

Fire in the Night

18 - God's Covert Agents
Church on the Park | Sunday, 19 SEPT 2016

Text: Judges 7:15-22

Theme: God has chosen you to be his torch, his fire in the night of the world's darkness.

Intro: Over the last few months we have been hearing God's call to ARISE. And through the last few weeks we have seen how God equips you, and even makes you into his weapons. Gideon used three main weapons to overthrow Midian's oppression: 1) Trumpets, 2) Empty Vessels and 3) Torches. Today, I want to focus on the torches and how God wants to make you into his blazing torch. When the enemy heard the trumpets and saw the light, it brought chaos into their camp. And the same thing happens today. When the enemy hears God's voice and sees his light, he runs for his life.

1) You are the Lord's torch (Judges 7:20).

- This is God's **purpose** and **plan** for you: to make you into a **burning** and **shining** light for him.
 - **John the Baptist** was one of these men (John 5:35).
 - You are his **torch** that he holds in his hand to show the world his **light**.
 - **Salvation** is all about **God** getting a **hold** of you!
 - *Mali Music 'I Believe'* - lyrics (see endnotes)
 - "I'm just one ah them ole people **God's got a hold on**/And I believe, I believe, ...
Yeah! /I believe I believe... Yeah!
 - The **torch** in **Scripture**
 - Examples of the word usage of 'torch' *lappid*. Gen. 15:17, Judges 15:4, Exo. 20:18
 - 1122a לָפִיד (lappîd) torch.
"The flaming torch, like the pillar of fire, the lamp in the tabernacle, and the glory of God, **signified the holy, awesome presence of the Lord moving among his people**. Thus God moved as a flaming torch between the divided pieces to confirm his covenant with Abraham (Gen 15:17) and appeared in flashes of lightning on Sinai (Ex 20:18; cf. Ezk 1:13). When Zion is finally delivered, her salvation will be like a burning lamp (Isa 62:1) and her governors like a torch of fire (Zech 12:6). W.C.K." (TWOT).
- Jesus came with a **purpose** and it was to set people **ablaze** with God's **glory** (Luke 12:49-50)
 - *In Gideon's story, where was the fire at first?*
 - It was **hidden** under a **container**.
 - **Jesus** himself had the **fire** of **God's glory** **hidden** in the **vessel** of his **flesh**.
 - But, when he went to the **cross**, his **vessel** was **broken** and the **fire shined** through him to the world.
 - *What happened on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:1-4)*
 - The **fire** that **Jesus longed** to bring to earth, the fire that could only be released through the **baptism** of his **suffering**, finally **fell** and set God's people ablaze.
 - The Lord's **disciples** became the **torches** and God's fire rested on them.
 - The **disciples** became a **light** to the world and all different nations heard God in their own language.

- This was a **foreshadowing** and **pattern** of what God would do with his newly fire-baptized people (Luke 3:16).
 - “He will **baptize** you with the **Holy Spirit and fire.**”
 - Being a **light** is only **possible** through the **Holy Spirit’s fire.**
- Here’s what the Lord **spoke** to me on Wednesday: “I want you to teach them that they are the torches and the fire of God rests on them. This happens as they allow themselves, their bodies, to be a resting place for my Spirit, my glorious presence.
- “This happens as they are hid in Christ the vessel of the Lord. As they pass through the brokenness of the cross, my fire shines through them, creating chaos and confusion in the enemy. Though, they are hidden in me, they cannot remain hidden, they must shine. To hide your spiritual gifts is false humility—it’s to hide your light. Their goal must be to show Jesus, not to show off themselves. The whole goal of arising is to shine, to step out of their comfort zone. The darkness is afraid of the light and cannot abide in the light. That’s why the demons manifested at Jesus’ light and were cast out. The only hope for this world is if my people let the light that is within shine out. And this only happens as they are willing to be broken like earthen vessels as Jesus was and still is.”

2) Don’t let fear cause you to hide Christ’s light (Matt. 5:14-16).

- When Jesus says, “Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house...” (Matt. 5:14-16), he **seems** to be **hinting** at this **story of Gideon**.
 - At **first**, the **light** was **hidden** under an empty vessel. Of course, hiding the light at first was a **good strategy**.
 - But, the light under the vessel was not meant to **stay hidden**.
 - Look at what **Paul** says to **Timothy**...
 - “For this reason I remind you to **kindle afresh [anazopyreo] the gift of God** which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a **spirit of timidity**, but of power and love and discipline...” (2 Tim. 1:6-7).
 - Here we see the **gift of God**, the **Holy Spirit**, is like **fire**.
 - When the **Gift of God** is **rekindled** like fire, the **gifts** of the Holy Spirit **shine out**.
 - *But, what is the great hinderance to these gifts coming out?*
 - **FEAR** - fear is a False Emotions Arising Relentlessly. It causes you to hide your light.
 - The other thing linked to **fear** is **false humility**.
 - God wants you to shine our light, but you **hold back** because you don’t want to be **seen**.
 - **Leaders** run the **risk** of **looking** like **fools**.
 - Look at what Gideon said, “**Look at me and do likewise**. And behold, when I come to the outskirts of the camp, **do as I do**” (Judges 7:17).
 - Gideon didn’t really **want** to **lead**, he was **compelled** to by God.
 - And **leadership** means **initiating** what God is **saying** and **doing**. You can’t **hide** your **light!**
 - Another thing that can cause you to hide your **light/treasure** is a **wrong view** of **God**—being **afraid of God**. (Note: this is something different than the holy fear of God)
 - Look at the **man** who **hid** his **treasure** (**Matthew 25:14-30** & Luke 19:12-28)
 - **Talents = money/treasure** in the story (though according to www.etymonline.com our word **talent** comes from the **roots** of **money** or something weighed.
 - **Morning Thought:** The **ice** that **crowns** mountains has tremendous potential. As it melts, its trickles can turn into mighty rivers. So it is with you. As you let the **Father's love melt** your **heart**, a mighty flow of generosity and life flow from you. Don't allow your gifts to be

frozen within. Instead, bask in the warmth of God's loving kindness today. "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting" (Psalms 136:1, NASB).

3) The Holy Spirit's light shines through you when you share the gifts and fruit he has given you (Rom. 12:3-8).

- Specifically, I want to **focus** on the **gifts** of the Spirit
- Romans 12:3-13
- Your gifts bring **light** to **others** and **cause** the **fire** to **spread**.
- **If God's not moving** it has to do with people **hiding** their **gifts**.
 - Once you start to share what God has **given** you, the Holy Spirit **takes off**.
- 1 Cor. 12:4-11
- Let's take a short view of these gifts.
 - They are only **understand** as you **say** what the **Holy Spirit** puts in your heart to say and **do** what he tells you to do.

Conclusion: Let your love burn for one another like a torch. That love should so burn that you are willing to share your light with your congregation and neighbors.

END NOTES

1122 לפד (lqd). Assumed root of the following.

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Mali Music Believe Lyrics

Thinking bout the world looking at the nation
Suicide... genocide... homicide
Three words come to mind...
Times are changing... Yeah!
No more rumors they're wars going on
Twisted doctors, scientist making clones
Economy got some backs against the wall
People dying for no reason at all
People of God don't even read their Bibles
There's no faith no trust in the word...
But everybody seems to be quoting scripture...
It's just another word they heard
Pastors leaving pulpits cause they're tired
It's all based on how we feel
Overheard two people speaking the other day
One said that God's not real but...

**I'm just one ah them ole people who's got to hold on
Sometimes I can't see but I still believe
He's taking care of me... Oh oh oh
I'm just one ah them ole people God's got a hold on
And I believe, I believe, ... Yeah!
I believe I believe... Yeah!**

So I choose to look on the brighter side...
In spite, of all the negativity I'm surrounded by
No it ain't perfect but that's alright
Cause His hand is on me ...
It's keeping me alive
So many disappointments
So much I don't understand
So much I don't have answers for
That's what makes me trust You more
In a world that's always changing...

Everything's rearranging
But no matter what's going on...
Ima be standing... Ima be holding on
Your truth, their truth, my truth
Your god, my God, our view
All I know is one thing nowadays
Is we all need hope we all need faith

[Chorus]

I'm just one ah them ole people who's got to hold on
Sometimes I can't see but I still believe
He's taking care of me... Yes He is
I'm just one ah them ole people God's got a hold on
Don't You let go of me... Lord please
I believe, I believe ..
I'm just one ah them ole people who's got to hold on
Sometimes I can't see but I still believe
He's taking care of me... Yes He is oh oh oh
I'm just one ah them ole people God's got a hold on
I believe I believe
I believe I believe

Read more: Mali Music - I Believe Lyrics | MetroLyrics

MISC PERSONAL NOTES

The man who hid the talents, the treasure.

On the day of Pentecost, tongues of fire came to rest on all the disciples in the Upper Room. They became living torches. They became the pillar of fire that led the Israelites and the cloud that the Lord spoke through.

It's significant that it's a tongue. The tongue is set on fire to speak God's Word, which is fire. Every believer becomes a prophet (Num. 11).

The church in the Upper Room speaks in other tongues and these tongues are a mixture of praise, prayer and proclamation.

God uses our tongues as his weapon to shine his light.

And yet, not just our tongues. The messenger becomes the message.

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel..." (2 Tim. 1:6-10).

“Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you” (2 Tim. 1:14).

“Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances” (1 Thes. 5:19-20).

1 Cor 12-14 & Romans 12

When Jesus talks about not hiding your light under a container, it seems like he’s referring to this passage about Gideon. The release of light means the defeat of the enemy.

All the gifts seem to start with the tongue. You can’t be afraid to speak and ask if people need help. Prayer, prophecy, and praising all involve the tongue. Serving also involves the commitment of the tongue, the keeping of your word.

12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.

14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. (1 Tim. 4:12-15).

1 Peter 4:10

Fear and false humility is the big obstacle. Fear of making a mistake. Fear of judgment. Fear of man. Being afraid of God. Fear of rejection.