

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR DESIRE

Psalms 63:8 *My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.*

Psalms 63:8 (The Amplified Version)

8 My whole being follows hard after You and clings closely to You; Your right hand upholds me.

FOLLOWETH HARD (STRONG'S) = **to impinge, i.e. cling or adhere; figuratively, to catch by pursuit:**

KJV-- abide fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take.

Definition of "IMPINGE": "to make an impression; have an effect or impact"

FOLLOWETH HARD (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 1692 dabaq-
to cling, to stick, to stay close, to cleave, to keep close, to stick to, to stick with, to follow closely, to join to, to overtake, to catch

2) **to pursue closely**

3) **to overtake**

DESIRE SEPARATES THOSE WHO WOULD BE EXTRAORDINARY FROM THE ORDINARY:

Proverbs 18:1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

THE POWER OF DESIRE:

Proverbs 10:24 The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: **but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.**

Psalms 10:17 **LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble:** thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Psalms 37:3-5

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 **Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.**

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DESIRE, FAITH, AND PRAYER:

Mark 11:22-24

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, **What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**

DESIRE PRECEDES FAITH: We will not believe for something that we do not desire!

FAITH PRODUCES FOCUS: Without desire-induced faith, we CANNOT have focus!

THE LORD'S DESIRE — THE ZEAL OF THINE HOUSE HATH EATEN ME UP:

John 2:13-17

13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up [Psalms 69:8-9].

John 2:17 (The Amplified Version)

17 And His disciples remembered that it is written [in the Holy Scriptures], Zeal (the fervor of love) for Your house will eat Me up. [I will be consumed with jealousy for the honor of Your house.] [Psalms 69:9.]

John 2:17 (The Bible in Basic English)

17 And it came to the minds of the disciples that the Writings say, I am on fire with passion for your house.

John 2:17 (Weymouth's Translation)

17 This recalled to His disciples the words of Scripture, "My zeal for Thy House will consume me."

John 2:17 (Contemporary English Version)

17 The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire."

John 2:17 (New Century Version)

17 When this happened, the followers remembered what was written in the Scriptures: "My strong love for your Temple completely controls me."

John 2:17 (The Message Bible)

17 That's when his disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

Isaiah 59:16-17

16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.
17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and **was clad with zeal as a cloke.**

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

OUR ZEAL SHOULD BE A MOTIVATOR OF OTHERS:

2 Corinthians 9:1-2

1 For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:

2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and **your zeal hath provoked [GREEK = to stimulate, to stir up] very many.**

DESIRE PRODUCES "SPIRITUAL ADDICTION":

1 Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and **that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,**)

DEFINITION OF "TO ADDICT": **to give (oneself) up to some strong habit**

(from **UBS Translator Handbook Series**)

[Devoted themselves]: **the Greek is literally "appointed themselves," that is, they saw a need and took upon themselves the responsibility of meeting it.**

THE KING'S TEPID DESIRE:

2 Kings 13:16-19

16 And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

17 And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, **The arrow of the LORD's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.**

18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, **Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.**

MY COMMENTARY: The King's tepid desire caused the Lord to withdraw His promise of total victory.

OUR INNER CAVITY — THE PLACE OF DESIRE:

COMMENTARY: We all have our own capacity for desire. It comes from the inner "emptiness" which we are born with. We must choose what source we will use to fill that emptiness. Those who are extreme in sin usually have the same capacity for God.

John 7:37-39

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

BELLY (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 2836 koilia (koy-lee'-ah); from koilos ("hollow"); a cavity, i.e. (especially) the abdomen; by implication, the matrix; figuratively, the heart:

KJV-- belly, womb.

BELLY (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 2836 koilia-

- 1) the whole belly, the entire cavity the upper (that is, stomach) and the lower belly are distinguished
- 4) the womb, the place where the fetus is conceived and nourished until birth; used of the uterus of animals
- 5) **the innermost part of a man, the soul, heart as the seat of thought, feeling, choice**

BELLY (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = koilia ^2836^, from *koilos*, "hollow" (Lat., *coelum*, "heaven," is connected), denotes the entire physical cavity, but most frequently was used to denote "the womb." In <John 7:38> it stands metaphorically for the innermost part of man, the soul, the heart.

NEVER THIRST (FOR THIS WORLD):

John 4:10-15

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

THE UNTRANSLATED GREEK WORDS IN VERSE 14:

FOR (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1519 eis (ice); a primary preposition; to or into (indicating the point reached or entered), of place, time, or (figuratively) purpose (result, etc.); also in adverbial phrases:

FOR (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 1519 eis-
into, unto, to, toward, for, among;

THIS (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 3588 ho (including the feminine he, and the neuter to)- this, that, these, etc.

WORLD (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 165 aion-
1) forever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity
2) the worlds, the universe
3) a period of time, an age

COMMENTARY: The untranslated Greek words in the Greek text for verse 14 can be translated "for this world." This makes sense because the Word of God tells to hunger and thirst after the Lord's kingdom and His righteousness. If drinking of the living water will cause us to "never thirst" then this would be a contradiction in the Bible. However, what Jesus actually said was that the living water would cause us to "never thirst for this world."

John 4:14 (Young's Literal Translation)

14 but whoever may drink of the water that I will give him, **may not thirst -- to the age**; and the water that I will give him shall become in him a well of water, springing up to life age-during.'

WE ARE TO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JESUS:

Philippians 4:11-13

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: **every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply **all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Luke 10:42 **But one thing is needful:** and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:42 **(THE AMPLIFIED VERSION)**

42 **There is need of only one** [or but a few things]. Mary has chosen the good portion [that which is to her advantage], which shall not be taken away from her.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

HUNGER (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 3983 peinao-
2) metaphorically, **to crave ardently, to seek with eager desire**

Luke 1:53 **He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

Luke 6:21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

THIRST (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 1372 dipsao-

1) to suffer thirst, to suffer from thirst; **figuratively, those who are said to thirst who painfully feel their want of, and eagerly long for, those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, strengthened**

Psalms 107:9 **For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.**

DAVID'S HUNGER AND THIRST FOR GOD'S OWN HEART:

1 Samuel 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: **the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart**, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

Acts 13:21-23

21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, **I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.**

23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Psalms 42:1-2

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

Psalms 63:1-2

1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Psalms 27:4 **One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after;** that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

Psalms 84:2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

DESIRE PRODUCES FOCUS, PERSISTENCE, AND DETERMINATION:

Isaiah 62:1-7

1 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

3 Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

4 Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

5 For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

THE PASSION OF JESUS:

Acts 1:1-3

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and **compel them to come in**, that my house may be filled.

Luke 14:16-24

16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

COMPEL (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 315 anagkazo-
to necessitate, to compel, to drive to, to constrain

a) by force, threats, etc.

b) by permission, entreaties, etc.

c) by other means

#315 IS DERIVED FROM #318:

(THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 318 anagke-

1) necessity, imposed either by the circumstances, or by law of duty regarding to one's advantage, custom, argument

2) calamity, distress, straits

COMPEL (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = anankazo ^315^ **denotes "to put constraint upon (from ananke, `necessity'), to constrain, whether by threat, entreaty, force or persuasion."**

DESIRE WITHOUT ACTION:

Proverbs 13:4 **The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing:** but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 21:25-26

25 **The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.**

26 **He coveteth greedily all the day long:** but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

James 4:1-3

1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

2 **Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.**

3 **Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

THE BLESSING OF FULFILLED DESIRE:

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: **but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.**

Proverbs 13:19 **The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul:** but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil.

THE DANGER OF BEING SATISFIED:

Proverbs 27:7 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

Numbers 11:4-9

4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

7 And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.

8 And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

9 And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.

Numbers 11:18-20

18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;

20 But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

Numbers 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

THE SOLUTION TO LACK OF DESIRE AND FERVENCY IS REPENTANCE:

Ecclesiastes 6:1-2

1 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:

2 A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

Revelation 3:14-19

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 2:1-5

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST AND FIRE:

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

Acts 2:3-4

3 And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Luke 12:49 **I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?**

Luke 12:49 **(New King James Version)**

49 "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

Luke 12:49 **(NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)**

49 "I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning!

Luke 12:49 **(THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language)**

49 "I've come to start a fire on this earth — how I wish it were blazing right now!

Luke 12:49 **(WEYMOUTH'S TRANSLATION)**

49 "I came to throw fire upon the earth, and what is my desire? Oh that it were even now kindled!

Luke 12:49 **(CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION)**

49 I came to set fire to the earth, and I wish it were already on fire!

Luke 12:49 **(Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

49 "I came to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already set ablaze!

(from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

[I came to cast fire] [Pur (grk 4442) eelthon (grk 2064) balein (grk 906)].

Suddenly Jesus lets the volcano in his own heart burst forth! The fire was already burning. "Christ came to set the world on fire, and the conflagration had already begun" (Plummer). The very passion in Christ's heart would set his friends on fire and his foes in opposition as we have just seen.

(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)

[I am come to send, [balein (grk 906), rather, 'to cast'] fire on the earth.] By "fire" here we are to understand, as Olshausen expresses it, the higher spiritual element of life which Jesus came to introduce into this earth (compare <Matt. 3:11>), with reference to its mighty effects in quickening all that is akin to it and destroying all that is opposed. To cause this element of life to take up its abode on earth, and wholly to pervade human hearts with its warmth, was the lofty destiny of the Redeemer.

IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT THOSE WHO MINISTER BE FLAMES OF FIRE:

Hebrews 1:7 And of the angels he saith, **Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.**

Hebrews 1:7 (**Young's Literal Translation**)

7 and unto the messengers, indeed, He saith, 'Who is making His messengers spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire;'

Hebrews 1:7 (**Contemporary English Version**)

7 And when God speaks about the angels, he says, "I change my angels into wind and my servants into flaming fire."

Hebrews 1:7 (**THE MESSAGE BIBLE**)

7 Regarding angels he says, The messengers are winds, the servants are tongues of fire.

Hebrews 1:7 (**WEYMOUTH'S TRANSLATION**)

7 Moreover of the angels He says, "He changes His angels into winds, and His ministering servants into a flame of fire."

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. **But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones**, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Psalms 39:3 **My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue,**

COMMENTARY: Men of God cannot start a fire in people unless they are on fire first. A quote that is often attributed to John Wesley is: "I set myself on fire, and people come to watch me burn."

QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT:

1 Thessalonians 5:19 *Quench not the Spirit.*

QUENCH (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 4570 sbennumi; to extinguish (literally or figuratively):

KJV-- go out, quench.

**QUENCH (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 4570 sbennumi-
to extinguish, quench:**

a) used of fire or things on fire; to be quenched, to go out

b) metaphorically to quench, to suppress, to stifle; used of divine influence

(from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

[Quench not the spirit] [to (grk 3588) pneuma (grk 4151) mee (grk 3361) sbennute (grk 4570)]. [Mee] (grk 3361) **with the present imperative means to stop doing it or not to have the habit of doing it. It is a bold figure. Some of them were trying to put out the fire of the Holy Spirit, probably the special gifts of the Holy Spirit. ...Today, as then, there are two extremes about spiritual gifts (cold indifference or wild excess). It is not hard to put out the fire of spiritual fervor and power.**

(from Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament)

[Quench not the Spirit]. **Since he is the inspirer of prayer, and the bestower of all gifts of grace on the Church. Compare <Eph. 4:30>. The operation of the Spirit is set forth under the image of fire in <Matt. 3:11; Luke 12:49; Acts 2:3-4>. The reference here is to the work of the Spirit generally, and not specially to his inspiration of prayer or prophecy.**

(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)

[Quench not]-- **The Spirit being a holy fire: 'where the Spirit is, He burns'** <Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:3>.

(from Barnes' Notes) **READ ALL**

[Quench not the Spirit] This language is taken from the way of putting out a fire, and the sense is, we are not to extinguish the influences of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Possibly there may be an allusion here to fire on an altar, which was to be kept constantly burning. This fire may have been regarded as emblematic of devotion, and as denoting that that devotion was never to become extinct. The Holy Spirit is the source of true devotion, and hence the enkindlings of piety in the heart, by the Spirit, are never to be quenched. Fire may be put out by pouring on water; or by covering it with any incombustible substance; or by neglecting to supply fuel. If it is to be made to burn, it must be nourished with proper care and attention. The Holy Spirit, in his influences on the soul, is here compared with fire that might be made to burn more intensely, or that might be extinguished.

In a similar manner the apostle gives this direction to Timothy, "I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up [anazoopurein (grk 329), kindle up, cause to burn) the gift of God;" <2 Tim. 1:6>. Anything that will tend to damp the ardor of piety in the soul; to chill our feelings; to render us cold and lifeless in the service of God, may be regarded as "quenching the Spirit." Neglect of cultivating the Christian graces, or of prayer, of the Bible, of the sanctuary, of a careful watchfulness over the heart, will do it. Worldliness, vanity, levity, ambition, pride, the love of dress, or indulgence in an improper train of thought, will do it. It is a great rule in religion that all the piety which there is in the soul is the fair result of culture. A man has no more religion than he intends to have; he has no graces of the Spirit which he does not seek; he has no deadness to the world which is not the object of his sincere desire, and which he does not aim to have. Any one, if he will, may make elevated attainments in the divine life; or he may make his religion merely a religion of form, and know little of its power and its consolations.

VERSES WITH THE GREEK WORD #4570 — "QUENCH":

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not **quench**, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are **gone out**.

STIRRING UP THE EMBERS:

2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift** of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

STIR UP (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 329 anazopureo; **to re-enkindle:** KJV-- stir up.

STIR UP (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 329 anazopureo-
to kindle up, to inflame one's mind, strength, zeal

STIR UP (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = anazopureo ^{^329^} denotes "to kindle afresh," or "keep in full flame" (ana, "up," or "again," zoos, "alive," pur, "fire"), and is used metaphorically in <2 Tim. 1:6>, where "the gift of God" is regarded as a fire capable of dying out through neglect.

(from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

[That thou stir up] **to rekindle, to stir into flame, to keep blazing (VERB TENSE = continuous action, present time)**

(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)

[Stir up], [anazoopurein (grk 329)]-- **'kindle up: ' fan into a flame: the opposite of 'quench, ' or extinguish <1 Thes 5:19>**, Paul does not doubt Timothy's faith; but, just because of his 'persuasion' of its reality, urges him to put it in full exercise.

(from Barnes' Notes)

[That thou stir up the gift of God] Greek, That thou "kindle up" as a fire. The original word used here denotes the kindling of a fire, as by bellows, etc. It is not uncommon to compare piety to a flame or a fire, and the image is one that is obvious when we speak of causing that to burn more brightly. The idea is, that Timothy was to use all proper means to keep the flame of pure religion in the soul burning, and more particularly his zeal in the great cause to which he had been set apart. The agency of man himself is needful to keep the religion of the heart warm and glowing. However rich the gifts which God has bestowed upon us, they do not grow of their own accord, but need to be cultivated by our own personal care.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FERVENCY:

Acts 18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and **being fervent in the spirit**, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; **fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;**

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

PURSUIT OF THE KINGDOM IS MOTIVATED BY PASSION:

A) ZEAL = INTENSE ENTHUSIASM FOR AN OBJECT OR CAUSE USUALLY AS DISPLAYED IN VIGOROUS AND UNTIRING ACTIVITY IN ITS SUPPORT.

Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 11:12 (**The Amplified Version**) - "From the days of John the Baptist until the present time the Kingdom of Heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force (as a precious prize) — **a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought for with most ardent zeal and intense exertion.**"

Matthew 11:12 (**Wuest's Expanded Translation**)

12 Indeed, from the days of John the Baptizer until this moment, **the kingdom of heaven is being taken by storm, and the strong and forceful ones claim it for themselves eagerly,**

WORD STUDY:

SUFFER VIOLENCE (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 971 biazō (bee-ad'-zo); from 979; **to force, i.e. (reflexively) to crowd oneself (into), or (passively) to be seized:**

KJV-- press, suffer violence.

VIOLENT (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 973 biastes; **a forcer, i.e. (figuratively) energetic:**

KJV-- violent.

VIOLENT (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 973 biastes-

- 1) **strong, forceful**
- 2) **using force, violent**

TAKE BY FORCE (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 726 harpazo-

- 1) **to seize, to carry off by force**
- 2) **to seize on, to claim for oneself eagerly**
- 3) **to snatch out or to snatch away**

#726 IS DERIVED FROM #138:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 138 haireōmai; **to take for oneself, i.e. to prefer:**

(THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 138 haireōmai- **to take for oneself, to prefer, to choose**

FORCE (VINE'S EXPOSITORY GREEK DICTIONARY) = harpazo ⁷²⁶, "to snatch away, carry off by force," is used in the next sentence in <Matt. 11:12>, to that referred to under No. 1, "men of violence (KJV 'the violent') take it by force," **the meaning being, as determined by the preceding clause, that those who are possessed of eagerness and zeal, instead of yielding to the opposition of religious foes, such as the scribes and Pharisees, press their way into the kingdom, so as to possess themselves of it.**

OTHER VERSES WITH GREEK WORD #726:

Matthew 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and **spoil** [**“TAKE BY FORCE”**] his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, **pulling** [**“TAKE BY FORCE”**] them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Luke 16:16 **(THE AMPLIFIED VERSION)**

16 Until John came, there were the Law and the Prophets; since then the good news (the Gospel) of the kingdom of God is being preached, and **everyone strives violently to go in [would force his own way rather than God's way into it].**

Luke 16:16 **(Wuest's Expanded Translation)**

16 Since that time the good news of the kingdom of God is being proclaimed, and **everyone with the utmost earnestness and effort is pressing into it for his share in it.**

WORD STUDY:

PRESS (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 971 diazo; **to force, i.e. (reflexively) to crowd oneself (into), or (passively) to be seized:**

KJV-- press, suffer violence.

PRESS (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 971 biazō-

1) **to use force, to apply force**

2) **to force, to inflict violence on**

PRESS (VINE'S EXPOSITORY GREEK DICTIONARY) = biazō ^{^971^}, in the middle voice, **"to press violently" or "force one's way into,"** is translated "presseth" in <Luke 16:16>, KJV.

THE “KINGDOM” IS GOD’S DOMINION - RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST:

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

KINGDOM (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON) = # 932 basileia-

1) **royal power, kingship, dominion, rule**

a) **not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom**

b) **used of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah**

c) **used of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom**

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

Colossians 1:12-13

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

2 Peter 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Luke 17:20-21

20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

WE ARE TO SEEK HIS KINGDOM:

Matthew 6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33 (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)

The "seeking" of these is the making them the object of supreme choice and pursuit; and the seeking of them "first" is the seeking of them before and above all else.

Luke 12:29-32

29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

31 **But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

SEEK (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # NT:2212 zeetoo; to seek,

1. to seek in order to find

a. universally and absolutely: Matthew 7:7 f

b. to seek (i. e. in order to find out) by thinking, meditating, reasoning; to inquire into: John 16:19

c. to seek after, seek for, aim at, strive after: Matthew 26:16; Luke 22:6

2. to seek i. e. require, demand: Mark 8:12

WE ARE TO PRAY “THY KINGDOM COME”:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK HIS KINGDOM?:

- 1) HIS NAME SANCTIFIED
- 2) HIS KINGDOM COME
- 3) HIS WILL BE DONE IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

KINGDOM SUFFERETH VIOLENCE, VIOLENT TAKE IT BY [THE] FORCE [OF AUTHORITY]

Matthew 6:9-10

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

COME (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON) = # 2064 erchomai-

2) metaphorically:

a) to come into being, to arise, to come forth, to show itself, to find place or influence

b) to be established, to become known, to come (fall) into or unto

Matthew 12:28-29

28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

IS COME (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON) = # 5348 phthano-

1) to come before, to precede, to anticipate

2) **to come to, to arrive at**

3) **to reach, to attain to**

IS COME [ATTAIN] (VINE’S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = phthano ^5348^,
"to anticipate," **also means "to reach, attain to a thing";..**

Luke 11:20-22

20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:

22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.