

## Beach, Bonfire, Bento and Bible Study **F.I.R.E.**

### **Faithfull, Irresistible, Refining, Everlasting**

**F.** - God Reveals His **Faithfulness** through fire.

**I.** - Just as we are drawn **Irresistibly** to fire, so God draws us to Himself through grace.

**R.** - God **Refines** our faith through fire.

**E.** - God's very presence in **Eternity** will be a Blazing Fire, a terror for one and great beauty for another.

#### Fire facts:

Fires start when a flammable and/or a combustible material (FUEL) with an adequate supply of oxygen or another oxidizer (OXYGEN) is subjected to enough heat (IGNITION) and is able to sustain a chain reaction (EXISTANCE). This is commonly called the fire tetrahedron.

- ✓ Tetra meaning : four
- ✓ Hedron meaning: A crystal or geometric figure having a specified kind or number of surfaces

#### One Fire in Three components

The Bible teaches that God similarly exists in three persons, referred to as the Trinity.

In Matthew 3:16-17 we read “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”” (ESV)

And in Ephesians 4:4-6 “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (ESV)

#### One God in Three Persons

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit

Theological mind bender: Would God still exist if one of the three members were removed?

The faithfulness of our God is revealed to us through His creation.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:18-20 ESV)

Consider the Sun as evidence of God’s faithfulness:

Diameter of Sun	1,392,000,000	M	4.65	Diameter of Sun Relative to Golf Ball
Diameter Earth	12,770,642	M	0.04267	Diameter of Golf Ball
	15.26	Ft		Diameter of Sun Relative to Golf Ball in Feet
	1.68	In		Diameter of Golf Ball
	490,813,648,294	Ft		Actual Distance from Sun
	1640	Ft		Distance Relative to the scale of Golf Ball
	547	Yds		18 <sup>th</sup> Hole at Pebble Beach
	983,571,056		ft/sec	light speed
	8.317	Min		For Light to Travel from the Sun to the Earth

Consider sinful man’s response to the observation of the sun:

In Gregory Sams book Sun of gOd, he asks the question “Could the ancient Sumerians, Chaldeans and Assyrians, the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, the Maya, Inca and Aztec, and the early Nordic, Celtic and Native Americans cultures have known something that we do not?”

"Our ancestors worshiped the Sun, and they were far from foolish. And yet the Sun is an ordinary, even a mediocre star. If we must worship a power greater than ourselves, does it not make sense to revere the Sun and stars?"

Carl Sagan, in *Cosmos*

Sun worship is fairly simple. There's no mystery, no miracles, no pageantry, no one asks for money, there are no songs to learn, and we don't have a special building where we all gather once a week to compare clothing. And the best thing about the sun, it never tells me I'm unworthy. Doesn't tell me I'm a bad person who needs to be saved. Hasn't said an unkind word. Treats me fine. So, I worship the sun. But, I don't pray to the sun. Know why? I wouldn't presume on our friendship. It's not polite.

George Carlin

Consider God’s response to sinful man:

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God’s decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”  
(Romans 1:21-32 ESV)

In the first two commandments proclaim the decree of God thus condemning mankind for the guilt of this betrayal.

Exodus 20:3-6:

““You shall have no other gods before me.  
“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.” (ESV)

In Romans 3:23, scripture teaches “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

- ✓ Webster defines worship as:
  - reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power;
  - an act of expressing such reverence, a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual,
  - extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem <worship of the dollar>
  - *Test Yourself: Where does your Time, Money, Affection go?*
- ✓ None of us are exempt. You may not worship the sun, but you have worshipped false god’s, we all have because we were designed to worship. We cannot help it, it is our nature and until God changed us we were all idolaters’.

In Romans 6:23 we read, “the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- ✓ Our creator is the only worthy object of all our loyalty and worship. Not the sun, our family, our money our career, you name it, nothing is worthy of our worship except God.

Jesus gift came to us while we were still sinners

God is faithful as we read in Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- ✓ God provided a solution for our rebellion

Romans 10:13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- ✓ You must ask yourself the most important question of your life. Who or what do I worship?
- ✓ Tonight you have an opportunity to call upon the name of the Lord. If you do not know Christ, you can meet Him and allow Him to change your life.
- ✓ If you are already a Christian, consider where your worship has been directed, and resolve to change the things in your life that need to be changed. (“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” (1 John 5:21 ESV))

As we stand surrounded by God’s invisible attributes revealed to us through His powerful creation, consider the sun as it rises tomorrow morning on us who live in the land of the “Rising Sun”. In Lamentations 3:22-23 scripture says that “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (ESV)

Let us pray.