



I. REVIEW:

- A. The season of remembrance of all that Christ came to do, and did: Holy week, Good Friday, & Easter
- B. His personal push of faith to hear his Father, know his fathers will, and live it out
- C. Dedication to decision reflects a moment in time when our lives are transformed followed by a **continuous** growth that comes by grace through faith
- D. Where we are headed is FRUIT LOOPS!

II. HEBREWS 12:29 (TLB) FOR OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE

- A. Set this passage and meaning up contextually. Specifically, it relates to Hebrews and then the bigger picture of this Consuming Fire:
 - 1. The letter itself is written to Jews who knew the law, priesthood, sacrifices, covenants (old) but had now embraced stepped out of Judaism and in Christianity (Jesus had become SAVIOR and LORD.) They were faced with persecution, death, sin and were in reality struggling with the concept of **giving up on and yielding their faith**
 - 2. We get a lot of one liners from Hebrews and any one of them can preach!
 - a. Jesus tasted death for every man (2:9)
 - b. Because Jesus was tempted in all things, He can help us (2:18)
 - c. For the Word of God is alive and living and sharper than any double edged sword (4:12)
 - d. God sees EVERYTHING (4:13)
 - e. Let us come boldly to the throne of GRACE (4:16)
 - f. You've been around long enough that you should be teachers by now, instead you still need milk (5:12) (p.s. whom a father loves he corrects).
 - g. For those who enter this covenant by faith I will never again remember their sins (10:17)
 - h. Of course our "HALL OF FAITH" is the entire chapter 11 of this letter
 - i. Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen (11:1)

III. NOW THE CONSUMING FIRE! A FOCUS ON THREE ASPECTS:

- 1. Holiness in the fire
 - 2. Power in the fire
 - 3. Love in the fire
- A. God's HOLINESS in Exodus chapter 3 God shows up in the FIRE of the burning bush. This was all about God's holiness. To Moses God says "Do not draw near to this place. Take the sandals off your feet, for where you stand is Holy Ground."



Originating in God's nature, holiness is a unique quality of His character. The veil to the holy of holies was torn/broken open when Christ died. Now I need to embrace the consuming fire of God to purify me.

- The HOLINESS of THE CONSUMING FIRE rids everything of impurity:
- B. God's POWER shows up over and over again throughout the scriptures in fire. We (humanity) do not control THE GREAT I AM like some kind of wood burning stove. You try to put God in a control box and HE will show up in a consuming fire kind of way!
- C. God's LOVE In Acts chapter 2 God came down and fell upon the believers and it appeared as flames of fire on them. Draw near to me? Really, you're a consuming fire?!

EPIPIPTO – LOVE EMBRACE or hug someone you love. Same word is used in the story of the prodigal son coming home and the father putting a love embrace on his son, and is also used when the Holy Spirit fell on the “unclean” men and women that God sent Peter to preach Jesus to!

GOD wants you to embrace him daily (and Him embracing you), commune with him, learn from him, know him. He can do things we never can do without him:

- I can't make a bush glow with flames and not be consumed, but my GOD can.
- I can't infuse myself with the Holy breath and fire of God, but my GOD can.
- I can't sift the nations when they are flippant, wicked, and shaking their fist at heaven, but my GOD can.

Hebrews 12:25-29 (NKJV) See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

IV. CLOSE:

Religion says I screwed up and my Father's gonna kill me—

Relationship says I have messed up and I need to call my Dad.