining your ear to hear from Him daily?

No Fuel, No Fire:

Fuel #1 (**Bible**) **God’s Holy Word**.
Fuel #2 **Prayer**Fuel #3 **Holy Spirit**Fuel #4 **Worship**Fuel #5 **Souls**Fuel #6 **Generosity**Fuel #7 **Holiness**Fuel #8 **Humility**
Fuel #9 **Authority**Fuel #10 **Fear of the Lord**

**Ablaze with:** God’s Word, Prayer, Holy Spirit, Worship, Souls, Generosity, Holiness, Humility, Authority, & Fear of God.

**The Pastor’s Blessing**

And now may the Lord Bless You & Keep You. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you & be gracious unto you, giving you His Peace. May you climb the mountain with the full expectation that God’s answer is before you. Though you have prayed for the answer & it has not come, please know that God’s delays are not God’s denials. The answer will come. You will receive Heaven’s best because your Father in Heaven desires to give you the best of things. Now rejoice & be exceedingly glad, for everything your heart desires is just before you. In Jesus name, Amen!