

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

Volume 31
Issue 5
May
2014

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

Burning Bushes, Brands, and Bodies

[As you read this devotional, Bob Watt is expecting to be in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with Paul Kabanga Kapuya to follow-up the Hope Pharmacy Project mentioned in the December 2013 issue of Christianity & Pharmacy. He and Paul will also visit a number of churches, see former students and colleagues, and encourage the believers there as well as the CPFI-DRC members. Please pray for them!]

When God needs to get our attention, He sometimes needs to use dramatic circumstances like the loss of a loved one, financial failure, or orchestrating a dramatic career change. He wants us to get our eyes off of the things that we do every day; those things that are perhaps too comfortable and can be done without much thinking or dependence on God. He does this so that we focus more on Him and see His heart of mercy and love revealed. This happened when Moses was tending his father-in-law’s sheep in the desert at the foot of Mt. Horeb. He saw a **burning bush**, but the bush was not consumed (Ex. 3:1-3).

After God got Moses’ attention, He revealed to Moses that He had seen the oppression of His people in Egypt, heard their cry, and knew their sorrows. He had personally come down to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and to bring them up to a new land where they would be free! God went on to say that He would use Moses as His human instrument, but that He would be with Moses (Ex. 3:4-12).

This burning bush meeting place with God made a lasting impression on Moses. At the end of his life as he blessed Joseph’s progeny he evoked a special name for God. Considering the remarkable revelations of God that Moses had experienced, we might expect that he would have asked for the good will of the “Destroyer of the Egyptians” or the “Mighty Law Giver”. Instead, as impending death sharpened his perception of a life lived, he remembered the time when he was alone, isolated, and far from home and the great purposes he once thought that God had for him. In a burning bush, God met him and changed his life. The most powerful and moving moments of our lives are intensely personal when we remember the “Dweller in the Bush” stooping to meet our need and change our lives! (Deut. 33:16)

The prophet Amos saw a **burning brand** plucked from the fire at the last minute before it was totally consumed. He likens this to those who refuse to accept the chastening of God for their sins and come back to Him. Instead of being grateful for a second chance and getting their lives back on the right track, they choose not to return to Him (Amos 4:11-12). Instead of God getting their attention like what happened to Moses, these people ignore God’s entreaties until they finally perish in their sins. They are left having to face God and answer the question of why they scorned His mercy and the opportunity for salvation.

It will take our sanctified imagination to see a **burning body**, especially if it is ours! After the Apostle Paul carefully explained the need of salvation for everyone in his letter to the Romans, God then demonstrated his tremendous love for us by sending Christ to die for those who could not save themselves.

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Paul then goes on to describe the process of how God justifies us by faith and helps us to live the kind of lives that are pleasing to God, with the help of the Holy Spirit who permanently lives in every true child of God.

Because of the mercies of God that we have experienced, when Paul gets to Rom. 12:1 he begs us to offer our bodies as a total burnt offering to God as our reasonable act of worship. Normally sacrificial animals were killed, but God asks that we willingly sacrifice our whole living body, soul, and spirit—give back to God what is rightfully His anyway, and allow His life to be lived through us. When we do this, God knows that He has gotten our attention. The things that used to be our priority are gone—burned up. In their place are God’s priorities which are eternal and never to be consumed!

Robert Watt, CPFI Member
Coatesville, PA

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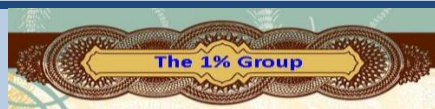
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