Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

AUGUST 2026

Faith Through the Fire

August is known for the dog days of summer: a season when the heat seems unrelenting, the ground grows dry, and even the strongest among us long for relief. Spiritually, we all experience seasons that feel much the same. We face trials that test our endurance, circumstances that stretch our faith, and moments when the heat of life's challenges seem almost unbearable.

Yet God has never promised a life free from difficulty. Instead, He promises His presence in the midst of it. Scripture declares, "For our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29). His fire is not meant to destroy those who belong to Him but to refine them. Just as precious metals are purified in the furnace, our hearts are shaped as the Lord burns away fear, pride, self-reliance, and anything that keeps us from fully trusting Him.

On Mount Carmel, the prophet Elijah challenged the people to discover who the true God really was, saying, "The God who answers by fire, He is God" (1 Kings 18:24). When God's fire fell, it revealed His power, His faithfulness, and His glory. Sometimes we pray for God to remove the fire from our lives, but perhaps He desires to reveal Himself through it. The very trials we would choose to avoid often become the places where His presence is seen most clearly and where our faith grows strongest.

The prophet Obadiah also speaks of God's people becoming a flame: "The house of Jacob shall be a fire... and the house of Esau stubble" (Obadiah 1:18). Fire not only refines it also illuminates and transforms. As God works within us, His Spirit strengthens us to stand firm, reflect His light, and overcome the things that once held us captive. What once seemed overwhelming loses its power when we are grounded in Christ.

And where do we stand when the heat becomes too much? We stand upon the Rock. Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as our refuge, our fortress, and our unshakable foundation. While the world shifts like scorching sand beneath our feet, the Lord remains steadfast. When we lean upon Him instead of our own strength, we discover that His grace is sufficient and His faithfulness never wavers.

As August's heat reminds us of the refining fire of God, may we welcome His work in our lives rather than resist it. May we allow Him to strengthen our character, deepen our faith, and shape us into people who reflect His holiness. Whatever heat this season brings, we can walk forward with confidence, trusting that the One who refines us also sustains us. He is our consuming fire, our faithful Deliverer, and our everlasting Rock. In Him we find the strength to endure, the courage to remain faithful, and the assurance that every trial is being used to draw us closer to His heart and to make us more like Christ.

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate