

The Indestructible Man (Kansas City) - Part 2

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon emphasizes the need for a deeper relationship with God, a call to repentance and baptism, and the importance of authenticity in preaching.

Duration: 41:34

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:38, Daniel 3:25, Luke 3:7-9, Luke 3:12, John 1:29, John 1:31

Topics: "John The Baptist"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the three things that are missing in modern preaching: immensity, intensity, and eternity. He believes that if a sermon does not touch on eternity or evoke a sense of awe and reverence, it is not effective. The preacher also discusses the importance of repentance and the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. He uses biblical references, such as John the Baptist's preaching and the story of Solomon's altar, to illustrate his points. The sermon concludes with a call for personal transformation and a plea for God's fire to fall upon the congregation.

Transcript

So you have this massive corruption, and John the Baptist came. Poor guy. God didn't give him his chance.

Supposing God had taken the pillar of fire that led Israel through the wilderness. Supposing he put it in the wilderness and said, and everybody said, what's that? It's the pillar of fire that led our fathers. He didn't do that.

Supposing the Holy Ghost had come like a dove. He didn't come like that. And here's John Baptist.

What did he have? I'll tell you what he didn't have. He had no priestly robes. He had no altar.

He had no sacrifice. He had no choir. He had no formality.

If you come through town and you've seen the high priest in his garments of glory and beauty, you'd say, how wonderful. It tells us here what kind of people were here. I'll tell you what kind of people who were here that are not mentioned.

There were two kinds of people watching John the Baptist every day. One found John. They looked on John with great amusement and the others looked on John with great amazement.

Some said, look at the freak. That's an old camel skin. The old fleas are jumping off it.

He's a rugged, ragged man. Do you remember the other side of that gap? Malachi in the last chapter says, the Lord whom we seek shall suddenly come to his temple. We're not seeking the Lord today.

We're seeking signs and wonders and miracles. Forget it. I've lived through a period when I came to America first in 1950.

There were a host of evangelists. Oral Roberts was not so well known. Jack Cole was very well known.

A. A. Allen was well known. There were strings of men in this country with five thousand, six thousand, seven thousand seated tents. And they had signs and wonders and miracles.

People were lining up, bringing people in wheelchairs who were healed and walking away. What did it do? They went back to their beer. They went back to their dancing.

They were not regenerate. They were not changed. They saw the miracles.

Who saw more miracles than the children of Israel? Did it lead them to holiness? It led them to rebellion. He said in verse three of this chapter. He, John the Baptist came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of Esau.

Where is that? The prophet saying the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord. And listen, this is how he preached. I was going to say to you as that brother preached about fire.

This man had a tongue hotter than the tail of a scorpion. No, he had a tongue that was like a laser beam. Do you know what you're doing with the Bible? You never have an altar call.

I'm trusting the Holy Ghost will burn in you this morning with so shame to your barrenness. You'd be so convicted of your prayerlessness. Some of your own children are going to hell and you haven't shed a tear over them.

Your own church is bankrupt and you sleep all night or watch TV for hours and don't pray for 10 minutes. So America isn't going to a head-on destruction. It isn't going to a head-on clash with Russia.

Dear brother, whether you believe that or not, I don't. But anyhow, both America and Russia are going. If you get past the clash together, we're heading for Armageddon anyhow.

And after that we're heading for the judgment seat of Christ, the most awesome thing that's ever happened. We're on a collision course. I don't know whether this morning or yesterday, I forget so quickly.

But I was thinking about last year, one of the popular magazines, it took a census across the nation. Are you afraid? Yes. What's your number one fear? I can't give the exact quotation, how it came out, tabulated.

But one was, I'm afraid that we'll have an atomic war. Number two, I'm afraid I may get cancer. Number three, I'm afraid my daughter, 16, may come home and pregnant.

Or my son, 18, may come home with AIDS. And so it went on. I'm afraid of an atomic war.

I'm afraid that the financial world is going to collapse. You know I was saved last year, not on the 19th, when all the banks were going to fold up, it was the 20th. You know, held the world together.

A little English woman, she doesn't know that much about money. But the friend of a friend of mine is one of the key men in world finance. He called that little English woman and said, what should we do? She said, don't close all the banks.

No. They said, we're going to close all the banks. Let all the money float.

Don't do that. Why not? She said, call me back in an hour. He called back in an hour.

And she said, it's all right. Listen, this is fact. It won't be reported in magazines.

We're not allowed to give God any credit. You know what happened? That precious woman called the leading intercessor in 30 different nations in an hour. And said, listen, the whole economy of the world is going to collapse.

Stand with me in prayer. And in the book in eternity, you'll see the books open, and that little woman will come forth. She saved the economy of the world, along with 30 other intercessors around the world.

And after they prayed, some superman, my friend's friend knows him, but won't give his name. He said, I don't know his name. He said, he put all his billions of dollars and refloated all the banks in the world.

Otherwise on the 20th of October last year, not the 19th, the 20th, the whole world economy would have collapsed. And a praying woman with 30 other intercessors. And you think intercession doesn't count? I would rather be an intercessor than be the greatest priest in the world.

I'm too old to want anything. No, I want a new intimacy with God. I want a new touch of fire on my soul before this day is through, before this meeting is through.

I can't wait. I've heard for 50 years, there's an awakening around the corner, there's an awakening around the corner. God help us, I can't wait.

Oh, there's going to be a new awakening in five years. In between a million people will die without God. To use Wesley's words, I'm asking God to open a door, which earth and hell may strive to shut, but strive in vain.

So John was preaching. If you go back to the account, I won't do that. If you go back to Matthew's account, he talks about the pulling power of this fire-bred prophet.

Again, God was going to lead Israel by a pillar of fire. It doesn't give a pillar of fire, it gives you a man on fire. A man who has touched God.

Dear God, I've seen a thousand, ten thousand bumper stickers, God is love. Forget it, God is fire. Change it.

I suppose Solomon built the most extravagant building that was ever built, till Bob Shuler came. Bob Shuler, what did he build? He built a glass house. Do you know what it caused? It caused a greenhouse effect on evangelism in America.

Poor Bob. You know, Solomon used gold like we use cement. He got all his priests dressed up, he got the choir in order, he got an altar of gold, pure gold.

He had everything in order, but there was one thing missing. Altar is no good, sacrifice is no good, unless the fire falls. Remember he prayed and cried, let the fire fall, and the glory of God so came the priest couldn't minister.

I want to go to meetings like that Mike. If your grief over your bankruptcy gets so bad you can't stay there, you feel it's burning, get up walk to the altar. You may be the key to revival, if you can get your pride burned up, your self-satisfaction, your self-sufficiency.

Okay, let me rush to this now. He's preaching to the multitude in verse 7. They came to be baptized of John, and he called them a generation of vipers. Isn't that wonderful? The ecclesiastical guys in the dog collars, that's like me going into the papacy or, or Westminster Abbey and saying to all the people, you swine.

Do you think I'd be voted man of the year? Do you think if John the Baptist preached once on TV he'd ever get back again? We don't have a voice in America today, they're all echoes. They all borrow what the other man has done. There's no man lying in the presence of God till he hardly dare open his mouth.

I got two precious brothers with me, brother Bracey and brother Sonny. We have a prayer meeting on Thursday mornings, and it's wonderful. Bracey's the moderator, he's a very wonderful man.

Bracey was in Africa for a few years. How many years? Five? Terribly hot. He didn't leave because it was hot, but he left.

Sonny, Bracey was in Africa a few years, and it was too hot. Sonny was in hell for a number of years, and it was too hot, so he got out of it. Do you know where God trained him? In the bowels of ships, at a stevedore, down in Houston amongst the roughest, toughest men.

Do you know why he challenges me? He brought an offering to God. He brought his house. He takes boys off the streets.

He takes the incurables, and God cures them. He's always working on a shoestring. Do you see that? What's a couple crouches? I wish they did crouch.

On TBN, made an appeal the other week for money, got 25 million dollars, gone hell with the judgment. I heard T-E, what's it, E-B, E-B, how is it? What? Oh, E-B Hill. Boy, I enjoyed that dear old black man.

Do you know one thing he said with a big voice of his, you know? Watch who your children marry. Don't let them marry anybody. You don't get racehorses out of mules.

Isn't that a good one? Then sister, what's her name? His name, Jan, Jan. She's there with a pink wig on. I thought, imagine pulling it off to wipe the feet of Jesus.

E-B Hill was mocking the Christian women. He said the Christian women are late for church. They found they had the wrong wig on, so they went home to change it.

You have a yellow one on Sundays, a silver one on Mondays, a brown one on Tuesdays, a red one on Wednesdays, and heaven help you if you get the wrong one. Isn't it pathetic what's happening in the

church of the living God? Let me tell you this a minute here. Verse 7 says, the multitude came forth, he called them a generation of vipers.

Now look, this is preaching. In verse 10 it says, the people asked him, what shall we do? Notice that? Verse 9, the people said, what shall we do? Look at verse 12, then came the publicans to be baptized and said, what shall we do? Then the soldiers came and said, what shall we do? That's preaching. There's no alter car.

The Roman soldiers, Kipling would call them the lesser breeds outside of the law. They'd come from a country of gods and priests. But when they heard John the Baptist, they said, what shall we do? How do I get rid of this leprosy within? How do I get rid of this bondage? How do I get rid of my pollution? What shall we do? The people cried, the publicans cried, the soldiers cried.

And when the Holy Ghost hits you, you cry. You won't sit there nursing your your feebleness, nursing your prayerlessness, nursing your coldness. You should have got up and been at the altar already here, when the brother was preaching.

You can't buy this anointing. I thank God for the incorruptible Holy Ghost. Again, the Holy Ghost doesn't do anything small.

He made the world. He made the Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He came on a bunch of men in the upper room that were failures.

And what did he do? He turned the world upside down. Are you going to do it again? Let me look here. In St. John's account, it says this in chapter 1. This is the record of John, chapter 1 and verse 19 says, this is the record of John, when the Jews and priests, look at them, priests and Levites came from Jerusalem to ask him, now look, I'll tell you something that this man didn't have.

He didn't have a mass transport system to get people to see him. He's in the most difficult place. He didn't have altars.

He didn't have a choir. He didn't have any financial backing. Again, he had no pillar of fire there.

Again, there wasn't a man on earth had ever seen a prophet. And it says he came in the spirit and power of Elijah. And then you say, but Elisha had a double portion of spirit.

But listen, it was Elijah who was on the Mount of Transfiguration. It was Elijah that this man was likened to. It's Elijah that lies in the streets, isn't it? In Jerusalem at the end of time.

And here is another addition. God has brought us this fearless anointed man. Look at verse 33, please.

Pardon me, verse 31. Let me back up again. Verse 29.

The next day, what next day? John Jesus coming unto him and said, Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away what? This is a misquoted verse. It doesn't say the sins of the world. It says the sin of the world.

The very essence of sin. The very nature of sin. God is of holier eyes and to behold iniquity.

Well, how as Wesley says, God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain God. But God was contracted to a span and pushed into the womb of a woman. How do you explain it? There's no explanation for the

incarnation.

God was contracted to a span. I don't understand how God became man. But lest do I understand how he became sin.

It says here, the Lamb of God. Do you know that's the most terrifying expression? Who were there? The priests and the Levites. Do you know what he's saying? Listen you priests.

This word declares your bankruptcy. Your altars are obsolete. Your lifestyle is obscene.

You're out of business. I tell you, I believe the very gates of hell tremble. This is about all John said.

Behold the Lamb of God. He didn't say the Lamb of Israel. He didn't say the Lamb of the high priest.

He didn't say the Lamb of the people. He said the Lamb of God. And they knew.

They knew instinctively because they knew the word of God. That the Lamb that was made a sacrifice was spotless. The priest had to look over it from head to tail and test it.

And see it had no warts. See it had no disease. See it had no incapacities.

Check its eyes to see they were seeing. And its ears to see they were hearing. And he said this is the Lamb of God.

This is the most perfect Lamb that ever was. Isaac Watts wrote some great hymns. He's most famous when I survey the wondrous cross.

He's got a famous Christmas hymn. Joy to the world the Lord is come. But he wrote this hymn too.

Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain could take one guilty conscience. Make one guilty conscience clean nor wash away the stain. But Christ the heavenly Lamb.

How many lambs had they sacrificed by the high priest through all the system that they had of sacrifices. I like what brother David said. Every offering in the Old Testament.

Every sacrifice had to have fire. And fire hurts. You can't have the baptism with the Holy Ghost without it hurting you.

It will burn up your career. It will change your direction. It will alter your lifestyle.

It will alter your vocabulary. I'm going to. This is.

I'm talking about the. I'm talking here about John the Baptist. The incandescent man.

Tomorrow morning I want to talk about the indestructible man. But listen. Here is a perfect Lamb.

John. John the Apostle wrote about John the Baptist. Behold the Lamb of God.

I'm going to tell you. See. You know what? We preach the terribly handicapped.

You know it's handicapped just for this thing. I preached at a church last Sunday morning. Didn't hold 200 people.

They had an amplifying unit. John Wesley at my age. 82.

Preached to 80,000 people. Everybody heard him. In the old Crystal Palace in London.

Mr. I nearly said doctor. Never claimed that. Or a reverend.

Spurgeon. Not too long before he died. He spoke to 27,562 people I think it was.

Maybe that's an exaggeration. 2561 I think it was. 27,651 or 2 people and everybody heard him.

We've no voices anymore. We don't have anointing. So we turn up the amplifying.

Have a switch here. Shout. In arguments we shout.

People not being moved. Shed a tear. Listen.

There's more to preaching than flaming oratory and surface tears. I'm craving that old-fashioned preaching will come back. There are three things missing in modern preaching.

Immensity, intensity and eternity. If you don't touch eternity in a meeting, I don't care how eloquent the man was. If you don't shrink it sometime, I don't care.

If you don't feel, dear God, I'm unclean. I thought it was all right. Behold the Lamb of God.

It echoed down the Jordan Valley. It echoed down every cavern in hell. Jesus has been living 32 years to say, I bring fire on earth.

And now John is introducing him. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. That's a painful experience.

I felt the same as you mentioned David a bit earlier. Some people cringe yesterday when, when brother Mike was talking about money. Because he said, we talk about prosperity.

I'll tell you what the Bible name for it is. Covetousness, which is as a sin of idolatry for which you could be stoned. Do you know while he was saying that, I could see a parade.

I had a vision of hundreds of men walking down the road. And they had a Bible in one hand and a bank book in the other. And for some of you, the thing that's keeping you from getting the anointing of God is, you're living in the Old Testament.

You say, I don't live in the Old Testament. I say you do. Why? Because you give God a tenth of your income.

If Jesus had said to the rich young ruler, give a tenth. He was already giving a tenth. He kept all the commandments.

If Jesus said, well double it, he'd have doubled it. But Jesus didn't say, give me a bit more, give me it all. It's all or nothing.

Do you know what Christianity is? Christianity is Christ plus nothing. If you believe that, you'll be running to the altar not clapping. You'll get that thing you've been craving for us.

Do you know what? You'll get on fire for God as I've said. One reason we don't have revival is, we're content to live without it. The reason you don't have it, there's something you're hanging on to.

It may not be bad. It may be pretty good. But it's not the best.

It's keeping you. It's got you in bondage. You know sometimes we want liberating.

And the best thing is, as brother mentioned in another way, the best thing is we go through trouble. Where was, where were the three Hebrew children? Everybody in town knew they prayed three times a day. But when they got in the midst of the fire, they saw the form of the fourth.

And you're in the midst of the fire. You're asking a pastor to pray you out of it. That's why God wants you to reveal Christ to your family.

Christ to your church. Let me skip on quickly now. I will skip on quickly.

Verse 31 says, I knew him not. So there you are. It was his own cousin.

He didn't know him. John had been dwelling with the wild beasts. He didn't know Jesus.

But it says here, I knew him not. For the Spirit bear record saying, I saw the Spirit descend from heaven upon him. Now listen to this verse.

I knew him not. That's the second time he says that. But he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me upon whom thou should see the Spirit descending.

He didn't say that. But what did he say? He said on whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining. Pentecost is not something that happened.

Pentecost is a relationship. I got married to my darling wife. We've been married since our 50th year.

And she's more precious now than ever she was. Why? Because I'm not depending on a piece of paper I got to tell me 50 years ago I married Martha Wilson. It's a relationship.

And if you have a true experience of God, it's not an event where you had a wonderful transformation and spoke in tongues every day you live. It's a new anointing. It's a new revelation.

It's a new vision. It's a new compassion. I said to dear David on the platform, David if 120 people out of, there are 10 times that number here, if 120 people catch fire, we could change the history of America.

If you got so filled with God that you didn't go anywhere, you didn't go to lunch, you say I can't live. I'm tired of being so bound. What did the fire do to the three Hebrew children? It burned off the fetters the world put on them.

That's all it did. It didn't burn the hair. It didn't burn the clothes.

They were transformed men and the nation had to take notice of them. I better hurry on this. Why is it people have craved for this? There was a meeting not as big as this in England over a hundred years ago and the committee were on the platform and one of them got a list and he said William Booth you are appointed to be the pastor at so-and-so.

Mrs. Booth got up and she said not so William and when they got outside he took hold of the hand of his wife. She had the curvature of the spine. She's the genius.

He was a genius. He's the moneymaker. He's half Jew and half Gentile.

She was the prayer power. She prayed with an almost awesome power. So what happened? He says I waited until the Holy Ghost came.

In my office I have an American flag and I have the Salvation Army flag and on it it says the battle song of this man who wasn't a poet. This is what William Booth wrote. Thou Christ of burning cleansing flames send the fire.

Thy blood-bought gift today we claim. Send the fire. Look down and see this waiting host.

Give us the promised Holy Ghost. We want another Pentecost. Send the fire.

To make our weak hearts strong and brave. Send the fire. To live a dying world to save.

The greatest world population is now five billion. We're going to get to it by reshuffling our theological cards. God has to do more than bless us.

He has to invade us, purify us, cleanse us, direct us. He says to make our weak hearts strong and brave. Send the fire.

To live a dying world to save. Send the fire. O see us on thine altar lay our lives out all this very day.

God doesn't want your stinking money. He doesn't want your career. He wants your spirit, your soul and body to be a living sacrifice.

And when we get there the fire comes. The fire comes because you won't let go of what you've got. You won't let go of your pride.

You're such a wonderful preacher. You're such a good deacon. You're such a good cynic.

Forget it. Brother you're on the brink of bankruptcy. Admit it.

There are areas of this world that will be reached through this meeting today if we obey God. There'll be new missionaries born. There'll be new men with vision.

There'll be new men with passion. There'll be new men with holocaust anointing. The woman will be writing home to her mother and say my daddy, my husband went to Kansas but it's not the same man that came back.

Your children will be saying mommy what's happened to daddy? He prays but he never watches tv anymore. He prays. My daddy's weeping in the other room.

He's never done that. I don't believe you can have the anointing of the Holy Ghost. You say but it doesn't say a word about the prayer life of John Baptist.

Of course it doesn't. He was nurtured in prayer. He was born in prayer.

The greatest prayer meeting in the world was held. With who? A woman a hundred years of age. Simeon nearly a hundred years of age.

Do you wonder he was born filled with the Holy Ghost? Do you wonder kings tremble because of him? Do you wonder like a fire there's nothing more attractive than fire? And people came from every level. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria. Geographically they came socially different levels.

The people, the publicans and the soldiers, they came from every religious standpoint. They've never seen anything. This is a phenomenon.

They're like most people in America. They've never been to a meeting where God comes. I never get you to sing emotionally.

There's room at the cross for you. Brother there isn't room at the cross. There's room on the cross.

If you'll come to your death don't come to it. Get on it. It will be painful to be crucified.

Your pastor will discourage you more than anybody else. People in the church will say look at the sign on the church of the Pentecostal church. Ask them where is the fire? Listen to what's it Wesley says.

Oh Wesley cries out. Just like William Booth cried. They'd known they'd seen the fire of God.

They read church history. Listen let me quickly try and rush this. You know we have such weird ideas of blessing.

You think you have to stand here. One of the most powerful witnesses for revival died weighing less than 90 pounds. I was a youth leader in our church.

I got the people to pray. Somehow when God filled me with the Holy Ghost boy I needed to pray. And I prayed with fire.

And the old people in the church didn't like it. I thought they'd see it sometime. But I'll tell you what.

God changed the whole of our youth. We never had any entertainment. We prayed Friday night.

We prayed when everybody's in bed Sunday morning. I went into the forest and tied my mother's little dog to the stump of the tree. And I prayed at night.

I got up and I stood over a hill and said God send revival to my city. If you weep over Jerusalem I'll weep over my city. Do you know what happened? Three years after I started preaching that city was shaken with revival.

Because I prayed no. Because across the tracks there was a little Pentecostal preacher by the name of Jewett. J-E-W-I-T-T.

That little man had three breakdowns. Not mentally physically. By fasting.

His wife said when you pass, when you pass his room. You would think he was wrestling with the devil himself. He fasted and prayed and said I won't die till revival comes to my city.

George Jeffries came. One of the greatest preachers I ever heard. Not an eloquent preacher.

But he had the anointing of God. The whole city was shaken. I called my wife, my dear sister a couple of months ago.

I said Annie, how is Bridge Street? You see, you see the greatest abomination in America is evangelists that come and stay a night and off they go. They get big advertising, big crowds, big offerings and leave nothing. It isn't how you preach.

It isn't just what you preach. The greatest evangelist and best known, better than Billy Graham was D.L. Moody. And Dr. Chaucer said to me Len, remember Moody murdered King's English.

He said Jerusalem in one word Jerusalem, not Jerusalem, one slurring word. He said Daniel, Daniel. What happened? He went to London.

For what? One night? He stayed six weeks. The whole city was shaken. He went from London to Scotland.

It wasn't, it still is I think the greatest country of preachers. What happened? Oh there's an American coming. Boy his English is poor.

His exposition not clever. But there's something about him. There's something around you.

Who was the greatest preacher in Scotland? Alexander White. Not before or since. Has anybody preached like Alexander White? He went and sat on the platform spellbound and said I can't explain this man except there's something mysterious about him that God is upon him.

There's a wonderful book called The Greatest Thing in the World, Henry Drummond. Henry Drummond went and sat there and listened to him. The greatest man in Scotland came.

Why? Because he's a man on fire for God. He had a passion. Cultured Englishmen don't weep when they preach but he wept.

These brilliant men that knew their Hebrew knew their Greek was spellbound. By a Chicago salesman. One thing now finish with it.

In the reign of Charles II in England the greatest preacher was John Owen. He has about 12 or 15, he has six of his books. He has about five on the Holy Spirit.

So John Owen was preaching. He preached at every government celebration. The king called for him one day and he said Dr. Owen, in his ancient English, he said thou art the greatest preacher in the world today Dr. Owen.

I call you to preach before the government. I call you to preach in parliament. I call you to preach before the courts when kings come.

But he said Dr. Owen I've heard a strange thing about thee. You're loaded with wisdom. And he said no man can hold a crowd like you do.

But Dr. Owen I've kept repeatedly hearing that you go down the road to air a babbling Baptist. He doesn't have your authority. Please don't go to that man.

John Owen said your majesty I would take off my scarf. I would take off my robes and I would kneel at the feet of this babbling Baptist that you call Bunyan. John Bunyan a tinker, a man without education.

But he has something this nation has never seen. And he said king your majesty I would give all I have to get that. I'll surrender my talents, my gifts and all the privilege if only I can get one anointing like that.

Dear friends I'm glad the Holy Ghost can't be bought. He says your money perish with you. He'll use you when he can release you.

Let me say this fire releases doesn't it? Fire burns up every fetter. God has a habit of breaking things that he uses. He took the alabaster box of ointment but he broke it first.

Jesus took bread and break it. Jesus says this is my body which is broken for you. Why are you trying to save yourself? Bunyan wrote a little phrase I learned only a few days ago.

He said there was a man the world thought mad. The more he gave the more he had. And it doesn't begin by giving.

You say if I own more. In other words you say if I owned a bakery I give it to God. He has to give you five rows and two fishes not a bakery.

You can't give him what you don't have. You can't even give him what you do have. I'll tell you what it cost to follow the Lord.

I got all my business things raised up. I had about 200 samples of the best cloths made in England. I'd taken the training to design clothes and so forth.

I was doing quite well and the Lord said no. I was talking about a bracelet the other day. What's that hymn we used to sing bracelet? I will praise him.

How many of you know that chorus? I will praise him. Praise the lamb for sinners slain. Do you know that? Give him glory all ye people for his blood can wash away his sins.

What about the second stanza? When God's fire upon the altar of my life was set aflame my ambitions plans and wishes are my feet in ashes lay. You say my life isn't beautiful. He gives beauty for ashes.

He gives the oil of joy for mourning. If these people are really mourning for God here and not just out of self-pity they'll get over the oil of joy. Every church they represent will be quickened.

God doesn't inhabit golden palaces or glass palaces. He invades human personality. So Wesley says refining fire go through my heart, illuminate my soul, scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole.

In other words hymns. How does it begin? I think this is one I love the most. He wrote 200 years ago.

Come Jesus Lord with holy fire, not with blessing, not with prosperity. Come Jesus Lord with holy fire. Come and my quickened heart inspire, cleanse with thy precious blood.

Now to my soul thyself reveal, thy mighty working let me feel, since I am born of God. Me with a quenchless thirst inspire, a longing infinite desire and fill my craving heart. Now here's the crux of it.

Less than thyself oh do not give. I don't need blessing, I need God. I don't just need revelation, I need God.

I'm moving I want by the grace of God to live, move and have my being in God. I'm getting old and frail, my body's weaker. I guess I sleep less than any man here.

I've learned to, I've become the master of the thing. Go to bed at nine o'clock, lengthen your life, get up at midnight. I got into bed at three o'clock this morning and I feel as fresh as ever in my life.

To use a almost vulgar phrase, my body's getting frail but I got a fire in my belly. What did Jeremiah say? Thy word is a fire in my bones. It burns.

If it won't, doesn't burn in me, why should I expect it to burn in you? But listen again, he says, me with a quenchless thirst inspire, a longing infinite desire and fill my craving heart. Dear Mike, since I left here I've prayed every day, God keep this place clean. You see we're heading for a collision with the Church of Rome.

We're fighting cults. America gave to the world Mormonism. America gave to the world Jehovah's Witnesses.

Now we have more gurus in this nation. We have more false gods than any nation on earth. Why? Because the living God has been driven out of the sanctuary.

We'd rather clap and dance and break our hearts and mourn in his presence till the glory comes. We're trying to work something up, it has to come down. I hope I last another, I think I will last another year.

Next year we get 500 extra chairs, somebody may have to stand. God's going to do something in this city, I tell you that. I'm not saying that to encourage these fellows.

You see all the staff sit on the front row, have you noticed that? The scripture says the pharisees love the front seats in the synagogue but they still may catch fire. There's a precious bunch of men here, they've given up careers. David could be at Oxford beating his brains out studying some ancient language and here he is working in dirty old cancer, I mean cancers.

You know an experience of God that costs nothing is worth nothing and it does nothing. The old Methodist, I'll take five minutes, the old Methodist Fox Jackson said, I want dear Lord, I want dear Lord, I want dear Lord, I want dear Lord,

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