

Salted by Fire

*Some excerpts have been used by
Francis Frangipane: "Fire Walk"*

I cannot take credit for all of today's message. Some of it, is a rearrangement of an article written in 2007 Francis Frangipane along with my thoughts. I pray you are blessed and encouraged. I pray He speaks to you, as He spoke to me.

Jesus' walk was neither painless nor effortless, and yours will not be either. Jesus was God, but was also flesh and blood (as a man). He experienced life, friendships, family, separation from loved ones, etc. Perhaps your mind cannot envision the Son of God facing "real problems," such as you face, but He did. Jesus understood suffering. Jesus understood hurt and betrayal.

There are times when life feels like a river over your head, and you feel like you are drowning in life's circumstances. It's anything but pleasant and at times extremely painful. However painful, the water from these very rivers wash away your filth keeping in mind, what the water does not remove, the fire will. You see, the fire purifies.

Peter tells us we should not be "...surprised at the fiery ordeal...which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you" (1 Peter 4:12), and Jesus said, "Everyone will be salted with fire" (Mark 9:49).

You can be assured that Christ never failed, but neither was He aloof from temptations. Rather, the Bible tells us that Jesus was "...tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). He calmed the seas, but He also "...learned obedience through the things which He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8).

He indeed promises you peace, but He, too, had times when He was distressed (Luke 12:49-50), angered (Mark 3:5), and troubled (John 12:27). Yes, power surged from Him causing those who came to arrest Him to fall back (John 18:6), but He also had times when He was weary (John 4:6). Those same beautiful feet that proclaimed the glad tidings, that walked on water, walked the hard road of the Via Dolorosa--the way of suffering.

If you think that Jesus was above temptation, or above inner conflicts, such thinking only blinds you from seeing the reality of what one must go through at times.

Jesus faced and conquered His battles as a man; He had to pray for strength, and trust His Father for justice on the cross, even when He felt forsaken by all. There will be times when, to obey God's will, we must fight our very instincts for survival. Plan on it.

The truth is no believer is exempt from undergoing fiery ordeals or being salted with fire. If you are in a trial, or undergoing a fiery time Jesus understands. Be encouraged!

When you consider the Son of God, you should not isolate Him from the extreme spiritual warfare He faced on many occasions. Beloved, He knows where you are! He knows what you are dealing with, and He can help you!

There will be seasons when you will hurt terribly or be deeply troubled inside. In utter defiance of your own feelings, you will have to say, "Yes" to God. It is at this juncture, beloved, that true spiritual progress is being made.

The fire of God cleanses. The fire of God burns away your self-created image. God's fire humbles you. The fire consumes the dirt and leaving you clean and free. Fire is what you need!

In fact, remind yourself- the Fire is actually part of the process conforming you to be like Jesus.

"But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, not will the flame burn you" (Isaiah 43:1-2).

Beloved, it is time to embrace the fire of God's presence. It is the fire that purifies our sacrifice. Yet, let us stay encouraged, for our God is a consuming fire. The fire is a place of deep intimacy, of power, and of deliverance. Be encouraged, God is a consuming fire and He is with you always!

Some excerpts are taken from Francis Frangipane Ministries, Fire Walk
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