

HOW TO FIRE YOUR ENEMIES

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**Aids for listening to God's Word:** *What am I looking for? What do I need?*

1. **Doctrine:** sharpening my view of what God is like & what he's doing
2. **Experience:** meeting with the God I trust (conviction, touch, devotion)
3. **Kingdom obedience:** getting in sync with God's purposes: godliness, church unity, gospel proclamation, showing mercy, seeking justice

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*We want to burn those who anger us;  
Christ alone turns fire into an altar of rescue.*  
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**ONE: This text is about God's firing his enemies.**

- God comes, the bad guys get it bad, and we sing for joy:

God comes: **30.27-28**

The bad guys get it bad: **30.31-33; 31.8-9**

We sing for joy: **30.29-30**

- God is wise and brings disaster on those who lead away from him and those who help them: **31.1-3**
- With all this fire things get hot for God's people, too, but, if you're his, he'll protect you. So turn to him and cast away your idols: **31.4-7**

**TWO: How does God fire his enemies today?**

- God still comes to the earth and reveals his wrath: **Rom 1.18ff.**
- We still sing songs of victory, but the new Passover is on Calvary.

- We still want to burn those who anger God and anger us, but we are now sent as Jesus was sent.
- Vengeance is the Lord's and he will one day make all things right (*if not, just suck it up for evil is normal; the strong always win*).

**Matthew 5** <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

**THREE: Eat the body of Christ's sacrifice, drink the drink offering of his blood, with care, for they burn to make you like Jesus.**

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**Prayers for those Not Ready to Partake of Communion**

*A Prayer to Search for Truth:* Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life (*John 14.6*). Grant that the cost of following you might not hinder me from considering the reasons I should. If your claims are true, nothing rivals what you say. Guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me coherent and convincing understanding, that satisfies my deepest needs. Lead me toward the everlasting life with you and your people that you promise (*1 John 1.1-4*). *Amen.*

*Crying Out to God for New Life:* Lord Jesus Christ, I am weaker, more rebellious toward God, than I've ever admitted. Yet, you offer acceptance greater than I've ever dared to hope. I admit my need for a new kind of life—your life. Thank you for making peace with God possible. You paid my sin's debt on your cross. You took judgment meant for me; you offer forgiveness and fellowship. Believing you've been raised from the dead, I turn to seek my deepest satisfactions in you. I accept you as God and Ruler. I receive you as Savior and Life. Needing you always, I begin to rest upon you for forgiveness, for growth in trusting you, for your love toward neighbors. Increase my longing for the new heaven and new earth you will bring when you return. *Amen.*