



"Biblical Uses of FIRE: Sacrifice to Purification"



El Greco, "Pentecost" (17th century)

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place....

Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

(Acts 2:1-4)

Bible Study Guide

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Study Questions

1.	How would you define fire in a literal sense? How does this lend itself to Biblical metaphors that can be interpreted spiritually?
2.	See Isa. 9:18-19. What is likened to fire in this passage? What other forms of sin do you feel apply to this metaphor of spreading and consuming?
3.	How does fire, tied to sacrifice, relate to your experience today? Do you see any relevancy of Abraham's story of sacrificing Isaac with the use of fire, to your life now?
4.	What does a 'theophany' mean and where does this idea appear in the Old Testament? Have you had a theophany and if so, was it through an image? Words? Sound?
5.	Read 2 Chron. 7:1-3. What is the role of fire with the Temple of Solomon? How can this be applied to your church community today?





	6.	Read Lev. 6:12,13.	How can you	apply this text to	your life today?
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7. Each prophet has a special 'calling' process. For Amos, he was in the middle of plowing a field and told to drop it. Read Isa. 6 to discover Isaiah's calling. Why did it involve the elements it did? (Which part of him was touched and what was used?) How do you apply this to your life today?

8. Read Ezek.15:2-7; 21:3 and Jer. 11:16 that write of a forest fire as a metaphor for divine judgment. Eventually this becomes the 'final judgment' –an eschatological twist – which will have a purifying aspect. How would you explain your understanding of a 'final judgment' to Christian friends?