

WIND AND FIRE

Wind and fire.
Picture wind whipping fire
the roar and the flame
Picture gathering together
and a sound of a great wind
rushing upon us
drowning our songs
silencing our prayers.
The rush of a mighty wind.
The power of the Spirit.
Perhaps,
before we pray
"Come, Holy Spirit"
Perhaps
before we pray
"Set us on fire"
Perhaps
we should
trembling
bow the head
and pray
"Strength, LORD"
"Courage, LORD"
"Endurance, LORD"
"Trust, LORD"
and then
at last
as the
roaring rises about us
pray
"Come."

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FIRE

Is not my word like a fire,
says the LORD,
and a hammer that shatters the rock?
God's word is like a fire
and fire transforms
fire transfigures
and not without pain
not without loss.
To open oneself
to the transforming fire
of God's word
is a dangerous enterprise
it is to invite wildfire
into one's life
it leaps over barriers
it spreads
it whips wildly about,
consumes and changes
and not only
in the neat little confinement
of our desire...
no treasured corner of our lives
is safe.
To open oneself
to the transfiguring fire
of God's word
is to step into the refiner's fire
where all that is dross
is separated
from all that is gold.

So is brought to fulfillment
that which was spoken:
He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit
and with
fire.

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