

# Fire or Fizzle

Pastor Eddie Turner  
Sunday, November 12, 2017

2 Tim. 1:5-6(NIV)~ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

<sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

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2 Tim 1:5-6(TLB)~ <sup>5</sup> I know how much you trust the Lord, just as your mother Eunice and your grandmother Lois do; and I feel sure you are still trusting him as much as ever.

<sup>6</sup> This being so, I want to remind you to stir into flame the strength and boldness that is in you, that entered into you when I laid my hands upon your head and blessed you.

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This morning, before we dive deep into the holiday season and come to the end of another year, let's take a few moments to look inward and evaluate ourselves spiritually.

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If we had to give an answer concerning our spiritual vitality and tone today-would we be closer to fire or fizzle?

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If we had to give an account of our spiritual condition today-could we say we are alive with the vibrant life of Jesus working in us; or are we cold and indifferent when it comes to our spiritual life?

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Are we excited or even aware of the things God is doing in the world, or have we become so busy living our life that his will and way has honestly become secondary to us.

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As this holiday season approaches, are we thinking about ways to

celebrate his birth and making him known to others; or are we simply seeing it as a holiday in which we get a break and take a few days off?

Where are we spiritually right now?

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Under Timothy's leadership, the church began growing. In fact, Timothy had wonderful success in ministry. But the church grew so fast Timothy started having challenges getting proper leadership.

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Timothy contacts Paul and ask for instruction~Paul responds in what we know as the Bible Book of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy. Paul gives Timothy instruction about Elders, Deacons and church organization. Things went well for a while.

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Nero Claudius Caesar had become emperor. He had the previous emperor killed and he seized the throne. He hated Christians and eventually was responsible for the death of the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul.

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He devised hideous ways to kill Christians: he burned Christians alive; He stripped their skin from their bodies and would throw them in piles of manure, so disease would infect their bodies; he would wrap Christians in the skins of dead animals and then throw them to the lions. Nero's palace grounds were a playground of death inventions on how to kill Christians.

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When faced with the reality that your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ could mean persecution and even death, it's understandable to question our public zeal and commitment to Christ!

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KJV~ "stir up the gift of God which is in you"

NIV~ “fan into a flame the gift of God which is in you”

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TLB~ “stir into a flame the strength and boldness that is in you.”

MSG~ “keep ablaze, the special gift of ministry in you.”

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2 Tim. 3:1-4(NLT)~ You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. <sup>2</sup> For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup> They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup> They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

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1 Tim. 4:1 (NKJV)~ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

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The Holy Spirit says that during the last days some, not all, some will depart from the faith.

The word “depart” means “to stand off, be aloof, eventually fall away.”

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“giving heed” means to slowly turn your attention to things which have been placed in our paths to deceive us. These distractions must have some enticement and good to them or they wouldn’t get our attention. Notice where these enticing things originate from~ “deceiving spirits.”

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Rev. 2:1-5(NLT)~ “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars

in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

<sup>2</sup> “I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. <sup>3</sup> You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

<sup>4</sup> “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! <sup>5</sup> Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

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Rev.2:3(NLT)- <sup>3</sup> You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

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The Lord reminds us that you can be a part of a church organization which has lasted through the years, but that church loses the anointing and favor of God upon them.

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Rev. 2:4-5(NLT)- <sup>4</sup> “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! <sup>5</sup> Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

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In America, persecution is not the greatest enemy of the church. Presently persecution is not hindering the church in America. Our greatest enemy is carnal Christianity. Signs are suggesting that we have slowly walked away from our first love—a passion and dedication for Jesus and his will for our lives.

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Rev. 3:14-20(NLT)- <sup>14</sup> “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the

faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation:

<sup>15</sup> "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! <sup>16</sup> But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. <sup>19</sup> I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

<sup>20</sup> "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

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1). Blessings and prosperity had given them a false spiritual satisfaction.

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Rev. 3:17-18(NLT)~ <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich.

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2). This deceptive spiritual satisfaction blinded them to their lack of holiness in their personal lives.

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Rev. 3:18-19(NLT)~ <sup>18</sup> So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. <sup>19</sup> I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

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3). They didn't realize it~ but Christ was on the outside of their lives knocking to gain entrance.

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Rev. 3:20(NLT)~<sup>20</sup> “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

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