

A Fire Of Coals; John Chapter 18:18 & 21:9

The phrase "**fire of coals**" is from the Greek root word "**anthrax**." This actual phrase is only used twice in the bible. It has the same definition in both places, which is **a live coal or coal of fire**. These two places are connected in a peculiar way.

The first time "**fire of coals**" is used is in **Joh 18:18 "And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself."** This is when Jesus was bound and carried to Annas, who was the high priest, for trial, and Peter followed into the yard where he could see what was going on. This is where Peter denied Jesus three times.

The next use of "**fire of coals**" is in **Joh 21:9 "As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread."** This time it is on the shore of the sea of Tiberius, where Peter said I go a fishing and four other disciples went with him. They toil all night and catch nothing. Jesus, unrecognized by the disciples, stood on the shore asked them if they had any meat and they said no. Jesus told them to cast on the right side. They did and caught a net full of fish. Jesus told them to bring of the fish they caught. One of the disciples recognized that it was Jesus on the shore and when he told the other disciples, Peter flung himself into the sea and swam to shore.

After Jesus had fed them with bread and fish, Jesus begins to question Peter, asking Peter "**lovest thou me?**" Peter had denied Jesus at the first "**fire of coals**" three times. Three times Jesus asks Peter "**lovest thou me?**"

The peculiar connection is that Jesus recreated the same circumstance of by a "**fire of coals**" Now, Peter confesses that he knows and loves Jesus three times by a "**fire of coals**" as when he denied Jesus. What was the result of this questioning by the "**fire of coals**?" Peter is brought to full repentance for his denial of Jesus, and now he is ready to go and preach on the day of Pentecost. There is no more denial of Jesus left in Peter. Peter is now indeed willing to die for Jesus because Jesus has fully purged him of denial of Jesus anymore.

How does this apply to our lives as children of God? After the new birth, have you ever denied Jesus. I am sure that we all have, whether by choice or without recognizing it. The Holy Spirit, "**fire of coals**," will do to us, through our conscience, the same thing Jesus did to Peter. The Holy Spirit will burn in our conscience, and put our minds back in the same circumstances as when we committed our denial. When we have been brought to the full knowledge of what we have done, and we have been brought to full repentance for our denial, we will again receive the commandment of Jesus, as did Peter, to "**feed my lambs**" and "**feed my sheep**" once again.

What do you mean the commandment of Jesus to go forth and "**feed my lambs**" and "**feed my sheep**" once again? We are commanded to be salt and light to the world around us. If we are in denial of Jesus and our knowledge of Him, we have hidden our candle under a bushel, therefore we cannot be light to the world. However, when brought to full repentance and confession of our denial of Jesus, the bushel is removed from our candle, and we can shine once more before the world.

But preacher: Peter did not confess his denial of Jesus to Jesus. That is right, but Peter did repent for we are told after the cock crowed, Peter went out and wept bitterly. Peter had already been brought to repentance. But lovelier than that is: Jesus had already prayed for Peter, and Peter had already been forgiven, before he ever denied Jesus. Oh! What a wonderful Saviour we have, who has already prayed for us, and who has already forgiven us for all our sins eternally.

Praise God that Jesus prepared for us a "**fire of coals**," the Holy Spirit of Jesus in us, and called us, on the shores of time, to break bread and eat fish. We were told in **Isa 6:6-8; 6 "Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."** Here the definition of our phrase "**fire of coals**," which is "**a live coal**," is used to purify. Praise God! That with the implantation of the Holy Spirit in us: we have had a live coal touched to our lips: Praise God we have been told that our sins are forgiven eternally. "**Then said I, Here am I; send me.**" Thank God for willing hearts to walk in a way that the name of Jesus is lifted up in praise. As we walk in uprightness before God, the name of God is magnified, and we are preaching the gospel: and as someone once said: if necessary, use words to preach the gospel, but walks will do it effectively. Wherefore, let us be willing to be sent to feed the lambs and sheep, and be a light to the world around us, to the glory and honor of the name of our God. Hallelujah! Amen!