

Set on Fire

Focuses on Maintenance: The Word and Constancy

Pr. Israel Perdonsin - May, 31th

This week we continued the Set on Fire series by learning that spiritual fire is not automatic—it requires maintenance. Pastor Israel used the illustration of a campfire that burns brightly but eventually dies when no one adds more wood. In the same way, our spiritual lives cannot survive on yesterday's fire.

Jeremiah 23:29 reminds us that God's Word is our fuel. It is like fire that purifies and ignites, and like a hammer that breaks what has become hard in our hearts. We also learned that prayer is our oxygen. Just as a fire cannot survive without oxygen, our spiritual lives cannot thrive without a consistent connection to God.

The message challenged us to take responsibility for the daily maintenance of our spiritual fire. Through God's Word and prayer, we continue adding wood to the altar so that the fire God has started in us continues to burn.

A: The Word Is Your Fuel

Jeremiah 23:29

"Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? "

Jeremiah spoke to a nation that had replaced God's voice with comfortable lies. God declared that His Word is not soft.

The Hebrew word for "fire" is *Esh*. In the Old Testament, fire represents God's presence, purity, and power. The word "hammer" is *Pattish*, a heavy forging hammer used by blacksmiths. It breaks rocks, shapes metal, and destroys what is hard.

God's Word burns away impurity and hammers down what has grown hard in our hearts.

B: Prayer Is Your Oxygen

Colossians 4:2

"Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."

You can have all the fuel in the world, but without oxygen, your fire suffocates. Prayer is your lifeline to the source of life. The Greek word **Proskartereo**, translated as "devote yourselves," means to persist in something, to be steadfast, and to refuse to give up.

Prayer is not occasional, it is continual.

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C: Add Wood Every Morning

Leviticus 6:12-13

"The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood."

The Hebrew word **Yaqad**, translated as "kept burning," means to be kindled continually. This was not a suggestion. The priests were commanded to add wood every morning.

Acts 2:42

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Spiritual fire remains through daily devotion and consistency.

"We should not pray for the fire of God to fall and then fail to put fuel on the altar."
- Billy Graham

Key Verses

Jeremiah 23:29

Colossians 4:2

Leviticus 6:12-13

Acts 2:42

Start Talking: Spark Conversation

1. If your spiritual life right now were a campfire, what would it be: a full fire, a small flame, or cold ashes? Why?
2. Think of a time you saw a fire slowly die out. What caused it to go out?
3. Think of a time you saw a fire slowly die out. What caused it to go out?

Start Thinking: Deepen the Thought

4. What do the images of fire and a hammer teach us about God's Word?
5. Why do you think God compares His Word to something that burns and something that breaks?
6. Why do you think God commanded the priests to add wood every morning?

Start Sharing: Open Heart / Share Stories

7. When was the last time God's Word challenged, corrected, or encouraged you?
8. When was the last time you opened your Bible and it truly "burned" something in you (a conviction, a direction, or a fresh love for God)?
9. If your prayer life was the only oxygen your soul had this week, would you be breathing freely or gasping for air?

Start Doing: Commit to Act

The First 5 minutes: Before you touch your phone, before you check Instagram, and before you even make coffee - give God the first five minutes of your day. Open your Bible. Say a short prayer. Add wood to the fire.

The Breath Prayer: Throughout the day, when you feel stressed, tired, or tempted, pause and breathe this simple prayer - "Lord, I need You. Fill me with Your Spirit." Make prayer as natural as breathing.

Weedy Fire-Check: Every Sunday before church ask yourself, "Is my fire burning brighter or dimmer than last week?" "What fuel did I add?" "What oxygen did I cut off?" Be honest and adjust as needed.

Praying

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us that spiritual fire does not sustain itself. Thank You for giving us Your Word as fuel and prayer as the oxygen our souls need.

Forgive us for the times we have tried to live on yesterday's fire or neglected the daily maintenance of our relationship with You. Create in us a greater hunger for Your Word and a deeper desire to seek You in prayer. Help us to be faithful in the small, daily moments.

Teach us to add wood to the fire every morning and to remain steadfast in our walk with You. May Your presence, purity, and power continue to shape our hearts and keep us close to You.

Let the fire You have started in us continue to burn brightly and not just in special moments, but every day as we follow You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Announcements:

- Be part of our team - become a volunteer!
- HOP every friday 7pm at Formation Center
- Food Fair - June 20th
- The Way Camp - September 18th-20th
- Spanish Service - June 7th at 4pm
- Give your offering through Contribua, so it goes straight to The Way Ministry. Link: <https://contribua.pibcuritiba.org.br/produtos/paginaproduto/135>