

Wake up! Stand up! Burn!

by Ekkehard Hornburg

Wake up! *“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here”* (Romans 13:11f). It is time to wake up. The church of Jesus is a sleeping giant that God is waking up so that it will stand up and gather in the final harvest before Jesus returns. If you are fast asleep and the alarm rouses you from your sleep, that is an awakening. God’s alarm clock has already been ringing for 100 years (Asuza) and it is ringing louder and louder in our days, louder than ever before. The ten virgins in the parable (Matt 25:1–13) all fell asleep. *“At midnight the cry rang out (a wake-up call): ‘Here’s the bridegroom!’”* They all woke up, stood up and made their lamps shine. For their lamps to shine, they needed oil. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gets us ready and equips us to burn for Jesus. In our days, God is pouring his Holy Spirit out worldwide like never before. Everywhere there is a hunger to be felt for the Holy Spirit and the gifts and workings of God’s power. In these last days before the return of Jesus, God wants to give the world a demonstration of his strength, power and glory once again. For this he needs Christians who are awake and will stand up and allow themselves to be ignited by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Stand up! *“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.”* (Isaiah 60:1f). God is saying: It is time to stand up, for this is the last hour. *“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour”* (1 John 2:18). God wants us to stand up and lift our voices. Anyone who keeps silent becomes guilty. *“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven,”* Jesus says in Matthew 10:32. *“You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns ... ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power ...”* (Isaiah 40:9).

Burn! Isaiah says “Shine!” That means: Burn for Jesus. Let your light shine. Allow yourself to be ignited by the fire of the Holy Spirit. “Only he who is on fire himself can set others alight,” said Augustine. Be like the burning bush in the desert that burned and burned but was never consumed. It was a supernatural fire that set the bush alight and the same fire set the 120 disciples alight at Pentecost. God doesn’t want “cool” Christians but passionate, burning ones. This fire keeps the devil at bay in your life. I once heard the story of a man in a pit of snakes who had nothing but a burning torch. Whenever the snakes tried to attack him, he held the torch towards them and the snakes drew back. At Pentecost, all the disciples became torches like that for Jesus. They went out and drove out demons, healed the sick, raised the dead and carried on Jesus’ ministry on earth. Jesus says we should work as long as it is day, for the night is coming when no one can work anymore. It is time! Wake up! Stand up and burn for Jesus!

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