

**Sun., May 30 - (Memorial Day Weekend) (Pentecost) The Fire Within #2: Holy Heartburn**  
Series: "Strange Fire: Spring Message Series"

Memory Verse: Psalm 39:3 "My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue."

Message: (Pentecost) The Fire Within #2: Holy Heartburn -Pastor David

Sermon Scripture & Reading of Scripture: Zechariah 3:1-7

Blurb: Those who follow Jesus have the Holy Spirit in our hearts, burning as an all-consuming fire. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with total love for God and for others, and changes us from the inside out. This Sunday we'll hear part of the story of John and Charles Wesley, and we'll discover that we, like they, can have our hearts strangely warmed.

**[Recorded Worship Beginning]**

**WELCOME** -Pastor Andrew

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor Andrew

"My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue." -Psalm 39:3

**MEMORIAL DAY VIDEO:** Pastor Andrew

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*King of Glory*

*And Can It Be?*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Live Worship Beginning]**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Set a Fire* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor David

"My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue." -Psalm 39:3

**MEMORIAL DAY VIDEO:** Pastor Andrew

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*King of Glory*

*Refiner's Fire*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Both Recorded & Live Worship]**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Zechariah 3:1-7 -Reader:

The prophet Zechariah speaks to the Israelites in Jerusalem after they have returned from their exile in Babylon. He encourages them to keep rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah has eight visions, and in the fourth one, he sees a high priest, named Joshua, as a symbol for the people of Israel. Zechariah 3:1-7,

3:1 Then the Lord showed me the high priest Joshua, standing before the messenger from the Lord, and the Adversary was standing by his right side to accuse him.

2 And the Lord said to the Adversary: “The Lord rebukes you, Adversary. The Lord, the one choosing Jerusalem, rebukes you. Is this one not a log snatched from the fire?”

3 Joshua was wearing filthy clothes and standing before the messenger.

4 [The Messenger] responded to those standing before him, “Take off [Joshua’s] filthy clothes.”

And he said to Joshua, “Look, I have removed your guilt from you. Put on priestly robes.”

5 He said, “Put a clean turban upon his head.” So they put the clean turban upon his head, and they dressed him in garments while the Lord’s messenger stood by.

6 Then the Lord’s messenger admonished Joshua: 7 “The Lord of heavenly forces proclaims: If you will walk in my paths, if you will keep my charge, then you will lead my house and guard my courts, and I will allow you to walk among those standing here.”

**LOVE MOMENT:** Beginning of Summer Bash-Pastor Andrew

**PRAYERS** -Pastor Andrew

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE** -Pastor Andrew.

**MESSAGE: (Pentecost) The Fire Within #2: Holy Heartburn**

**PP#1:** The Fire Within: Holy Heartburn

Jeremiah 20:9 “But if I say, ‘I will not mention Him or speak any more in His name,’ His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed I cannot.”

The Fire Within: Holy Heartburn. Jeremiah 20:9 “But if I say, ‘I will not mention the Lord or speak any more in His name,’ His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed I cannot.”

**PP#2:** *Image of John Wesley, as a boy, being pulled from the burning parsonage.*

As flames engulfed the house, five-year-old Jackie cried out for help from the second story window. Everyone else had made it out. Horror washed over his mother as she was frantically counting her children. Hearing his voice, she pointed to the window and screamed “Somebody save him!” His father looked around desperately, but seeing no ladder, fell to his knees in the grass to beg God for help. A crowd, of course, had gathered by this point. A tall man suddenly grabbed the arm of a slim neighbor and pulled him towards the burning house. At the base of the window he commanded the lighter man, “Climb up on my shoulders and grab the lad!” As Jackie’s feet safely

crossed the windowsill, the whole roof suddenly collapsed, engulfing in flames the spot where Jackie had been standing just a second before.

As his mother clutched Jackie in her arms, with tears streaming down her face, she quoted from the prophet Zechariah, “Is this one not a brand snatched from the fire?”

**PP#3:** *Image of John and Charles Wesley, perhaps the plaque in Westminster Abby?*

John Wesley and his brother Charles are the founders of the Methodist Movement in Christianity. It grew into a number of denominations around the world, including the many Methodist, Wesleyan and Nazarene churches. Here at Forest Hills, we are a United Methodist Church, and so are part of this Methodist Movement. We are Christian disciples in the Wesleyan tradition: banded with John Wesley as we are disciples of Jesus.

**PP#4:** The Marks of a [Methodist] Christian

1. Have the love of God shed abroad in your heart
2. Have the Holy Spirit residing within you
3. Loves the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength
4. Have the joy of God in your heart

That means we follow Jesus in the Methodist method; we walk in the Wesleyan way. A key mark of Methodism is the pursuit of holiness: we strive to grow daily to become more like Jesus and to have the love of God spreading in our hearts. John Wesley identified four marks of a Methodist: 1. To have the love of God shed abroad in your heart, 2. To have the Holy Spirit residing within you, 3. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and to 4. Have the joy of God in your heart. You see, salvation for us is not just as a decision to choose Jesus, but an ongoing relationship where we walk with Jesus day by day, and have the Holy Spirit change us from the inside out. The God who lives within our hearts is an all-consuming God, and consumes all of our hearts and lives. So, perhaps I can put it this way: the mark of a Methodist is having holy heartburn!

**PP#5:** *Image of our most recent tour group at the Epworth parsonage.*

John Wesley was born in a little village in the north of England in 1703. His father was the pastor of the village church, and his mother believed that both her sons and daughters ought to be fully educated. The Reverend Samuel Wesley pushed his congregation to live strict and holy lives, often being quite hard on them. That made him unpopular with some folks in the town, who wanted a more carefree life. Tensions rose, and it got so bad that one night a group of unhappy members of the church angrily set the parsonage on fire. Now, *I hasten to point out* that this is not a good way to resolve conflict with your pastor! Remember, the church owns the parsonage, so setting fire to it only damages your own property. But, as we have seen again this past year in some of our own protests gone violent, angry people sometimes end up hurting themselves.

Well, the fire quickly got out of hand. The pastor scrambled to get his family out of the house. Susanna, his wife, counted heads over and over again for their nine children. In the confusion it seemed one was missing. Where was Jackie? Suddenly she heard his faint voice above the noise. He was still in the burning house!

**PP#6:** *Image of our tour group studying in the Epworth parsonage kitchen.*

Susanna was a well-educated woman, both as a school teacher and as a Bible teacher. When she grasped her salvaged boy, the prophet Zechariah came to mind. Was not her little Jackie “a brand snatched from the fire?”

As her Jackie grew up, they finally started calling him by his given name, John. But she continued to remind him of that fateful day. “Remember, John, you are ‘a brand snatched from the fire.’ God saved you for a reason. You have a calling for God’s kingdom.”

The fire continued to form John, both mentally and emotionally. He showed early promise, and at age 11 he was sent off to charter school in London. He graduated with honors and received a scholarship to Oxford University. He earnestly wanted to serve God, and so like his father pursued ordination to become a pastor. When he graduated with his masters degree, he became a teacher of Greek and philosophy and New Testament at Lincoln College.

**PP#7:** *Image of Lincoln College, Oxford, or image of the Holy Club.*

When his younger brother Charles also came to college there, he started a holy club on campus, and invited his older brother John to be their advisor. Their goal was to study the Bible together and to live out the Christian life by helping others in concrete ways. Three times a week they gathered to study the Bible and to also go to visit orphanages, schools, hospitals and prisons. They wanted to follow Jesus’ command to love others, and they did this through volunteering. They were teased by other students, called “Enthusiasts,” “Sacramanterians,” (they took the sacrament of Holy Communion daily), “Bible Moths” (my personal favorite!), the Holy Club, and, because they gathered regularly each week and followed a strict daily schedule, they were called “Methodists.” That last one stuck. In fact, John Wesley thought it would help them keep to their methods.

After all, they were serious about pursuing a Christian way of life. They wanted to serve Jesus. They wanted to follow God’s instructions. And so, they kept very busy doing good. John and Charles both volunteered to go to the new British colony of Georgia, and John wanted to serve as a missionary to the Native Americans. Perhaps that is why God had him “snatched from the burning.”

**PP#8:** *Image of a 18<sup>th</sup> century ship being tossed by a hurricane/bad storm at sea.*

While on the voyage across the Atlantic, they encountered a terrible hurricane. The storm threatened to tear their ship apart. John was terrified! But he saw a group of German Christians off to the side calming singing hymns and praying. How could they be so calm? Weren’t they afraid to die? The next day John asked this of their leader. His response was that because they had Jesus in their hearts, they were ready to die at any time.

This made John ask himself, “Am I ready to die?” “Why am I so afraid?” “Why don’t I have that kind of faith, and peace?”

Well, over the next two years, John’s missionary work with the Native Americans failed miserably. On his journey back to England, he defeatedly recorded in his journal, “I went to America to convert the Indians, but oh, who shall convert me?”

**PP#9:** *Second image from*

<https://deaheroesdontsave.com/2017/08/09/wednesday-with-wesley-wesley-calmly-considered/>

John had a growing sense of something missing in his life. I mean, by all appearances things seemed fine enough. He had grown up in the church, the son of a pastor. He had always been a

Christian. His mother kept reminding him that God had a special work for him to do. He became well-educated in the Bible and Christian beliefs. He himself became a pastor and a religious professor. His small group studied hard and were known to be earnest and pious. He was a good and religious person, spending hours and hours helping others and volunteering to do good. He loved God, right? What was he missing?

And this is where maybe we can jump into this story. This story is about John Wesley, but could it also be a story about us? Perhaps you know what it is like to grow up in a Christian home. Have you always been a Christian? Have you been a Christian since Confirmation? Have you always been a part of a church? Can you say you are religious? Perhaps you are spiritual: you believe in God. You try to do good. Try to help others. Perhaps you give money to needs, volunteer when you can, try to be caring, helpful, seek justice.

Why? Why are you a Christian? It is because your parents were? Is it because you were raised that way? Is it because you want to be a good person, because you want good for our world?

But do you have that inner peace, the peace that carries you during scary times? Are you afraid in hurricanes...are you afraid to die? Do you pursue God, but wonder if God really cares about you...as a person..as an individual? Do you feel like you were created for a purpose, a reason, but are not sure what that might be? Do you wonder if you are doing any good?

**PP#10:** “And Can It Be” by Charles Wesley

1 And can it be that I should gain  
 An int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
 Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
 For me, who Him to death pursued?  
 Amazing love! how can it be  
 That Thou, my God, should die for me?  
 Refrain: Amazing love! how can it be  
 That Thou, my God, should die for me!

Back in London John and Charles Wesley started going to the weekly meetings of the German Christians they had met on the ship. There was something about them that was different, something inside them. Now, Charles had also become a pastor as well as an excellent poet. One day, May 21, Charles burst into John's office singing a poem he had written in response to an experience he had just had, “And can it be that I should gain An int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?”

Charles wrapped John in a huge hug and proclaimed, “I've found what we've been missing! Jesus came into my heart! I am filled with joy! I now know and believe that Jesus knows me individually and loves me personally!” Charles left as quickly as he came, leaving John standing there, blinking in astonishment.

**PP#11:** *Image of our group at the Aldersgate Plaque memorial.*

I will read you from John Wesley's journal, three days later. May 24, 1738,  
 “In the afternoon I was asked to go to St Paul's [cathedral]. The anthem was, 'Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.... O Israel, trust in the Lord: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his sins.'  
 “In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society [of the German Christians] in Aldersgate

Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, *I felt my heart strangely warmed*. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

By the way, this picture is our group at this location at Aldersgate Street. The memorial, which records this text, is in the shape of a flame.

John described his heart-warming experience as a personal experience of God in his heart. He just didn't know *about* God, he didn't just profess *belief in* God, he experienced God personally in his heart. "I felt my heart strangely warmed."

John went to go find Charles and returned the hug! Charles then wrote another hymn about John's experience, "Where shall my wondering soul begin? How shall I all to heaven aspire? A slave redeemed from death and sin, *A brand plucked from eternal fire*, How shall I equal triumphs raise, And sing my great deliverer's praise?"

The fire that consumed their house as kids continued to burn throughout their lives. It brought fear, emptiness, working hard to obey a commanding God. But that night, the fire changed. Yes, John, you were indeed a "brand plucked from the fire" ... from the eternal fire! Yes, you were saved on purpose. God knows your name! He came to rescue you! And you can know this for sure, inside, in your heart. Instead of fearing the all-consuming fire of destruction, John, like Charles, experienced God as an all-consuming fire within his heart.

#### **PP#12: The Fire Within: Holy Heartburn**

"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' -Luke 24:32

This is what happened to the two disciples that first Easter on the road to Emmaus. They had heard about Jesus' resurrection. They knew the information. But it wasn't until Jesus showed up with them, talking to them personally, that they had a change of heart. As they journeyed from Jerusalem to Emmaus, Jesus also took them on a journey from their heads to their hearts! They proclaim, in Luke 24:32 "They asked each other, 'Were not our *hearts burning within us* while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'"

This is Pentecost! The All-Consuming Fire of God shows up at Pentecost as flames of fire. He fills each of them and changes them from the inside out. Fear no longer controls them. Before, they knew Jesus. They believed in Jesus. They loved God. They did good. They felt called to something more. But something was still missing.

Then, the Holy Spirit came down and lit their hearts on fire. They experienced the love of God personally, in their own lives, and their hearts burned. They experienced holy heartburn!

The prophet Jeremiah wrote in his prophesies that the Holy Spirit came upon him. He could not keep quiet, he had to tell out God's message for the people. He wrote in Jeremiah 20:9, "But if I say, 'I will not mention the Lord or speak any more in His name,' His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed I cannot." He had to speak.

The Psalms, in Psalm 39:3, writes, about going and meditating on God, "My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue." Holy heartburn.

John and Charles Wesley experienced this, too. And then, like the apostles and prophets of old, they too spilled out into the streets to declare that this is for everyone! God's Word burned in their hearts, and they had to share it with others, they could not hold it in!

God wants to give you holy heartburn! You can also experience this in your life, in your

heart. You, too, can have this assurance, this sense of being personally loved by God, that He knows your name, that He has made you, has chosen you, He loves you, He calls you, and that He has a special plan for your life.

**PP#13: Holy Heartburn**

Heart strangely warmed  
 + Healthy, holy habits  
 = [Methodist] Christians

John and Charles spent the rest of their lives telling others about this holy heartburn, and that—fanned and nurtured by healthy, holy habits—lit a revival around the world. John and Charles continued to use their methods and habits, but now, rather than trying to earn their salvation, they did them as a response to God’s love and to grow in holiness in heart and life.

You and I have been caught up into that Methodist movement, thousands of miles away and hundreds of years later. If you feel like there is something missing, an emptiness in your heart, I tell you: you were made for more. You can know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, know that He knows your name, that He loves you, that He died for you, that His Holy Spirit can come and fill your heart and fill you with joy and assurance. All you need to do is want more. All you need to do is ask for more. Ask for the Holy Spirit to come into your heart, to spread God’s love all over it, to ignite a new life, and to give you a passion and zeal for which you were created.

The prophet Zechariah describes Joshua, a figure representing God’s people. Joshua was being accused by Satan, the Adversary. God shows up to defend His people and says, “The Lord rebukes, you, Adversary. I have chosen my people. ‘Is this one not a brand snatched from the fire?’” Then the Lord commands them to take off Joshua’s dirty clothes. “Look,” says God, “I have removed your guilt from you. Put on priestly robes....put a clean turban on your head.” Then the Lord proclaims, “If you will walk in my paths, if you will keep my charge, then you will lead my house and guard my courts, and I will allow you to walk among those standing here.” When we invite God to be the all-consuming fire in our hearts, then God will lead us to live holy lives: not trying to earn His favor, but because we have already received it!

**PP#14: The Marks of a [Methodist] Christian**

1. Have the love of God shed abroad in your heart
2. Have the Holy Spirit residing within you
3. Loves the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength
4. Have the joy of God in your heart

What are the marks of a person with holy heartburn? To have the love of God spread across our hearts, to have the Holy Spirit burning inside, to be filled with a love for God, and to have such joy that it changes us, from the inside out.

If you are wanting something more, then ask the Holy Spirit to make that journey from your head down into your heart. Put your trust in God, stop trying to earn His favor. Receive His love, His joy, His passion. You can pray that anywhere, any time. No better time than now! If you would like help praying this prayer, come up to the front of the church at the end of worship to the front pew and members of the prayer team will pray with you.

Years later John Wesley I supposed to have said, “Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn.” He meant that if you invite the Holy Spirit to light your heart aflame with a passionate love for God, people will take notice and will come check you

out. When your heart burns for God, you become a fire-starter in others. This was true for John Wesley, and it will be true for you.

Amen.

**[IN-PERSON WORSHIP ONLY] CLOSING SONG:** *And Can It Be?* -Sanctify

**OFFERING:** -Pastor David

-Give of your monies to God's work through this church. You can give in person, mail it in or, most conveniently, you can make an automated transfer or a debit card payment on the church website or by using the "square" on the bulletin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

Next Sunday: Graduation Sunday: "The Fire Within: Re-Fired"

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue." -Psalm 39:3

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David