

TOPIC : Be Hot for God - Warnings against Lukewarm-ness

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Read Passage: Revelation 3:14-15

The Lord is the Amen, Faithful and True Witness. There are different names of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In Revelation, there are many different names of Jesus. Jesus is He who was, who is and who is to come; who was dead and alive; the resurrection and the life.

Verse 17, "Because you say," but the Lord says you do not know. We need to know God's perspective and assessment. The worst thing is to have a wrong estimate, a wrong sense of security. The end purpose of the counsel to buy gold is that we may rich in spirit and soul, wholesome, clear and have wisdom to make right decisions. The purpose of the white garment is to be clothed. Naked means we are exposed, vulnerable. We need eye salve that we may see and have revelation, the opposite of which is being lost and confused.

How can we be hot for God?

Application #1 - Buy gold refined in the fire.

This is genuine tested personal faith of an overcomer.

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...

God wants us to have personal relationship with Him in a way that is close and vibrant. We need to build faith convictions and develop a biblical worldview, looking at life through the lenses of Scripture. We need to develop theological anchors to see us stay in life. Our belief system, like gold, is to be purified by fire.

1. Our Belief system is a mixture.

A major part of it is in:

- i. The Will of Father-God.
- ii. The Word of the Lord Jesus.
- iii. The Ways of the Holy Spirit.
- iv. The Wisdom of God.

2. **Our faith comprises impurities.**

Our trials in life are like the fire that purifies. Trials are for a season, and can be grievous and painful. Trials seem to attract those whose faith need to be perfected. When faith is proven, we will have faith convictions.

Do you believe God makes a distinction between those who know Him and those who don't? Do you believe you will always be provided for?

John 16:33

- i. In this fallen world, there are trials affecting all.
- ii. For believers, our faith will be tested.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth .. also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Alongside truth, wisdom will come. To buy suggests it costs something. For some, it's money, effort, time or a seeking heart. We don't wait for faith to be downloaded. We come together in cell to seek.

3. **We do not have absolute knowledge.**

God has given us sufficient knowledge to help us have a frame and a handle. The all-sufficient knowledge from God's Word and revelation by the Holy Spirit will help to purify our faith. It will help to answer such questions like:

- i. Why did this accident happen?
- ii. Did God send the typhoon-tsunami to judge us?
- iii. Did God give me cancer to punish me?
- iv. Did God send this illness to teach me godliness?
- v. Why did God not answer my prayer?
- vi. Why is it so unfair to me?
- vii. Why was I retrenched?
- viii. Why was I rejected?
- ix. Why? Why? Why?

Sufficient knowledge from God's Word requires us to always base a principle of truth on the entire weight of Scriptures instead of one isolated portion that seems to say otherwise.

Psalm 119:160:

The entirety of Your word *is* truth,
And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

The truth of Scriptures should frame our experiences and not the other way round
- John 17:17

4. The word, 'allow' means to endorse, to permit.

In the widest sense, the word means "God allows". In the Old Testament, everything is attributed back to the sovereignty of God. However, the mightiness of God is channeled always through His character. He is simultaneously loving, just and righteous. Our God has character. He doesn't do something unilaterally, out of His character. We must get our theology right.

God has given man the earth and free will and God cannot violate this. God cannot be blamed for the sins of man. God didn't allow prostitution, rape, or for people to misbehave or do wicked things. We must come to the point to clearly define what is of God and what is not. Everything occurs according to the laws and principles of life. We disobey and violate to our loss and destruction. We obey and flow to our gain and prosperity. We reap what we sow. God is not responsible for the decisions we make. God does not randomly, haphazardly intervene unless someone prays. When someone prays, he connects earth to heaven, linking the grace of God to earth.

5. Our faith is purified when we know the source of the pain and trials.

A. Due to the fallen-ness of man.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- i. Natural calamities and birth pangs.
- ii. Sickness, diseases and aging.
- iii. Financial difficulties.
- iv. Relational conflicts
- v. Accidents and situations beyond our control
- vi. All victims of wicked and evil sinful actions.

B. Due to our own faults

1 Peter 2:20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? ...

1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

C. Due to the works of the evil one

John 10:10a The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy ...

D. For righteousness sake. This is the only type of suffering that gives glory to God.

- i. **1 Peter 3:14** - Suffer for righteousness' sake
- ii. **1 Peter 3:17** - Suffer for doing good
- iii. **1 Peter 4:14** - Reproached for the name of Christ
- iv. **2 Timothy 3:12** - Suffer Persecution
- v. **Luke 9:23** - Cost of discipleship

All suffering by a believer is a trial of his faith.

- (1) Suffering in a fallen world - No choice
- (2) Suffering due to our own "faults" - Wrong choice
- (3) Suffering for righteousness sake - Right choice

6. God is not glorified in all our sufferings! He is only glorified when we suffer for Christ and for sake of righteousness!

God is always good. When we turn to Him, He will see us through our trials to turn it for good.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

7. Do not confuse God's goodness in seeing us through a trial to mean that He is the source of our trials.

Jeremiah 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

Don't ever say God sent you the accident, sickness, etc. God is not the source of all these situations.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Application #2 - Buy White Garments

Revelation 16:15

Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame.

The authenticity of our faith has to be lived, proven and made personal. Buy white garments that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed. We pay the price to walk in righteousness and holiness. We separate from all kinds of people who do not value-add in our vibrant walk with God. To have the blessings of God to flow, some things done in the past cannot be permissible now. To buy white garments means to have a conscience void of offense before God and man (Acts 24:16). It means to have integrity. (1 Thessalonians 5:23). We must add to people's life. If someone is subtracting your life, then you must draw a line. This is buying white garment.

Application #3 - Buy eye-salve to anoint our eyes to see

Luke 11:34-35

34 The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. **35** Therefore **take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness**

Every child has the light of the gospel. The light in us can turn dark. When does it happen?

1 John 2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Our core value is No Offenses. Just as you seek not to be offensive, seek also to put on the armour of God and not be easily offended. Forgive when someone offends you.

This is Spiritual Seeing. This is Wisdom and Revelation.

This means we have

- knowledge - Oversight
- understanding - Insight
- Wisdom - Foresight

How to have wisdom and revelation?

1. From the **intake** of the Word.

Psalms 19:8 ... The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes ...

2. From your **connectivity** with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:17-18 ... the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation ... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened ...

3. From **Godly counsel**.

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

SUMMARY - 3 Applications

- I. Buy **gold** refined in the fire.
- II. Buy **white garments** that you may be **clothed**, that the **shame** of your **nakedness** may not be revealed.
- III. Buy **eye-salve** to anoint our eyes to see.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, was crippled. One day, he received a call from the king's palace and he was invited to eat at the king's table. Today, in a sense, we are all like Mephibosheth, crippled in our sins. Jesus knocks at the door to invite us to dine at His table. Don't miss the knock of the Lord. Posture our hearts, always, open to the Lord. May we learn to be rooted to His word and be led by the Spirit.

God already knows our situation. Don't remain there. The devil wants to alienate us from God but the Holy Spirit wants to draw us to God.

End.

3. Share a trial you are currently facing and what are the faith convictions that are seeing you through it.

4a) What does it mean for you personally to put on white garments?

4b) What are the obstacles that prevent you from doing so and what is one practical step you will take this week to overcome this?