

## God's Word: Playing with Fire!

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## SUMMARY:

The Word of God is rich, complex, challenging, and compelling. As long as we live, we will struggle to understand it. But as long as we struggle with it, we will grow. To read the Bible with heart and mind consistently is to enter into a lifelong conversation with God. And this conversation has only one possible result: continued growth and transformation into the image of Jesus Christ.

## NOTES:

The Fire of the Bible Refines us into the Image of Jesus Christ.

1. We have to S \_\_\_\_\_ the M \_\_\_\_\_
2. It works like a cosmic B \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Message of God brings U \_\_\_\_\_ to God's People
4. The Fire of God's Message P \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION POINTS:

- ❖ What is your Bible reading and Bible study experience like?
- ❖ Do you think you can understand the Bible for yourself? Why or why not?
- ❖ What can you do to help yourself understand the passages that seem to be difficult?
- ❖ Are you trying to find out God's plan for your life, or are you trying to find out God's plan and then fit your life into that?
- ❖ How can knowing the Bible bring unity to Christians?
- ❖ What does knowing the Bible have to do with the purity of our lives?

## APPLICATION:

- ❖ Examine your own Bible Study habits.
- ❖ Read the Bible more!
- ❖ Ask your Pastor or a Christian leader for help with sources on studying the Bible for yourself.
- ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading (Acts 8:26-40).

## ON YOUR OWN...

Obtain and read these books: Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind by Tremper Longman III; Playing with Fire by Walt Russell

As you continue to read the most important Book of all time, keep the following questions in mind:

- ❖ What does this passage of the Bible teach me about God and my relationship with Him?
- ❖ What does this passage tell me about how God has acted in the past?
- ❖ The answer to this question shows God's love for His people. It should encourage our faith and kindle hope as we face problems in the present.
- ❖ How does this passage change the way I think about the world and how does it impact the way I live my life?
- ❖ How had God chosen to communicate these truths to me through the Scriptures?
- ❖ How does this passage present Christ?