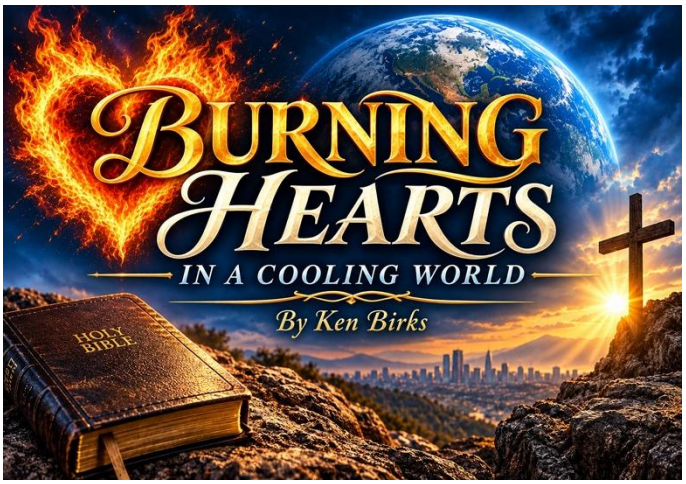
Burning Hearts in a Cooling World

By Ken Birks



We are living in a generation of unprecedented change. Nations are trembling, moral foundations are being shaken, and truth itself is increasingly viewed as subjective rather than absolute. Fear, confusion, deception, and division seem to spread with alarming speed. In such an hour, many believers naturally focus on the darkness surrounding the Church. Yet the greatest threat to the Church may not be what is happening around us, but what is happening within us. The most urgent battle of our time is not merely a battle for culture, politics, or influence. It is a battle for the hearts of God's people. The question facing every believer is this: Will the fire of our devotion continue to burn brightly, or will we allow it to slowly fade into spiritual complacency?

In the book of Revelation, Jesus writes to two of the seven churches something very similar. Jesus is rebuking them for their lack of passion and zeal. To the church at Ephesus, He writes, "*Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."* [1] And then to the church of Laodiceans, He writes. *"Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth."*[2] I believe Jesus' words to both of these churches are very apropos the the Church in today's world. Jesus challenges both churches to repent. To the church at Ephesus, He challenges them to remember from where they have fallen and to do their first works or their lamp stand will be removed. To the Laodiceans, Jesus writes, *"Be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him."* [3]

The prophetic challenge of Revelation is as relevant now as when it was first written. Jesus did not rebuke these churches because they lacked activity. He rebuked them because they had lost their first love. They were still functioning, still gathering, still serving, but the fire that once burned in their hearts had diminished. Today, many believers find themselves in a similar place. We have access to more sermons, podcasts, books, and biblical resources than any generation in history, yet spiritual passion is often

[1] Revelation 2:4
[2] Revelation 3:16
[3] Revelation 3:19-20

in short supply. We can become informed without being transformed, busy without being burdened, active without being anointed. The Lord is calling His people to rediscover holy passion.

The Danger of a Lukewarm Church

The spirit of this age constantly works to cool what God desires to ignite. We live in a culture that celebrates comfort over conviction, acceptance over truth, and convenience over sacrifice. The pressure to fit in can slowly turn down the temperature of our spiritual lives until fervency becomes fanaticism and mediocrity becomes normal.

Many believers do not lose their passion overnight. It is often a gradual process. Something sacred becomes familiar. The wonder of salvation fades. Prayer becomes routine. Worship becomes mechanical. The Word becomes informational rather than transformational. Before long, what once moved us to tears barely captures our attention.

The enemy rarely attempts to destroy passion outright. More often, he simply distracts us from it. If Satan cannot make us bad, he will settle for making us indifferent. Apathy has become one of the defining spiritual battles of our generation.

Why Passion Is So Important Right Now

This is not a season that for passive Christianity. It requires believers whose hearts burn with zeal for God. Jesus Himself was driven by passion. Scripture says: *"Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."* [4] Everything Jesus did flowed from His burning desire to fulfill the Father's will. His passion empowered His purpose. Likewise, the Apostle Paul pressed through persecution, rejection, imprisonment, and hardship because he was consumed with a passion greater than his circumstances. Paul wrote, *"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* [5]

Passion remains the first step toward spiritual achievement. When passion dies, vision dies. When vision dies, purpose dies. When purpose dies, people merely exist rather than live. We need passion because passion gives us the courage to stand when others compromise. It gives us the strength to persevere when others quit. It gives us the faith to believe God for what appears impossible.

A Prophetic Call to the Church

I believe the Holy Spirit is sounding an alarm in this hour. The days ahead will require more than casual Christianity. They will require men and women who know their God,

[4] John 2:17
[5] Philippians 3:14

love His presence, cherish His Word, and refuse to surrender their convictions. God is raising up believers who are not satisfied with spiritual mediocrity.

The Church does not need more spectators. The Church needs people whose hearts have been set ablaze by the Spirit of God. People who pray when others sleep. People who worship when others complain. People who believe when others doubt. People who shine when darkness increases. Just as Elijah stood in his generation and John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord in his generation, God is calling believers today to stand as burning and shining lights.

This is not a time to retreat. This is not a time to blend in. This is a time to become fully surrendered and fully engaged in God's purposes. The world does not need another entertaining voice. It needs a prophetic Church that carries both truth and love.

What Causes the Fire to Diminish?

Many sincere believers struggle because life has a way of draining passion. Pain, unanswered prayers, and deep disappointments can gradually cool a once-burning heart. Unresolved wounds, unrepented sin, spiritual fatigue, and the distractions of this world can slowly diminish the fire God intended to burn brightly within us. Even advancing age can become an excuse for spiritual complacency.

Yet Scripture teaches that zeal is not reserved for the young. At eighty-five years of age, Caleb boldly declared, “Give me this mountain!” His passion for God had not diminished with time but remained strong and unwavering. The fire of God was never meant to fade with the passing years. In fact, some of the most powerful spiritual warriors should be seasoned saints whose hearts still burn with holy devotion, inspiring others through a lifetime of faithful surrender and steadfast passion for God.

How Do We Rekindle Passion?

Passion does not return by accident. It is not something we stumble upon after years of spiritual drift. Passion is cultivated through intentional choices that keep our hearts connected to God and aligned with His purposes. One of the first steps is learning to remember. Throughout Deuteronomy, Moses repeatedly urged Israel to remember what God had done for them because forgetfulness breeds unbelief, while remembrance fuels faith. When we intentionally recall where God found us, what He delivered us from, the prayers He answered, and the countless moments of His provision, protection, and breakthrough, gratitude begins to rekindle the fire within us.

We must also pray for renewed passion. Jesus taught His followers to ask, seek, and knock, assuring them that God responds to those who earnestly pursue Him. The Lord is

not reluctant to revive a weary heart; He delights in answering prayers that align with His will, and He desires His people to serve Him with genuine fervor and devotion.

At the same time, passion grows when we actively use what God has entrusted to us. Many believers lose their spiritual momentum because they have stopped exercising their gifts, serving others, or stepping out in faith. Gifts that are neglected eventually become dormant, but gifts that are faithfully exercised grow stronger and more effective. As we engage in God's work, we often discover that passion follows obedience.

Finally, we must be intentional about the company we keep. Passion is contagious. Faith has a way of inspiring faith, just as enthusiasm can ignite enthusiasm. Sadly, apathy is just as contagious. The people who influence our lives often determine the spiritual temperature of our hearts. When we walk alongside men and women who love God deeply, pursue Him wholeheartedly, and live with expectancy, their example challenges us to do the same. The fire of passion is sustained when we remember God's faithfulness, seek His presence, exercise His gifts, and surround ourselves with others whose hearts are aflame for Him.

The Wind Is Still Blowing

Perhaps the most encouraging truth of all is that while our passion for God may rise and fall, His passion for us never changes. Seasons of disappointment, weariness, failure, and spiritual struggle may weaken our fire, but they never diminish His love. He remains faithful when we are faltering, steadfast when we are wavering, and present even when we feel distant. The same God who called Moses from a burning bush still ignites hearts today. The same Holy Spirit who empowered the early church is still being poured out upon those who hunger for more of Him. The same Jesus who restored Peter after his greatest failure is still restoring weary believers, rekindling hope, renewing strength, and calling His people back into wholehearted devotion.

God has not stopped moving. His Spirit is still at work in the world, drawing people to Himself, transforming lives, and awakening hearts to His purposes. The wind of God is still blowing across the earth with power and purpose. The question has never been whether God is willing to move among His people; the real question is whether we are willing to respond. Will we lift our eyes beyond our circumstances? Will we surrender our excuses, rekindle our faith, and position ourselves for what God desires to do? The wind is already blowing. The opportunity is before us. The only question that remains is whether we will raise our sails and allow His Spirit to carry us into the fullness of His calling.

A Final Exhortation

As darkness deepens and the culture drifts further from God, the need for passionate believers becomes even more urgent. God is not looking for spectators or casual followers. He is seeking men and women whose hearts burn with unwavering devotion, believers who refuse to settle for lukewarm Christianity and instead love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. In an age marked by compromise, distraction, and spiritual apathy, God is calling His people to stand apart as lights that shine brightly in the darkness.

The hour in which we live demands far more than religious activity or outward expressions of faith. It calls for genuine passion. Not emotional hype that fades with circumstances, but holy fire that is sustained by the presence of God. Not fleshly ambition driven by personal recognition, but Spirit-born fervor that longs to glorify Christ. Not a temporary burst of enthusiasm, but an enduring zeal that remains steadfast through both seasons of blessing and seasons of trial.

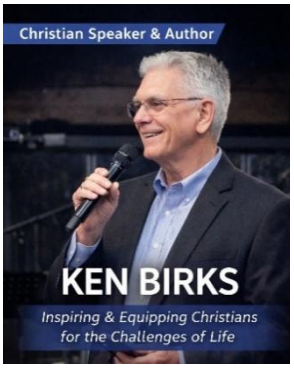
May we be able to say, along with the Apostle Paul, that we are *"fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."* [6] May we guard our hearts against the slow drift that caused others to abandon their first love, and may our devotion grow deeper rather than weaker with the passing years. The future belongs to believers who are fully surrendered to Christ and fully aflame with His purpose. The wind of God is still blowing. The fire of His Spirit is still available. The call to wholehearted devotion has already gone forth. The only question is how we will respond. Let us rise to the moment, embrace the calling before us, and, as Paul exhorted, be "zealous in a good thing always," allowing our lives to burn brightly for the glory of God until the day we see Him face to face.

The call of Christ remains as clear today as it was when He first spoke to the churches in Revelation. He is still calling His people to return to their first love, to reject lukewarm faith, and to embrace wholehearted devotion. The wind of God's Spirit is still blowing. The fire of His presence is still available. The invitation to draw near has never been withdrawn. In a world growing darker, God is searching for believers whose hearts burn brighter, whose faith stands stronger, and whose love for Him runs deeper. May we answer His call with repentance, surrender, and renewed zeal. And when future generations look back on this moment in history, may it be said that the Church did not grow cold in the midst of the darkness, but rose with holy passion, shining as burning and shining lights for the glory of Christ.

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." — Romans 12:11 NLT

[6] Romans 12:11

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks has walked with God through seasons of quiet wonder, deep refining, and unexpected grace — journeys that have shaped both his faith and voice. From early moments of sensing God's nearness to years of learning to listen more closely, Ken has discovered that the Lord often speaks in whispers, rhythms, and poetic impressions.

From those sacred encounters came a desire to write—not to impress, but to invite. To invite others into the same stillness, clarity, and holy encouragement that has carried them through life's valleys and mountaintops. His devotional poetry and other writings flow from a heart that has wrestled, worshiped, and been transformed by God's presence.

Today, Ken writes to help fellow believers pause, breathe, and rediscover the treasures God longs to place within them. Ken's hope is simple: that every reader will feel the Father's nearness, hear His voice more clearly, and walk with renewed courage into the calling He has lovingly prepared.

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