

From the Forrest to the Fire

I started life like a tree, I sprang up and grew towards heaven. I was tormented by wind, hail, disease, and pests. I then gave my life to Christ and he began to nurture me and helped me grow. He had many plans for me. I grew in the faith and became strong. I was still afflicted by wind, hail, disease, and pests but my roots had been established deep and strong in Christ.

One day I found that I was being cut down and humbled. I was frightened, because I did not know what was going to happen to me. The man who was cutting me down was God. I did not know why he was doing it, but I knew He had a plan for me. I was broken and changed in to a new form, logs. God took me and shaped me into a campfire.

I sat in that fire ring for a long time at first dreading the time when I would be lit. I knew that with the fire came my destruction. As I waited, I saw the world around me. It was dark and people were stumbling around unable to find God. They were chasing at shadows that would not get them to God. It was then that I realized some of what God had planned for me. I knew God would use me to be a light unto the world so that the fire he gave me would let others see him.

I waited and prayed and asked for the fire. God comforted me he told me to be patient that my wood was still wet. I needed to dry out in the warmth of his love and to listen to him. I did just this and he told me what to expect. He also told me that people would try to put out my fire with wind and water. He told me that Satan would try to

make my fire fade. I just had to rely on God to build me back up and remove the obstacles that blocked the light.

One dark stormy day I saw God's son coming to me with a fire in his hands. He told me that this was the Holy Spirit and it would guide me in the way God wanted. He placed the fire in side me and I began to burn. Slowly the fire began to engulf me. I did not resist. I let it lead me and take control. The day was still dark but I saw people beginning to come towards the light.

Satan did try to put me out and push people away. I just let God shine even more through me. People came and were warmed by the fire. They saw that the fire and the light were God and not me. They saw God and the love that he had shown them by sending his son Jesus. Jesus reached down into the fire and took it and part of me and gave it to them.

I am still a young fire. I am being fed by God and giving myself to serve others for God. I do know that my time is limited. I want to burn for God as long as I can. I do not want to rot. I want to be consumed by God's fire. I know that when I am totally consumed I will live on with God in heaven. This is my promise not because of what I do for God but because of what Jesus did for me. I burn for God out of gratefulness for God's grace. God has changed me so much and I am happy to be doing his will and not just sitting idly in the forest waiting to rot to death.

This is how I see my life. It is an interesting allusion that God has given me, but it is very true. He has a plan for us and we just have to trust Him. Life will not be easier with Him as our Lord but it will be much more meaningful and rewarding.

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