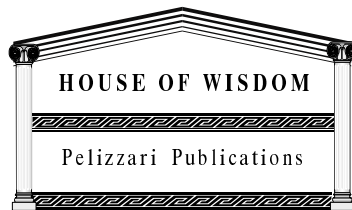


SERMON NOTES SERIES

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

**WHEN THE FIRE
BEGINS TO FIZZLE**



**DR. JOHN PELIZZARI, PH.D.
SENIOR PASTOR**

Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)***. I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,
Pastor John

RESOURCES USED

- * The Companion Bible
- * Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- * Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- * A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- * Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- * The American College Dictionary
- * World's Bible Handbook
- * The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- * Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- * The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- * God's Plan For Man
- * Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- * Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- * Manners And Customs From the Bible
- * What The Bible Is All About
- * Halley's Bible Handbook

These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

Hosea 4:6

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

Proverbs 23:7

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Colossians 1:9

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

Proverbs 24:3-5

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

Mark 13:10

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,
John and Karen Pelizzari

WHEN THE FIRE BEGINS TO FIZZLE

Matthew 24:1-2

[1] And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. [2] And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

1. Prophetically, this was fulfilled in A.D. 70 when the Temple was ravished by the Romans.

Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

2. Here we see a three part question being asked by the disciples. You need to understand that these questions were being asked because they thought Jesus was going to restore the political kingdom of Israel.
 - a. When shall these things be? When stones will be removed.

- b. What shall be the sign of thy coming?
 - c. And what shall be the sign of the end of the world?
3. Then, in this chapter, Jesus begins to map out signs that indicate His return.
 4. I want to draw your attention to one of those signs that will affect the church.

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

5. We are told in the scriptures that people will know us by our love.
6. The question for today is are you still on fire for God like you used to be when you first got saved or has your fire begun to fizzle?
7. A believer's fire can fizzle in many different ways:
 - a. Discouragement.
 - b. Unanswered prayers.
 - c. Woundedness.
 - d. Trials and tribulations.
 - e. Battles, one after another.
 - f. Disappointments.

8. But the main fire fizzler is routine, same thing, day in, day out; having to go the distance.
 - a. Enthusiasm fades over the years.
9. Everybody is vulnerable to having their fire fizzle out, no one is exempt.
 - a. It happens in marriages.
 - b. It happens at jobs.
 - c. It happens in relationships.
10. And, it can happen with your walk with God. See, when your relationship with Jesus is maturing, it should cause the flame of your faith to grow stronger, not weaker.
 - a. The Bible is loaded with men and women of God who experienced the same things.
11. The problem that we face today is that we are in the time period that Jesus talked about in Matthews 24. It would be taking to great of a risk to grow cold and miss the trumpet.

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

12. Cooling off spiritually usually happens in two ways.

- a. A believer's faith can be doused suddenly by devastating circumstances, combat fatigue.
- b. Or it can dwindle gradually through a loss of interest in spiritual things, routine.

13. So how can you tell you may be waxing cold, cooling off spiritually (lukewarm)?

- a. Here are some things to look for...

I. You neglect the Word of God. _____

- a. What wood is to a fire, the Word of God is to your spiritual life.
- b. As a follower of Jesus, you can't live effectively without the Word.

II. Your prayer life changes.

- a. You begin to feel that God isn't listening.
- b. It feels like it is a fruitless endeavor...why bother, why try, nothing changes.
- c. You pray out of obligation when necessary.

III. Your church attendance becomes sporadic. ____

- a. You start making excuses not to go.

- b. You get upset if your spouse goes because you feel guilty when they go without you.

- c. You get defensive and paranoid when asked, "Where have you been?"

- d. You feel you are exempt from messages like this; that they don't apply to you.

1. You're too mature.
2. You do extra ministry that covers your attendance.
3. You're a tither.
4. You don't like the format of the different services.

IV. You give less consistently. _____

- a. You begin to feel that you can't afford to sacrifice much to God.
- b. You know the building is paid for so the finances are not needed.
- c. You're tired of sowing and not seeing any changes.
- d. You question the integrity of the church leadership.

V. You become defensive about your lifestyle. ____

- a. You rationalize making compromises.
- b. You feel you're being picked on.
- c. You sense the pastor is too rough and should ease up some, they need to be replaced or maybe you think God is wanting you to move on.
- d. You hinder your spouse's attendance by some means, guilt, compromise, well deserved rest, too tired, too sore, family time.

VI. You begin to lose your joy. _____

- a. Serving the Lord becomes a duty instead of a passion.
- b. Worry and fear replace your joy.

VII. You begin to doubt God. _____

- a. Everything is questionable because you haven't seen anything manifest in quite a while.

VIII. You stop paying attention to the Holy Spirit's promptings. _____

- a. **1 Timothy 4:2 ...having their conscience seared with a hot iron.**

2 Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the

devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

14. How do you recover your fire?

Psalm 26:2 Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT) Examine yourselves to see if your faith is really genuine. Test yourselves. If you cannot tell that Jesus Christ is among you, it means you have failed the test.

I. Recognize your condition. _____

- a. Ask yourself, "Has my fire gone out?"
- b. Are you involved like you used to be?

1 Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

II. Recall a season of life when you were passionate about God. _____

- a. What's the difference between now and then?
- b. What changed?

1 John 1:8-10 (NLT) [8] If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. [9] But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. [10] If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

III. Repent. _____

- a. Losing our devotion to Jesus is usually a direct result of sin.
- b. **Psalm 90:8 (NLT) You spread out our sins before you—our secret sins—and you see them all.**
- c. Ask God to expose any area of your life that made you lethargic.

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 (NLT) and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

IV. Refocus your attention on the Lord. _____

- a. Make God the first and the last of everyday, not just when you're in trouble.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

V. Read the Word of God. _____

- a. Start with a short book of the New Testament.
- b. Ask the Lord to speak through it as you read.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT) Keep on praying.

VI. Seek God daily in prayer. _____

- a. Don't just pray for what you need or want.
- b. Build an intimate relationship with Him.

Galatians 6:10 (NLT) Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do

good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters.

VII. Get involved in someone else's life. _____

- a. Your problems will consume you if you let them.
- b. Taking the focus off of yourself allows God to operate without your interferences.
- c. Plant seeds and meet another person's needs.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.

VIII. Rely on the Holy Spirit to enable you. _____

- a. He is there, waiting on your first move.
15. Has your fire began to fizzle?
- a. If it has, begin to stir up the embers of your faith.

- b. Allow the Lord to make your life a bright flame for His glory.

ALTAR CALL _____

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