

## THE BIBLE VIEW

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### Blow on the Embers

*Bill Brinkworth*

To supplement our heater, we use a wood stove. With the right fuel, it produces a roaring fire, and with the damper set just right, a load of wood will burn most of the night and heat the house.

After a night-long burn, the fire seems to have gone out by the morning, but there are still embers. After some poking and attention is given to them, they will easily ignite new fuel and continue to burn the rest of the day. At first there seems to be no hope of re-kindling the night's fire, but, after the burned out ash is pushed aside to expose hidden embers, kindling is laid on top of them, gently blown on; and it is not long until a blaze results from the revived embers.

A born-again child of God can likewise lose the "blaze" for the Lord he once had. There may have been a time when prayer, church attendance, Bible reading, and other spiritual activities were a priority. Slowly, however, the fervent, spiritual-fire burning in one's life was reduced to a smoldering, hardly-remembered ember.

If one is truly born-again the embers are still there. The embers never completely went out. There is no loss of salvation, as some suppose is the reason for no spiritual activity and more involvement in sin. The Bible does teach once saved always saved (II Tim. 1:9, Eph. 2:8-9, John 10:28-29). Since salvation is still there, if one is really saved, there may be just an over-covering of "ash" from sin's participation.

Involvement in sin will not chase the indwelling Holy Spirit away. It will, however, grieve Him enough that He will not speak or move in one's life until the sin is repented of. It is the Holy Spirit that does a work in one's life. It is He that speaks to one's heart, does the convicting resulting in changing one's life, and is responsible for spiritual growth in one's life. When the Holy Spirit is no longer working, it is His refusal to work that often reflects our non-spirituality. *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* Eph. 4:30 (Also: Prov. 28:13, I Thes. 5:19, ).

Like the seemingly defunct fire, a saved person can once again be the spiritual person he was, or even be closer to God than he was before. There is hope in rekindling spiritual fires again!

The first necessary step to get back to where one once was spiritually, or to have any spiritual growth, is to want change! One can feel guilty all they want, or be depressed about one's condition; but if they do not want to

change, nothing will ever be altered in one's relationship with God. The fire in my stove would never be re-started unless I wanted it to be. A person has to desire an alteration before anything will change. As much as others want a person to change, their efforts will not be long-lived or not result in any modifications unless the person himself desires to change.

Secondly, the person himself must know what made the spiritual fires cease burning fervently. Was there not enough fuel to keep it burning? Was there no Bible-reading? Was there no prayer life? Was there no spiritual food to feed on? If one feeds fleshly desires with worldliness, how can one expect the spiritual part of one to grow? Whatever part of us that is fed the most is the one that grows!

Another reason spiritual fires could be gone out is sin over-covering the embers. Sin will quench any desire to live for God. It will sadden the Holy Spirit so much He will not be able work in one's life. The only remedy is to admit (confess) what one has allowed to hamper his relationship with the Lord, ask the Lord to forgive him for his transgression, and, with God's help, purpose not to err that way anymore (Psalms 51:2). If an attempt to get closer to God again results in failure, one can just start all over again. He is a second-chance God, and third chance, and fourth ....

After this truth is realized, the Lord is faithful and just to forgive and forget, and one can get back to where he

should have been in his relationship with the Lord. Once again, the Holy Spirit will blow on our “embers” and a “blaze” can be resumed.

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9 (Also I John 1:7)*

**“There can be no doubt in any man's mind, nor in any man's heart, that God is our sustenance and our strength. Each of us must believe wholeheartedly and fiercely in the power and the glory and the strength of God. Thus, it would be more proper to say that each man must seek the companionship of God. God awaits each one of us.”** — *Harold K. Johnson*

## Lost Fellowship

*Charles Spurgeon*

I once asked a Christian how long it was since he had enjoyed fellowship with Jesus. His reply was remarkable. “I feel sorry,” said he, “you have asked me that question, and yet I must thank you. Had you asked me whether I continued in prayer, I would have said, ‘Yes’, for, with more or less fervor, I do constantly pray. Had you inquired whether I endeavored to walk honestly and uprightly before my fellow creatures, I should have said, ‘Yes’, thank God, I hope I have not slipped with my feet ; but when you say, ‘How long is it since you really have had fellowship with Jesus?’ I blush to own that many a day has passed since I have known this high privilege.”

Is that so with you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ?  
If so, it is very, very sad.

**Your excuses for drifting far from God will not stand!  
“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have  
no might he increaseth strength.”**

*Isaiah 40:29*

## Repair the Armor

*Salter, 1878*

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:10-18*

The Christian's care should be to get his armor speedily repaired. An unworn, haltered helmet is next to not having a helmet at all. Grace in decay is like a man bound to his bed by sickness; if some means be not used to recover it, little service will be done by it, or comfort received from God's grace. Therefore Christ gave the Church of Ephesus, to whom John wrote, this counsel, *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent, and do her first works."* Rev. 2:5 (Also Acts 26:20)

## The "Little" Sins

*Edited from an article by Melvil - 1798-1871*

There is many a man who, for a time, gave steadfast attention to religion, and walked with care in the path of God's commandments, but after a while, declined from spirituality, and drifted far from obedience to God. How does it commonly happen that man falls away from the struggle for compliance to God's commandments? Is it ordinarily through one powerful and undisguised assault that he was turned from the faith, or over one huge obstacle that he was not to rise again? Not so.

It is almost invariably through "little" things. He failed to take notice of "little" things, and they accumulated into greater obstacles. He allowed himself the "little" things, and thus formed a strong habit. He relaxed in the "little" things, and thus in time loosened every bond. Because it is a "little" thing, he counted it of little importance, utterly

forgetting that little parts make up a whole. Because it is only a small “pebble”, against which his foot strikes, he made light of the hindrance; not caring that he was contracting a habit of stumbling, or of observing that whenever he trips there must be some diminution in the speed with which he runs the way of God's commandments, and that, however slowly, these diminutions brought him to a standstill.

Would to God that I could persuade you of the peril of “little” offenses! We are not half as much afraid of hurting the head against a rock, when we only hurt the foot against a stone.

There is a continued temptation not to turn-around when faced with the “little” road-blocks of temptation and sin. We indulge in the “little” things, forego “little” strictnesses, omit “little” duties; and all with the idea that what looks so light cannot be of real danger. Because of these “littles”, tens of thousands perish. If they do not come actually and openly to a stand against them, they stumble, getting more and more careless, nearer and nearer to indifference, lowering Christian standards, suffering their religion to be peeled away by inches. They often persuade themselves that they can spare, without injury, such inconsiderable bits, and not perceive that in stripping the bark, they stop the sap.

**The winds cannot blow down a tree that is rooted in God!**