



Fireproof Your Life
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Lesson One: Pages 13-21, Fireproof Your Life (Michael Catt)

- I. Sequoias are giant trees in California that date back to the time of Christ – the bark is two feet thick and branches are eight to ten feet in diameter

Lessons from the Sequoia – does not attain prime size and beauty before 1,500 years or become old before 3,000 years – whatever nature delivers millennium after millennium, despite fire, trial, and test, Sequoias live and grow

- a) Fires sweep the mountainsides and do not destroy sequoias – bark has tannin – fire retardant that neutralizes burning embers – shield of faith in Eph. 6
- b) Fire attacks base and foundation of the tree – because of height, crown of tree remains above the flames and is only singed by heat and flames – helmet of salvation
- c) Because of height, lightning hits the trees – trees will survive, heal, and remain unshaken and stalwart – attacks are painful but not fatal
- d) Insects wait until the bark is heated and then attack, trying to deposit deadly larvae in the inner layers of the tree

- II. Sequoias are a metaphor for the Christian Life

All of us go through times of trial and testing. Trials show what we are made of – reveal our hearts and show our level of maturity – our souls are like the great Sequoias if we cultivate our souls with the word of God

- a) Fires (trials) in sequoia forests (your soul) produce positive results – when cone of the sequoia is burned, it dries out, pops open and disperses seeds
- b) But why are there no young trees – tourists and onlookers have hardened the ground and without cultivation or breaking up of the soil, the seeds cannot take root and multiply – some souls are hard
- c) Jesus' parable – Matt. 13:3-9 – seed falls beside the road, rocky places, the thorns, and on good soil;
- d) Some never grow because they do not fireproof their lives – start out following Jesus, but fall to the wayside – devil trips them up and ruins their testimony – the seed never takes root
- e) Notice in the parable that 75% of the seeds bear no lasting fruit – seeds fall on soil that has not been cultivated
- f) Seed must fall on soil conducive to bearing fruit – cultivated and uncluttered

- III. Blessed is the man or woman who is like a tree planted by the streams of water – Psalm 1:1-3

Yields fruit in season, leaf does not wither and whatever he or she does prospers