

**Catch the Fire - Purpose**

**Introduction**

Everyone learns and connects to information in different ways, we know this. When we communicate with each other we normally attempt to communicate in a way that makes perfect sense to us. However, the recipient of the communication will not always grasp all the information you are providing due to their communication style which can be similar but never exactly like yours. We are all unique but the ways that people learn or glean information vary. Basically, we learn by a combination of seeing, hearing, reading, or writing, and experiential learning. As an individual we may favour one way, but we can gain something through a combination of all styles.

God is not limited in the way He can speak to us. We are however, as adults, limited in how we hear Him and thankfully He made us and knows the needs of each of us. This is why some hear Gods voice through something they read, a song they sing, a story told at work or a clip from a film which, to someone else, is totally unrelated to God, but to that individual it is an answer to prayer, a glimmer of hope or God speaking directly.

I have on many occasions been praying, and seeking answers and a song will play and there is an answer in the words or in the rhythm. Or sometimes just in being arrested in that moment, in the beauty of the melody and harmonies that blend in perfection to my ears and there is joy, and a knowing God is here. When praying for peace from a tormented, worried mind, I have been stunned into silence by the wind rushing through the trees or the power of the waves crashing on the beach and my soul and spirit stills as I experience the power of God in all He created. This is just a glimpse into how complicated my information processing is, and I am just one person in 7.8 billion.

**Milieu**

While ill with a flu of some sort over a couple of weeks at Christmas I was feeling frustrated and depleted of all things God in my life. My normal ways of communing with God for example reading my bible and praying, encouragement in fellowship with others, had become non-existent. Due to sleeping off the sickness, headaches, vomiting and doing my best not to pass it on to anyone else I was physically weak, isolated, and generally feeling sorry for myself. The things that brought my spirit to life were put on hold as I concentrated on the flu meds, getting as much sleep as possible and staying hydrated. While I was riding out the storm my spiritual life was being neglected due to my physical life being turned upside down and I was feeling quite empty. I couldn’t concentrate to seek God in my normal ways and God knew my prayer before I was even able to speak it. I needed to connect to Him on any level, in any way possible and this time it was through the TV. Not scripture because I was finding it hard to focus but a series called, ‘The Chosen’. Not my normal style of communication, but through it I remembered, God was still on the throne, He hadn’t removed Himself from me just because I had the flu. It was the best binge watch day, but one thing it had taught me was that God knows what we need when we need it. Many would not agree with a binge watch of a TV series to connect with God. I would be one of those people. But at that moment, at that time I was truly blessed by the creators of that program. It had ignited an awareness of the greatness of God. God is so amazing and His grace so tangible all the time and I was inspired back from feeling sorry for myself in the physical to hope and faith in the supernatural in a way that I was not expecting. Thankfully God is not limited by how I think things should be done. God makes a way where there is no way it is us who limits Him.

So, I got to thinking…

What can I do to help people connect? How can God use me to fan the flames of connection and remembrance?

**Purpose**

I have, many times felt dry, tired, and weary in my Christian walk, if I am truly honest, I have felt dead spiritually more times than I care to admit. On this occasion I felt the ignition, the inspiration, the encouragement, and the fire come to life as my spirit responded to the communication of God. Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy into the dryness of physically dead bodies in his vision to witness the power of the words of God spoken.

**Ezekiel 37:3** Andhe said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” **4**Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5**Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+37&version=ESV#fen-ESV-21403b)] to enter you, and you shall live. **6**And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

Like Israel this world is dead and dried up, hope is lost, and people are cut off from God. Many Christians are feeling the same way. BUT GOD…The purpose of this tiny project is to reach two groups of people. In the beginning it will be to encourage, inspire and bring life to the believer. Then the believers who catch the fire will share the hope and invite the unbelievers, friends and families who are also in desperate need of God.

For the believers it will be an opportunity - To make a step towards God, to serve in small ways that will encourage them, to be inspired to move forward in their spiritual walk. Everyone who believes, everyone who loves the Lord, newbie or seasoned wants to do something for God but we don’t always know what to do. We need encouragement, suggestions, and opportunities, as this helps us to gain momentum in a forward direction. We can help each other by showing God’s love, sharing our hope in Him, and reminding ourselves and each other of His faithfulness. Honouring God and each other in the dedication of their time (even a small amount), skills (whatever is needed), and company of other like hearted believers (no matter the number gathered). Discipling one another does not have to be complicated we just have to be available.

After Covid people have become constrained by restrictions of lockdown and solitude and disconnection is driven by fear. The provision of an outdoor event in small groups could alleviate some if not all the unique residue of the pandemic. Just a thought.

Another observation is that adult converts, may have never attended Sunday School as a child. This can be due to choice, or the fact that it wasn’t available to them due to the religion they were brought up in, or lack of interest in the family home. What many of us have taken for granted others have not had the pleasure of in childhood. Where schools, Sunday schools, GB’s, BB’s, Scouts, Brownie’s, and youth fellowships contributed to many of our memories, so many adults have never had that experience. They have never heard the stories of David and Goliath, Moses parting the Red Sea and the faithfulness of Ruth. What many of us have taken for granted as children, others are coming to as adults and it’s completely unfamiliar to them. Many find it difficult to just read the bible as an adult and the written word can be a confusing place to start.

**Why?**

* To remind us
* To love one another
* To encourage
* To inspire
* To reach the lost
* To testify to the goodness of God
* To glorify Him in all that we do

And because the bible says so…

**Psalm 105**Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
    make known his deeds among the peoples!  
**2**Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
    tell of all his wondrous works!  
**3**Glory in his holy name;  
    let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!  
**4**Seek the Lord and his strength;  
    seek his presence continually!

And, for no other reason than this…

**Hebrews 10:24-25 24**And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25**not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.