

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

GOD on FIRE

Encountering the Manifest Presence of Christ

CHAPTER ONE Wake Up! God is Burning!

1. What do we mean by “*God on fire*”? How does the author define it? How do you define it in your own words?
2. Compare and contrast the omnipresence of God with His manifest presence. Give several distinctions.
3. With which of the Bible heroes who met *God on fire* do you personally identify?
4. What evidence is given in this chapter to justify the statement, “*God on fire* is why you and I were born”?
5. The author tells his story describing his initial encounter with God’s manifest presence in a friend’s basement while listening to Bob Dylan music. Have you ever encountered God’s manifest presence? Tell your own story.
6. What three miracles are required in order for someone to encounter God’s manifest presence?
7. Why is receiving from God such a big deal?
8. What impresses you from the *God on Fire* in History section regarding Nicholas Ludwig Von Zinzendorf? What did this historic account teach you about God’s manifest presence?
9. Was anything in this chapter new or eye-opening? Be specific.
10. Respond to this statement by Richard Owen Roberts, “The sobering truth is that the greatest hindrance to the growth of Christianity in today’s world is the absence of the manifest presence of God from the Church.”

CHAPTER TWO The Revelation of Jesus Christ

1. Someone in the group read Revelation 1:10-19.
2. What strikes you about these verses? Is there anything surprising about Jesus’ appearance? About His words?
3. Why does the author say, “Jesus is on fire from head-to-toe”? What parts of His body are said to be glowing or on fire? What does this tell us about Jesus?

4. What does the word apocalypse actually mean? What does this tell us about the Book of the Revelation?
5. What do we discover from these verses about God? What do we discover from these verses about ourselves?
6. What is the importance of this statement, “Jesus is the manifest presence of God”? [Don’t rush over this question. In many ways it is the key to the entire study.]
7. Did you learn anything new about St. Patrick? What exactly impressed you? What does this historic account teach us about the manifest presence of God?

CHAPTER THREE Am I Ignitable?

1. What are the four different perspectives on human nature? Which of these perspectives do you think would be the most commonly held in your nation? In your church? Which of these four perspectives is biblically accurate?
2. From what the Bible teaches about human nature why do we say that it is a miracle that anyone can encounter the manifest presence of Christ?
3. A shallow view of human depravity is one of the primary sources of bad theology, particularly when it comes to the topic of revival? Why?
4. What is referred to as the brainstem of the Christian faith? Why?
5. Discuss this statement. “Hunger is miracle-number-one in a long sequence of chain reaction miracles. It creates a spontaneous spiritual combustion that culminates in an encounter with *God on fire*.”
6. Discuss this statement. “Spiritual hunger and spiritual health go hand-in-hand.”
7. How do you respond to Jim Elliot’s prayer? “*Am I ignitable? God deliver me from the dreaded asbestos of other things. Saturate me with the oil of your Spirit that I may be aflame. But flame is transient, often short-lived. Canst thou bear this, my soul-short life? In me there dwells the Spirit of Great Short-Lived whose zeal for God’s house consumed him. And he has promised baptism with the Spirit and with the Fire. Make me thy fuel, Flame of God.*”
8. Did you learn anything new from D. L. Moody in the *God on Fire in History* section? In what way was it a positive motivation for you? What does this historic account teach us about the manifest presence of God?

CHAPTER FOUR Turn Back to the Fire

1. Someone in the group read Revelation 1:10-19. What stands out to you in this account?
2. When we talk about cover-ups in this chapter, what do we really mean?
3. In what way are cover-ups similar to idols?

4. In what way do idols fill the void of the manifest presence of Christ?
5. In what way is lukewarm Christianity the real enemy of the fire of God's manifest presence?
6. What are some of the idols the author exposes from his own life? Can you relate to any of these? Which idols did Jesus expose in the lives of the religious hypocrites of His day?
7. The word repent plays a major role in the Book of the Revelation, calling people to get rid of their cover-ups and return to the manifest presence of Christ. In what way does the word repent need to be applied to the church in your country? To your local church? To your own life?
8. If Jesus is the idol-buster, what idols does He need to bust in your life?
9. While reading the account of the Layman's Prayer Revival, do you feel any aspiration rising in your heart? What would you like to see God do in our day that would have a similar impact? What does this historic account teach us about the manifest presence of God?

CHAPTER FIVE Ruined in the Fire

[There are fewer questions this week, but they are deep and probing. Don't rush through them. There is plenty of material here to generate much discussion.]

1. What do we mean by an I-am-ruined encounter with God? Who in the Bible had such an encounter?
2. Have you ever had such an encounter? Describe to the group what it was like.
3. What is the connection between "falling at Christ's feet as dead" and revival? (Remember; revival is being made alive.)
4. When we encounter Christ, what is it that dies within us? What is it that is revived or made alive within us?
5. What did you learn about St. Augustine that you admire? What do we learn from this historic account from his life regarding the manifest presence of God?

CHAPTER SIX Hand from the Fire

1. Someone in the group read Revelation 1:10-19. What inspires you as you hear this account?
2. What is a then-He-placed-His-right-hand-on-me encounter with God? How is it different than an I-was-ruined encounter with God?
3. What is the significance of the priestly blessing (see Numbers 6:24-26) as it relates to the manifest presence of God?

4. Discuss this statement. “The call of God on an individual’s life is always the result of an encounter with the manifest presence of Christ. Always.”
5. How does this principle apply to the depth of understanding the call of God on your own life?
6. What impact did Christ’s right hand have on the apostle John?
7. Discuss this statement. “When God uses the word ‘holy’, He is essentially saying, ‘Mine!’”
8. What did you learn about Jonathan Edwards that you admire? What does this historic account teach us about the manifest presence of Christ?

CHAPTER SEVEN Holy Spirit on Fire

1. What did the apostle John mean by, “I was in the Spirit”?
2. What is the connection between the Holy Spirit and the manifest presence of Christ?
3. What is the difference between the indwelling presence and the manifest presence of Christ?
4. Why do we refer to the Holy Spirit as the “revealing Spirit”?
5. What did you learn in this chapter about the Trinity?
6. What does it mean to obey the motivating influence of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Thessalonians 5:19)?
7. What does it mean to obey the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 4:30)?
8. What is the connection between being filled with the Holy Spirit and being controlled by the Holy Spirit?
9. Respond to the statement, “We don’t need *The Holy Spirit for Dummies*.”
10. When you read Sarah Edwards’ description of her encounter with the manifest presence of God, what stands out to you? What did you learn from this historic account about the manifest presence of Christ?

CHAPTER EIGHT God’s Word on Fire

1. Why do we refer to the Bible as the ultimate Facebook?
2. With which of the Bible personalities who encountered God’s manifest presence do you most closely identify? In what ways?
3. With which of the Bible promises regarding God’s manifest presence do you connect? Explain.

4. Have you ever encountered God while reading the Bible? When? Describe the moment. What might you do to encounter God more frequently while reading the Bible?
5. In what ways might this chapter help you read the Bible differently from this point forward?
6. What do you admire about John Wesley's life? What does this historic account teach about the manifest presence of God?

CHAPTER NINE Freed and on Fire

1. In what ways can the manifest presence of God be intimidating?
2. Discuss the statement, "The fear of God is one of the most important and yet least understood realities of the Christian life."
3. Describe what we mean by the healthy fear of God?
4. Describe what we mean by the unhealthy fear of God?
5. Have you ever had an unhealthy fear of God? Describe it to the group.
6. Discuss the two definitions of the healthy fear of God. Which of these definitions do you most readily identify?
7. Try writing your own useful definition of the healthy fear of God.
8. The Bible says that perfect love drives out the unhealthy fear of God (see 1 John 4:18). Explain why this is true. Have you experienced it?
9. What do you admire about George Whitfield? What does this historic account teach us about the manifest presence of God?

CHAPTER TEN God's Name on Fire

1. Why is the prayer "Hallowed be Your Name" so strategic? Explain.
2. With which of God's names do you closely identify? Frequently use? Why?
3. Respond to the statement, "The only way to truly know God by name is to know His name by experience." What name of God have you come to know by experience?
4. What do we learn about the manifest presence of God from the Azusa Street revival? What does this historic account teach us about the manifest presence of God?
5. A.W. Tozer said, "There are occasions when for hours I lay prostrate before God without saying a word of prayer or a word of praise—I just gaze on Him and worship." Have you ever had an experience like that? Explain.

CHAPTER ELEVEN He Holds the Keys

1. What were the implications of Jesus statement, “I hold the keys”?
2. Respond to this statement, “There is a corresponding relationship between encountering the manifest presence of Christ and being empowered to carry out the mission of Christ.”
3. Someone in the group read the words of Jesus found in Matthew 16:19. What did Jesus communicate to the disciples when He said, “I give you the keys”?
4. In your own words describe the Kingdom of God.
5. Discuss what we are asking for when we pray, “Your kingdom come.”
6. Have you ever had an I-hold-the-keys encounter with Christ? Explain.
7. What impresses you about the way St. Francis encountered God’s manifest presence? What does this historic account teach about the manifest presence of God?

CHAPTER TWELVE Flame Holders

1. Once again, someone appoint someone in the group to read aloud Revelation 1:10-19. What strikes you in these verses?
2. Of all the word pictures Jesus could have used to describe the church – lectern, library, hospital, soapbox, pulpit – why do you think he chose *flame holders*? What is the significance?
3. What does the term *flame holder* tell us about the role of the church today?
4. Respond to the statement, “Jesus has reversibly connected Himself to the church.”
5. Respond to the statement, “His manifest presence is embedded in the genome of the nature of the church.”
6. In this chapter we get practical – describing specifically what *God on fire* looks like in the local church. Which of these specific characteristics is your church currently experiencing? Which of these characteristics do you long for in greater measure?
7. What is the connection between the manifest presence of Christ and the manifestation gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-9?
8. Discuss Armin Gesswein’s “God’s Laws of Revival.” What strikes a chord in you?
9. What aspect of the Welsh revival do you most long to experience? What does this historic account teach about the manifest presence of God?

10. If you personally encountered the manifest presence of Christ through the day, in what ways would your life be different? Be specific.
11. If your family encountered the manifest presence of Christ on a regular basis, what difference would it make? Be specific.
12. What changes would you see in your local church if your congregation continually encountered the manifest presence of Christ? Be specific.
13. Respond to the statement, "The hope of the world is the manifest presence of Christ in the middle of the church."

EPILOGUE

1. Describe the manifest presence of Christ in the garden. (See Genesis 1-3.)
2. Describe the manifest presence of Christ in the final city. (See Revelation 21-22.)
3. Compare and contrast the temple-garden and the temple-city.
4. Respond to the statement, "The manifest presence of Christ is the normal Christian experience."
5. Discuss the words of A.W. Tozer when he said, "The highest accomplishment of humanity is entering the overwhelming presence of God. Our whole purpose of created beings is to utilize our time delighting in the manifest presence of our creator."
6. How has *God on Fire* affected your prayer life?
7. How has *God on Fire* affected the way you view the church?
8. How has *God on Fire* impacted your aspirations, visions and dreams?
9. What action steps is God calling you to take?