

God's Presence With Man: 3

Forged In The Fire of God's Presence

Exodus 3.2-10

Moses' experience at the burning bush was a call to ministry. He was first attracted to the fire which did not consume the bush. Of course there were years before that where he was being prepared in the desert, proving his worth by tending the flock of sheep belonging to his father in law.

Some time later, after they had come out of Egypt...

Exodus 33.11

Joshua stays on in the Tabernacle. He does not leave the presence of God.

What was he doing there? - Being prepared for ministry (to lead God's people into the promised land)

The next time we read of Joshua is in Numbers 13.16 where he is one of those chosen to spy out the land of Canaan.

What qualified him for this ministry? - We read in Numbers 14.24 that Caleb (and Joshua) had 'another spirit' - this had been forged in the fire of God's presence.

The Bible says that "[our God is a consuming fire](#)" (Hebrews 12.29)

1 Samuel 13.14

David was "[a man after God's own heart](#)" this too came from an insatiable desire for the presence of God. We see evidence of this in the psalms and songs that he wrote.

Acts 4.13

It was noted by the authorities in Jerusalem that the disciples were uneducated and untrained men. They also realised that they had been with Jesus – they had spent time in His (physical) presence.

Something happens to those who spend time with God, which is evident to everyone. This was seen in the disciples and we also see this in the case of Moses

Exodus 34.29-35

Moses had such an anointing on him that came from being in the presence of God that his face glowed like a light bulb so that he had to cover it with a veil.

Acts 2.3 The Holy Spirit came upon the believers in the form of a tongue, which looked like fire. God Himself came upon these disciples and His presence filled them. They had been told to wait for this infilling before commencing any ministry (Luke 24.49; Acts 1.8) – ministry is forged in the fire!

In the fire:

- Gold or silver can only be purified and made valuable if it is refined in the fire – If we are to be or do anything for God it will come only as a result of being forged in the fire of His presence.
- Iron can only be fashioned and shaped into the creation that the blacksmith has in mind if it goes through the fire

Fire cleanses, purges and purifies – all that is not of God is burned off so that which is pure remains.

1 Corinthians 3.13

“each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.”

1 Peter 1.7

“that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”