

*"For Wickedness Burneth As The Fire: It Shall Devour the briars and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up like the lifting up of smoke." **Isaiah 9:18 KJV***



The breath of indulgence fans the sparks of temptation on the dry tinder of lust into a deadly blaze! As in a forest fire, one spark sets the whole forest ablaze. Sparks do not immediately become a fire. In fact, they need dry tinder, and the fire must be fanned into existence. The dryer the tinder the faster it grows. At first, it has pleasing warmth. Then it grows out of control, and the body is consumed. Are you your own arsonist? Go to any back alley, soup kitchen, or rescue mission and you will find those who indulged the pleasant warmth of lust until it became a roaring blaze that sucked the life out of their existence and the joy from their soul! Any firefighter will tell you, a fully engaged fire is deadly. Animals flee to rivers and lakes to take refuge from firestorms. Fire cannot consume water. Only those in it are safe from the fire! We immerse our souls in the "Water of the Word" through meditation and prayer "without ceasing." Christ Told His Disciples just before His Death, "Now ye are clean through the Word Which I Have Spoken unto you." Like a gentle persistent rain purges the forest of tinder, only obedience to Truth purges our souls of lust's dry tinder. The Truth is only obtained and applied through Faith and trust in God. "For By Grace Are ye Saved Through Faith; and That not of yourselves: It Is The Gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Faith Cometh by hearing...the Word of God, but be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." Faith allows God's Word to flow through obedience to quench every ember! "Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." You can't set a bucket of tender filled with water on fire by throwing lit matches into it, but empty the water, let it dry, and it will soon be ablaze. Partial obedience is like a kinked hose. It hampers Truth's life-giving flow. Are there kinks in your obedience? Sin has subtly convinced us that we are holding on to it when, in reality, it binds us. Its "strong holds" on us are of the carnal flesh "sold under sin." You need not let go of sin. Reach out and take hold of God's Word with your whole heart and sin will let go of you! "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." Fiery darts of wicked thought incessantly come your way every moment of every day. Keep your soul filled with the "Water of the Word" lest the tender of your carnal flesh dry out!

Temptation's spark ignites the fire,  
That brings the blaze of sin's desire,  
With all-consuming death and pain,  
Til Truth doth shed its gentle rain. –CGP

Obedience is of little value unless God's Word flows through your soul like a river. Fire cannot cross the river! Don't worry about someone else's fire, until you're in the River, yourself. Trusting obedience to God's Word in spite of circumstance is true Faith! Thought is where Satan tempts you and wicked thought (fiery darts) is where you must fight. Meditation and study fill your soul with the "Water of the Word" and faith will quench "every fiery dart!"

*"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the Weapons of our Warfare are not carnal, but Mighty Through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the Knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, WHEN YOUR OBEDIENCE IS FULFILLED." 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 KJV*