

A scenic photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with vibrant colors of orange, yellow, and red, with a large sun partially obscured by a dark, semi-transparent horizontal band. The sun's rays are visible, creating a lens flare effect. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of trees and a hillside, and the water reflects the colors of the sky.

2021

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

Nehemiah 6:15-16

Neh. 6:15 **So the wall was finished** in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days.

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for **they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.**

This year, too, appears to be challenging, but in spite of the confusion, this year is an opportunity to move past the past and *RENEW, REBUILD, and REKINDLE.*

By God's grace we will **renew our strength, rebuild our steadfastness, and rekindle our spirit.** That is our theme for 2021...

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

We have been considering the example of Nehemiah. He already knew somewhat about the challenges in Jerusalem, but upon hearing recent news, the Lord burdened his heart to return.

Nehemiah's renewal started in Shushan the palace:

I. RENEWING: THE CONCERN

A. The Personal Conviction

B. The Public Conversation

❖ Nehemiah's renewed heart moved him to begin rebuilding his life's purpose, moving to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall of the city.

II. REBUILDING: THE CONSTRUCTION

A. The Plan

B. The Preparation

C. The Problems

D. The Production

E. The Perseverance

F. The Productivity

G. The Purpose

As we consider Nehemiah's path to...

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

...this morning, we move from the rebuilding to *REKINDLE*, and how Nehemiah's spirit was stirred doing the rebuilding of the wall in Jerusalem.

III. REKINDLE: THE COMMENCING

- Once a believer is *renewed* and moves from spiritual lethargy and complacency to active, rebuilding of life, there will be an exhibition of a stirred or rekindled heart.

REKINDLE

verb (used with object)

to excite, stir up, or rouse anew:

to cause to begin burning again; ignite again:.

verb (used without object)

to begin to burn again; ignite again:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/rekindle?s=t>

❖ Once Nehemiah was in Jerusalem, and saw the challenge before him, he did not want to quit and return to Shushan the palace because his heart was stirred to complete the mission before him.

A. The Challenges

- Nehemiah's heart was rekindled to confront the challenges.

Neh. 5:6 And **I was very angry** when I heard their cry and these words.

7 **Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers**, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them. ...

9 **Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies? ...**

13 Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

- A rekindled heart is needed for motivation to overcome challenges.
- Challenges are just a nuisance of life.

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman is of **few days, and full of trouble.**

1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you **but such as is common to man**: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

- Then, again, too often the challenges appear because of our sin.

Jer. 8:14 Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the LORD our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, **because we have sinned against the LORD.**

15 **We looked for peace, but no good *came*; and for a time of health, and **behold trouble!****

Prov. 13:15 Good understanding giveth favour: but **the way of transgressors *is* hard.**

- A cold or discouraged heart leads to frustration and quitting, but a rekindled heart faces and overcomes the challenges.
- Consider the Apostle Paul's encouragement to young Timothy:

2 Tim. 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up** the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

Original Word: ἀναζωπυρέω

Transliteration: anazópureó

Definition: to kindle afresh

Usage: I stir up the fire, fan the flame of.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/329.htm>

- The reason to rekindle our spirit is to overcome circumstances and challenges because we are not to have a “spirit of fear” - that is NOT of God – He has given us “...**power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**”

- A “rekindled” spirit will motivate us to make choices pleasing to God.

B. The Choices

- The first choice is to “stay in the work.”

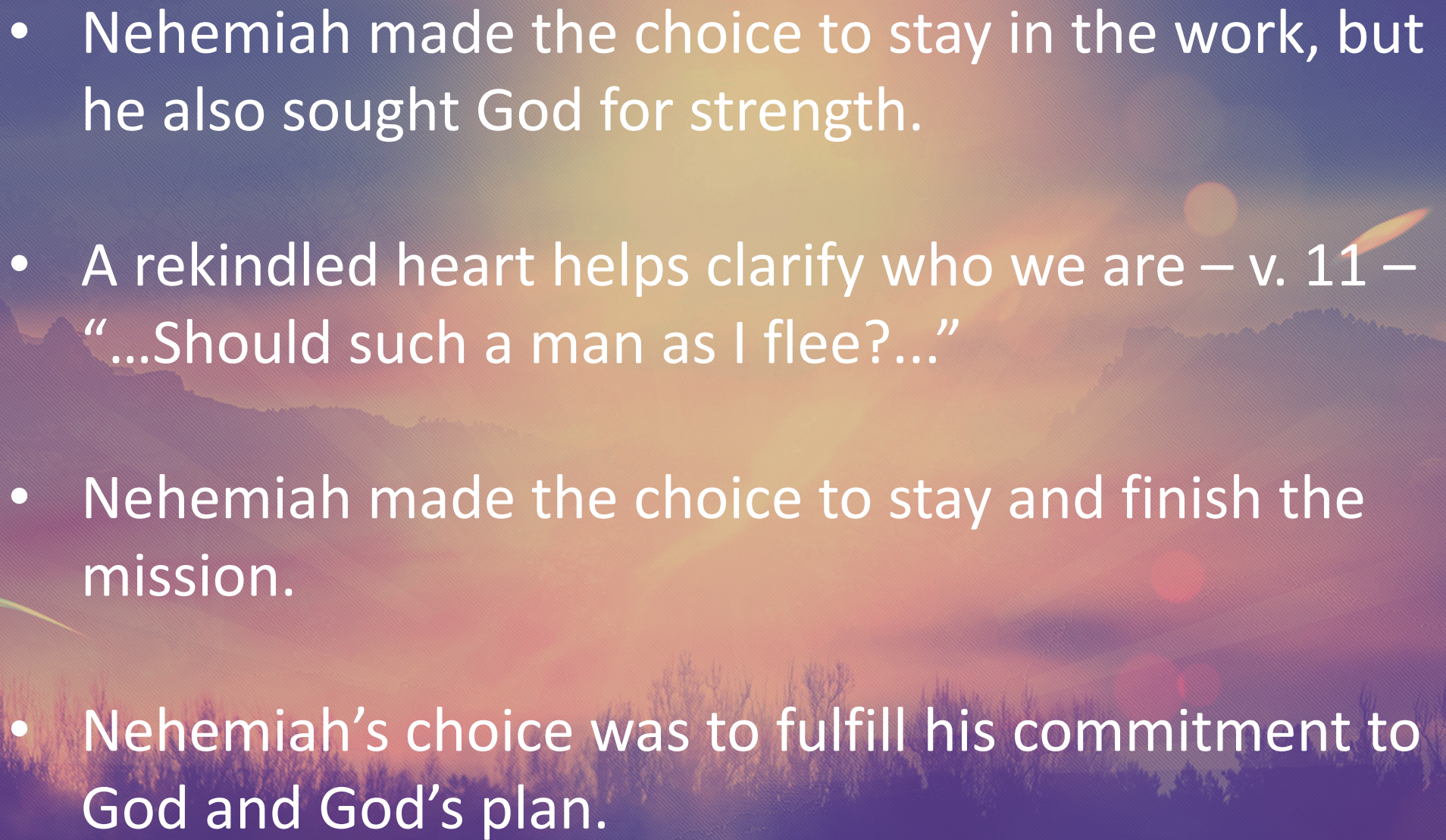
Neh. 6:3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, **I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? ...**

8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.

9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. **Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.**

10 Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who *was* shut up; and he said, **Let us meet together in the house of God**, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

11 And I said, **Should such a man as I flee?** and who *is there*, that, *being* as I *am*, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

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- Nehemiah made the choice to stay in the work, but he also sought God for strength.
 - A rekindled heart helps clarify who we are – v. 11 – “...Should such a man as I flee?...”
 - Nehemiah made the choice to stay and finish the mission.
 - Nehemiah’s choice was to fulfill his commitment to God and God’s plan.

C. The Commitment

- In spite of the challenges, Nehemiah focused upon his commitment to finish the work.

Neh. 6:15 **So the wall was finished** in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days.

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for **they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.**

- When God works through His servants, even the enemies note God's fingerprints on the mission:

Mt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

- A rekindled spirit is connected to the Word of God and His house:

Neh. 8:5 And **Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people**; (for he was above all the people;) and **when he opened it, all the people stood up**:

6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and **they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD** with *their* faces to the ground.

8 **So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.**

Neh. 13:7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber **in the courts of the house of God.**

8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.

9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense. ...

17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing *is* this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?

18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath. ...

25 **And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair**, and made them swear by God, *saying*, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. ...

28 And *one* of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, *was* son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: **therefore I chased him from me.**

29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

30 **Thus cleansed I them from all strangers**, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;

31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. **Remember me, O my God, for good.**

- ❖ Nehemiah's renewed spirit created a rekindled heart for God's priorities, even if it meant he would offend the offenders.
- ❖ A renewed spirit leads to a rebuilt life with purpose to serve the Lord, which stirs such a rekindled heart that a believer is motivated by love to attempt great things for God's glory.

Conclusion

- A rekindled heart and spirit is necessary for involvement in the Lord's work as it is THE effective motivation to serve God for His glory, manifesting love for the Savior.

Jer. 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But **his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones,** and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

Jer. 23:29 **Is not my word like as a fire?** saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces?

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, **O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:**

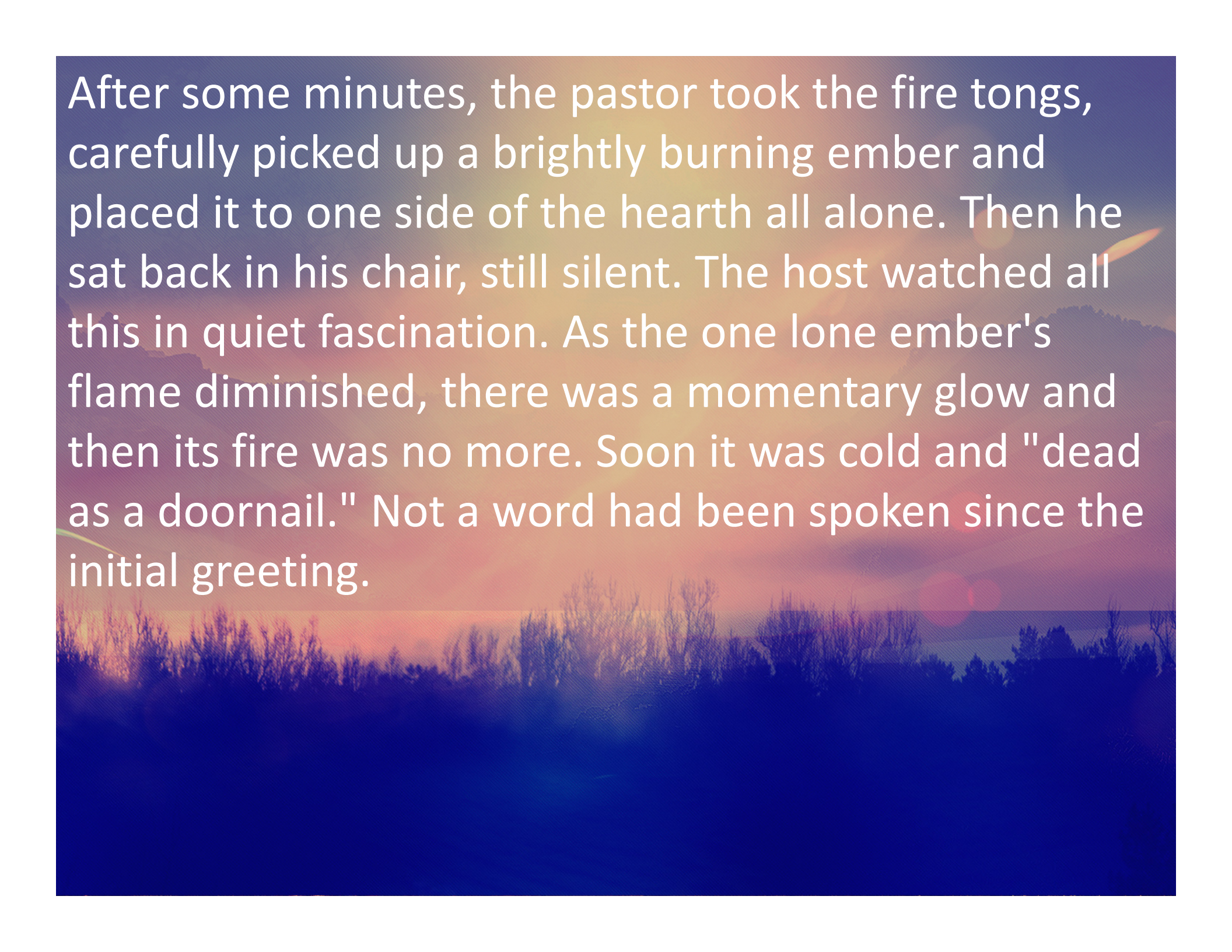
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27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.** ...

32 And they said one to another, **Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?**

Lonely Ember Story (Author Unknown)

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.



After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

<https://inspiredliving.com/inspirational/wisdom~lonelyember.htm>

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,** though we thus speak.