

Burdens, Battles & Breakthroughs

- I. Hebrews 10:32-34 - Verse 32 “*after being enlighten*” (GOD-GIVEN BURDEN)
 - A. The Greek word translated “*enlighten*” is “*photizo*” which means “to have been given a light which now enables you to see.”
 1. It’s where we get our english word “photograph.”
 - a. A photograph is where an image is captured on film
 - b. In order to capture that image you need light.
 - c. The more intense the light (flash) the clearer the picture
 - d. The light burns the image on the film.
 2. Being “enlighten” is where an image of God is captured on our heart.
 - a. It’s where we receive some light of God that than burns an image on our heart.
 - b. It’s where God allows us to see something that He see’s.
 3. It comes from the root word “*phos*” which is defined as “*a fire or a light*” or the best way to translate it is “*a light that is produced by a fire.*”
 - a. It means to allow the Lord to start a fire in your heart which will then produce some light for your life.
 - b. The combination of the fire burning and the light shinning will bring a “*burden*” to your soul.
 - B. Matthew 5:14-16. The Greek word for light is the word “*phos*” which is defined as “*a fire or a light*” or the best way to translate it is, “*a light that is produced by a fire.*”
 1. The implication is that God has started a fire in your heart which now produces a light that is to shine in some aspect of darkness.
 - a. The fire in your heart is the light of your life.
 - b. Light was meant to shine in darkness - Trip to Kentucky
 - 1) Darkness is confining.
 - 2) Darkness will restrict mobility.
 - 3) Darkness will blind you.
 - 4) Darkness hides reality which promotes a life lived in unreality.

3. There is some darkness out there that God uniquely created you for.

a. Night lights - Ministry of helps

b. Spot lights - Counselors

c. Flood lights - Steve Hill

B. Genesis 1:2-3 - The word hover or moved upon, means to “draw close.”

1. The Hebrew word for darkness, “Chosek” means the darkness of misery, destruction, death, ignorance sorrow or wickedness

2. The Spirit still hovers or draws close to the darkness, but he does it through us.

3. You need to allow the Spirit to draw you close to some aspect of darkness, with the hope, that He will then enlighten you, by saying “let there be light.”

a. William Booth is the founder of the Salvation Army. He didn’t have a fire for the plight of the unborn, the sick or untouched nations. He had a fire for the dark land of the down and outer. As a result, thousands of men and women who had no hope, met the Lord of Hope.

b. Dame Cicely Saunders is the founder of the modern hospice movement. She didn’t have a fire for the down and outers, unwed mothers, or the confused. She had a fire for the dark land of misery and death. As a result, thousands of people not only died with dignity, but also received a touch of divinity.

c. Millard Fuller is the Founder of Habitat for Humanity. He didn’t have a fire for the dying, the hungry or the down and outer. He had a fire for the dark land of poverty. As a result, thousands of people not only got a new house, they got a new life.

4. It may be the darkness of the mission field, of prison ministry, of counseling the wounded, of visiting the sick, of feeding the hungry, or clothing the poor.

a. Isaiah 9:2 - “*The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land (because you went), The light will shine on them.*”

b. What dark land will you allow the Spirit to draw you close to.

5. God gives us a light by setting a torch to our soul.

a. He gave Jeremiah a fire for hard hearts.

b. He gave Nehemiah a fire for a forgotten city.

c. He gave Abraham a fire for a land he had never seen.

d. He gave Moses a fire for deliverance of his kinsmen.

e. He gave Paul a fire for the lost state of the gentiles.

6. **He gave me a fire for people on drugs and alcohol, prisoners, and Christians. These are my dark lands.**
 - a. My light shines in the darkness of addictions. (16 year old Richard)
 - b. My light shines in the darkness of incarceration. (True Britt)**
 - c. My light shines in the darkness of lukewarmness within the Church.
7. **What is the fire that consumes you, that enlightens you, that burdens you?**
 - a. Is it forgotten orphans?
 - b. Is it the plight of the unborn?**
 - c. Is it untouched nations?
 - d. Is it the inner city?**
 - e. Is it the sick?
 - f. Is it the confused?**
 - g. If you don't have a fire its because you haven't allowed the Spirit to draw you close to some aspect of darkness.

8. **Together we light the whole world, but individually we light our world.**

9. If we do then this scripture will be true where this Church is concerned:

Isaiah 60:1-3 - "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth, And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you, And His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising."

II. Hebrews 10:32-34 - *"endured a great conflict of sufferings"* (GOD-GOVERNED BATTLE)

A. After Being enlightened you will always have to endure a conflict.

1. One translation says *"you weren't defeated by the struggle."*
2. **The fire will always bring a fight, the burden will always bring a battle.**
 - a. The light that shines in darkness will also show up darkness.
 - b. Sinners and Satan will be drawn to the light. Sinners to be healed by it, Satan to try and put it out.**
3. But, *"don't be defeated by the struggle"* for God will use the fight to make you fit and He will use the battle to make you better.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 16:9 - *"for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."***

- b. 1 Thess 2:18 - *“Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us.”*

B. Verse 33 tells us the make up of the battle.

1. *“Partly”* half of the battle is comprised of what is happening to us:
 - a. **Being a spectacle - Battling yourself** (*fears, inferiority, inadequacies*).
 - b. Reproaches - Battling others (misunderstandings, tradition insecurities).
 - c. **Tribulations - Battling circumstances** (sickness, delays, breakdowns, hardships).
2. *“Partly”* the other half of the battle is comprised of what is happening to others: *“we share in with those who are being so treated”*
3. **We are called along side of them to help them in their battle with self, others, and circumstances.**

III Verse 34 gives us the key to the (GOD-GLORIFYING BREAKTHROUGH), *“you showed sympathy to those who were captive while you accepted joyfully the seizure of your property.”*

A. In other words “you minister to the lives of others at the cost of your own.”

1. The battle that we are called to, is not the one that is being waged against us, but the one that is being waged against others.
 2. **You can’t fight for the lives of others while your seeking to preserve your own.**
- B. The moment we decide that even in the face of loss we are going to continue to battle so others might gain, is the moment we get our breakthrough. *“a better (more advantageous) and enduring reward.”*
1. **Matthew 16:25** - *“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*
 2. The art of living is to keep giving until the end. Jesus while on the cross, with nails piercing His hands and feet continues to minister to those around Him. Ignoring his own suffering He seizes the opportunity to minister to the suffering of someone else. The best medicine for His pain was to minister to someone else’s pain.