



July 30, 2020

## God's Nature Shown in Fire

"Our God is a consuming fire" (**Heb. 12:29**)

A lesson that is learned in the practice of fasting is the difference between bread and the word that comes from the mouth of God. Simply put, one is matter and the other is energy. Certainly, God is energy in a form that is difficult for us to fathom. And yet, a clue to help our understanding is this: every time we look at a piece of matter, what we see is stuff that is not self-sufficient. Every piece of matter you can put your hand on, or that you can even think about, came from something else, and it is eventually going to become something else. That is what matter is.

Paul says when you think clearly and carefully about the things that are created, you are led directly to God, a glorious, self-sustaining, eternal being. Everything else in this universe is created and is perishing. It is dependent on something greater than itself for its existence. This points to a being who is both the source of everything else that exists and is totally self-sufficient. This being is so grand that it is easier for him to exist than not to exist. He is one who, out of his mere nature, pours forth life in infinite quantities that are incomprehensible, everlasting, unceasing, and will never be exhausted.

We discover another clue to God's nature as energy in the many biblical references that speak of God revealing himself to human beings in the form of fire. Fire is energy released through the combustion of matter. It is a primary manifestation of God, who exists as unbounded, unfounded, everlasting energy, needing nothing to support him. Nothing at all.

During the Israelites' escape from Egypt, God used both fire and clouds out of nothing. He shepherded Israel through the wilderness with a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, and in Exodus 14 he protected them from Pharaoh with both. He faithfully remained with them as a pillar of fire and cloud for the rest of the trip. We repeatedly see the manifestation of God's glory and power in these ways throughout Scripture.

**Practice:** *Interestingly, when proclaiming the good news, John the Baptizer said that Jesus was going to come and baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matt. 3:11). Consider the ways the spirit of God, his creative energy has birthed new possibilities in the ordinary circumstances of your life - in physical reality? (Helpful passages to consider: [Colossians 3:12-17](#), [1 Corinthians 13](#), [Galatians 5:22-26](#), [1 Peter 1:5-9](#)) Reflect upon the moments when you may have quenched the spirit of God's fire, his creative energy from expressing himself in your life (1 Thess. 5:19)?*