

The Religious Impact of Holy Ghost fire on the Society

By

Ugwa James Kalu

Wesley University, Ondo

Theveryrevugwa@gmail.com 09073757772

Abstract

The idiom and metaphor of the contemporary Christianity is such that raise pertinent questions today surrounding the phenomenon and the usage of Holy Ghost fire in the churches today. The echoes of Holy Ghost fire as slogan among Christian churches has won the attraction of a favourable group of persons who could not fathom the coinage and the benefit of Holy Ghost fire among the Christendom and this work investigated the phenomenon of Holy Ghost fire and the usage. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources which were descriptively analyzed. Findings prove that the Holy Ghost fire is biblical emanate from the fire that consumed Elijah's sacrifice in 1st Samuel 18, and the tongue of ire at the day of Pentecost that rested on the heads of the apostles of Jesus Christ at the upper-room. The Holy Ghost fire is powerful today either to deliver the righteous or to destroy the wicked, and the work recommends the proper teaching of Christian leaders about the efficacy of the Holy Ghost fire for proper understanding and as a measure to discourage evil and to promote good because our God is a consuming fire Heb.11:29.

Keywords: Religious, Impact, Holy Ghost fire, Society, Christendom

Introduction

The controversy of Holy Ghost fire and its usage among the Christian churches has raised a commotion. The question whether it is biblical, whether it's ethical, whether it is theological or morally right to use Holy Ghost fire or to apply it when praying or encounter some danger is worth attracting our attention. Pentecostalism with its correspondent Charismatic movement has affected every aspect of Christianity and basically, It seems as one cannot again cope up with the scenario and crescendo of Christian movement that advocates for the power and the works of the Holy spirit to protect and to preserve his own. Scholars like Karl Rahner (1971) argued that when we talk about the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost, there is genuine difference the spirit before Pentecost and the Holy Spirit after Pentecost, though scholars had not taken this observation serious enough. He opines that the spirit before Pentecost and the spirit after Pentecost is not altogether the same, because

the spirit before Pentecost was not the spirit incarnate, but the spirit after Pentecost is the spirit of the exalted Christ.

Karl Rahner (1971) states:

The spirit was not there before Christ, and since Pentecost it has been revealed that this Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, that in its outpouring and its work in the world it shares finality of Christ himself.

However, Dunn (1970:56) said that among the specific promises of the father for the messianic time and the new covenant parallel between Ezekiel 36:27 and Jeremiah 31:33 both promises is for the ability to keep the law, the law written in the heart which is precisely equivalent to the gift of the Holy Spirit. In any new covenant theology, the spirit is to be seen as the great agent of the new covenant and its supreme blessing because he is the one who will write the laws in their hearts.

Similarly, the Pentecostal gift is the agent of spiritual circumcision of the heart which is totally the stripping off the body of flesh (Romans 6:6) or the body of death (Romans 7:24). Holy Spirit becomes the working force or person in the hand of God to lead people into the keeping of the law which is written in their hearts and by so doing enter into the new covenant with God with a circumcised heart. The Holy Spirit or Ghost as the case may be which may be used interchangeably is a factor in Christendom that had been settled, but the connection of the Holy Ghost and fire has over the years raised some religious and theological concerns which is the crux of this work. Whether the Holy Ghost fire is an instrument of blessing or havoc is very controversial. Similarly Ugwa (2018) opines that the Holy Ghost fire comes after being baptized with the Holy Ghost and Jesus is the only baptizer of the Holy Ghost. It is a wonderful experience that comparatively few people enjoy. People prayed for the baptism of the Holy Ghost ignorantly but it is the inheritance of every true believer and the essential requisite to a successful ministry of the word of God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the crying need of the church today. This baptism that precedes the fire takes a definite nature:

- 1: It is a definite experience, distinct from regeneration, or any blessing accompanying it.
- 2: It is not a spiritual renewal or any bestowment of added power or grace but it is:
- I: The oil anointing us, ii: It is the fire on the sacrifice, iii: It is the power of Christianity.

No manifestation of feeling or joyfulness is a proof of its existence. One may shout, have great volubility of speech, be intensely in earnest, and never have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It is more than the blessing received by the disciples when Jesus

breathed upon them and said: "Receive the Holy Ghost"; it is clearly distinct from the witness of the spirit. The one Jesus breathed witnesses to our repentance and faith for salvation, while the baptism of the Holy Ghost witnesses to our consecration, faith for inward purity. That distinct experience called purity, as a result of this baptism with the Holy Ghost, was obtained on the day of Pentecost. Peter explained to the council at Jerusalem that the baptism of the Holy Ghost that it was not conversion- for Jesus has told them that their names were written in heaven. He had breathed a measure of the spirit upon them after his resurrection and after commissioning them anew he told them to stay at Jerusalem, saying, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost no many days hence". At Pentecost, in the upper room, they were together not crying for mercy or seeking forgiveness, but in mighty prayer 'waiting for the promise of the father'.

However, before this time, Peter had been restored, and three times avowed his love, (John 21), Thomas was present, without any harassing doubt, looking for the same gift, Matthias has been chosen to replace Judas, yet they had not received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. But at Pentecost Peter said that it was the fulfillment of a prophecy by Joel centuries ago and it is the promised Holy Spirit himself coming to take his permanent possession in the temple which His dispensation demands. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the poured-out baptism from the hand of the only administrator of the baptism with the Holy Ghost. It is not the aggregate power of a well developed moral-nature like theological training and the likes can afford.

It is this baptism that produced the fire at the Pentecost which is the seal of authority given to every Christian who was really baptized in and with the Holy Ghost. The efficacy of this Holy Ghost fire is the hub of this narrative.

Conceptual Analysis

The concept of Holy Ghost fire among Christians is worth examining and the work gears towards drawing the attention of the religious bodies over the efficacy of Holy Ghost fire and the best way of its application for a desired result. Historically, some scholars like Alikakos, Dimitris (2019) agreed that the manifestation of Holy Ghost fire is for warfare against wickedness and evil according to Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim the release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord

The fire of the Holy Ghost according to Dimitris (2019) is to accomplish the following mandates of deliverance to the sincere children of God. Preaching the good news to the poor is by all means bringing comfort and hopes to those afflicted and perplexed. To bring succor to the helpless and asylum to those banished from realities of life. The fire of the Holy Spirit (Ghost) releases all that are held captive, spiritually and otherwise. It opens the spiritual insight and heals the sight impaired persons. The Holy Ghost fire sets at liberty those that are oppressed and imprisoned spiritually, even physically; as in the case of the three Hebrew men in the Daniel 3:25-26.

H.I Heijkoop (1992.) defines Holy Spirit (Ghost) as Jesus being present with his disciples in a more effective way. He saw Ghost as the disembodied soul; the soul or spirit of a deceased person. That is the reason many scholars argue that Holy Ghost or Spirit is the spirit of Christ H.I Heijkoop (1992). Okechukwu Madbuike (oral interview on 18/8/2021) agreed that Holy Ghost Fire is the purification and empowerment power of God, though Favour Ekwuru opines that it is the consuming fire of God which is exclusive for judgment which is both eschatological and present.

Similarly, Vine-song (2020) said Holy Ghost fire is the fire within every Christian that propels on to God and this fire pulls together whoever he inhabits and forms them into a community of believers.

He believes that he is the fire underlying every reality <https://www.vanguardngr.com/hol>. As said earlier, the world Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost are the same and can be used interchangeably. Ugwa (2018) said that Spirit and Ghost are not the same though can be viewed as related. Spirit is individual being without body which cannot be seen with mortal eyes, while Ghost is spirit with body which can be seen sometimes with eyes, though they are with celestial bodies which human beings may not touch. The King James Version of the Bible uses the word Ghost while referring to Holy Spirit, while the later translations use the word Spirit. However, Holy Ghost fire is the same as Holy Spirit fire; it is only a matter of phonetics and usage.

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

There are different symbols of the Holy Spirit which will help us understand the works and benefit of the Holy Ghost.

Wind: The symbol of wind (breath) John 3: 8; John 20: 22; Acts 2:2, mans that the Spirit comes from above as does the wind and as you cannot see the wind, yet you can feel it and see its power, so it is with the same way with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Ghost cannot be

seen but its power can be seen and felt. When the Holy Ghost moves it achieves whatever is the purpose for its appearing.

Dove: The symbol of a dove as in Luke 3: 22 says, " And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape, like a dove, upon Him (Jesus); and a voice came from heaven, which said, thou art my beloved son; in thee I am well pleased." This is the authority and evidence of confirmation of God's power in the life of true believers. This symbol is generally accepted in Christendom as Holy Ghost in action in the life of Christians.

Like the dove, the Holy Spirit is gentle, kind, and pure. He is the Spirit of grace, love, and peace. However, whenever Holy Ghost came upon an individual, these virtues will be evidence in his or her life. These are the signs of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost (Spirit) in the life of a person while the absence of these virtues proves the absence of the Holy Spirit in somebody's life.

Living Waters: The Holy Ghost has living waters as a symbol (John 7: 38- 39). There are characteristics of Living Waters manifest with the Holy Spirit which he gives to anyone who makes his life an abode of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit refreshes, quenches spiritual thirst, and causes life to appear where there was only dry deadness. Asukwo Ekpo (2002.12) agreed that the Holy Spirit (Ghost) is not just the spring of water but "rivers of Living water and his work in the believers' lives is overwhelming wide and deep and mightily active.

A Seal: The symbol of a seal, and 2 Cor. 1: 22 says, "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." The seal is used to authenticate, confirm, certify, and to place under protection; as well as to show ownership. Therefore, the seal to prove that we are God's children is the Holy Ghost. And anyone who receives this seal is secured and has assurance of eternal kingdom of God.

Fire: The symbol of fire (Acts 2: 1-4; Hebrews 12: 29); Fire is powerful, vivid, searing, cleansing, consuming, Protection etc. The Holy Spirit is also like that. This is the connecting rod for which a Christian receives the benefit of his citizenship in God's Kingdom who has transfers us from the Kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of his Dear son (Colossians 1:13). When the Holy Ghost fire is evident in somebody's life it secures many things for that person because he has received the seal as a child of God.

Spiritual Warfare: This life is full of mystery and no one should make mistake about it. Our enemies as Christians abound, they are real and they will oppose us until that glorious

moment of Christ. Christians have been impressed with both the greatness and the complexity of the conflict. Every new day plunges Christians into fresh battles whether they like it or not. Yesterday's victory provides n guarantees for today's and tomorrow's victory. That is the more reason God leads us in his triumph in Christ through the power of Holy Ghost (Spirit) who manifest through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place (2 Cor. 2:14) Grace and Truth Magazine (1990.21).

Warfare is inevitable and that is why God has equipped Christians with the power of the Holy Ghost to fight the enemies. There are many controversies over the Phenomenon of Holy Ghost fire looming among Christian Churches. In the Old Testament and to be precise Exodus 13:21-22) speaks about the Lord raising pillars of Fire and Cloud to guide and protect the children of Israel against their known enemy (the Egyptian). Here fire played a prominent role to give light to the Israelites and to ward off the enemies.1st Kings 18:22-29 where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal with the fire that came from above and consumed the sacrifices.

Similarly, the New Testament concept of Holy Ghost fire originates with John the Baptist who in Matthew 3:11 said that Christ will baptize with Holy Ghost and Fire. So there are the two functions of Jesus; to baptize with the Holy Ghost and to baptize with fire. Okechukwu Madubike believes that people misconstrue the concept and essence of Holy Ghost fire an instrument to fight our enemies. But it is an emblem for sacrifice, purification and empowerment.

Empowerment: Empowerment is the process of supporting another person or persons to discover and claim personal power, spiritually, economically, politically, spiritually, and otherwise. The Holy Ghost fire is a sign of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost (Spirit) in the life of a person to empower him or her to overcome the challenges that Satan and his cohorts may put on the Christians. When it came at the Pentecost period in Acts Chapter 2, the timid Apostles were empowered and Peter stood up to preach and to address the people. Peter who denied Jesus at the mere question of a maid was empowered to stand before the Jewish authority to defend their faith in the crucified and resurrected Jesus. Ugwa James (2018.60) says that the Holy Ghost quickens the ministry of believers. He puts it that:

As Holy Spirit quickens the ministry, responses are made. This response to ministry is however, contingent on time, place, people and culture. This is why in some place and time, responses to ministry is spontaneous, it comes slowly in some places and in other places and times it does not

seem to occur at all, because its empowerment solely depends on the Holy Ghost and its quickening fire.

It is vehemently believes that this empowerments come through the Holy Ghost baptism which is known as the infilling of the Holy Spirit (MCN Bible study Series 2000.16) which God promised upon all flesh (Joel 2.28-29). This baptism is not the same thing with the experience of born-again. It is a definite experience after the experience of regeneration. Okon Ekerendu etal in MCN Bible study Series (2000) said that the disciples were born-again before they were baptized in the Holy Ghost (Luke 24:44-48).

When a Christian is filled with the Holy Ghost he or she can be said to be a genuine Christian and this is the time he is empowered to bear fruit because the fruit is the output of a Christian's life style. John 15:1-6 discusses the advantage of bearing fruit as a Christian and this will prove that you are a Christian when you bear fruit in Christ. Similarly, this empowerment gives a spiritual enablement and special ability for some specific services. The Holy Spirit distributes severally as he wills according to the measure of faith of individuals (Rom 12:3). These gifts are divers because they are given and empowered by the same Spirit (1 Cor.12 4-6, 11); such as word of wisdom, word of knowledge, Faith, Gift of healing, working of miracles prophecy, discernment of spirits, divers kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues. The Holy Ghost (Spirit) empowers believers for service.

Judgment: Judgment is inevitable as a payback of evil committed or injustices done to the vulnerable in the society. Osulana S.A in Methodist Bible study series (2000.24-25) see judgment to mean a day appointed for the whole world in which the wicked are judged and the righteous are rewarded. He sees judgment to be opposite of resurrection into life; he opines that there is one resurrection and one judgment, e.g. Judgment of the flood of Noah and that of the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel. Isaac Ogbonnaya contributing to the same (2000) Methodist Bible study series agreed that Judgment at the cross that where Jesus was crucified and died resonated to victory where Satan's power over the believers was broken and the sins of the believers were judged and put away. Christ resurrection brought the final judgment to Satan by equipping the saints against that man of perdition. These writers agreed that the coming of the Holy Ghost (Spirit) as the case may be on the Pentecost Day brought the Holy Ghost power down and empowered the Christians against wickedness and evil. The power to overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit and fire became a special gift to the disciples of Jesus Christ, they were baptized in the Holy Ghost, receives the gifts of the Holy Ghost (Spirit) which is evident in the ministry of the church.

However, the Holy Ghost fire is a baptism by fire which is to be accepted and applied by every Christian for a successful victorious Christian living. Fire does many works but spiritually it may be said to have only three functions, viz. for purification, for sanctification and for consumptions

Purification: John the Baptist said in Luke 3:16-17 “He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire; whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner, but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.” In the ancient time, especially in the Old Testament time, a fan was an instrument that was used to throw the wheat into the air where the wind would separate and blew the chaff away so that the wheat could fall back to the ground pure. They would at this time put the wheat in the barn and burn the chaff. John the Baptist was saying that was coming when fire of God would separate the wheat from the chaff so our lives could be pure before God. The fire of God or Holy Ghost fire refines us as it burns the chaff and gets us ready for his Glory. Mark Brazee (2020) quips that in the natural, a farmer burns chaff and keep the wheat and that is the same thing God does in Christians lives burning the chaff with the Holy Ghost fire, burning excess baggage so that Christians can show forth his glory. There are many chaffs and excess baggage Christians encounter everyday which is not outward sin like smoking, drinking, fornication or other immoral acts, although they are also some of the encumbrances that Christians do encounter which need deliverance, but there is more chaffs that needs to be burnt of a Christian than just sin.

What are they, they are anything that holds a Christian back from doing God’s will-whether it is oppression from hell, Satan, his agents either human or spiritual, sickness or disease caused by witches, wizards, Devils with its demons or whatever. The fire burns off any weights, including anything that withholds us from running our spiritual race. When the fire comes down it will burn all the chaffs and purifies us.

Weapon of Warfare: Holy Ghost Fire can as well be used as weapon of warfare for protection and shield against evil attack, conspiracy, manipulations, and invocations from the witch world. In several cases, people praying in the name of Jesus with the application of the Holy Ghost fire ward-off evil and demons. And it is believe that when the fire falls, the evil will be consumed and every projection will backfire and the wicked will be destroyed by the machinations of their devices. Holy Ghost fire sociologically creates the atmosphere of spiritual security which has psychological effect in producing result to the applicants. Therefore, Holy Ghost fire becomes a tool for spiritual authority and faith that the enemies have no more power over their progenitors. Consequently, prayers that are offered invoking Holy Ghost fire are thunderously heard such as:

1. I declare by faith , I reject sudden weeping and sorrow this year in Jesus' name and anything that will cause sorrow and weeping in my family- Holy Ghost Fire! Shout fire!!
2. Every gathering against me and my family –cancel by fire-Holy Ghost! Fire!!
3. Whatever agreement of discussion been reached in the spiritual world against my life, and my loved ones this year; I command them to be frustrated in Jesus' name! Shout fire three Times! Fire! Fire!! Fire!!
4. **Holy Ghost Fire Changes People:** The Holy Ghost Fire is an agent of transformation, refiner and purifier of Christians.

Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and straw-each man's work will become manifest; for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he receives a reward. If any man's work is burnt up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved but only as through fire (1 Cor.3:13-15).

God hates wickedness, oppression and inhumanity and he bent on punishing evil and wickedness and rewarding righteousness. To this effect, God designed the final destiny of the wicked, there are 162 texts in the New Testament alone which speak of the doom that awaits the impenitent and 70 which were uttered by Jesus Himself (Ps.9:17). Many people thought that Holy Ghost fire is the same as hell fire, but it is not true. Also many people who are passing several challenges in life always exclaimed (I am passing through Holy Ghost Fire!). These are misconception about the Holy Ghost fire. Holy Ghost fire is not Hell fire neither is it an end time thing but a means to an end. Challenges of life which are manmade cannot by any means be Holy Ghost fire. As the bible passage above ascertain that life is compared to building a house which starts with foundation and what material for which a foundation is laid determines how solid the house will be. A man who built his life's foundation on wickedness will face the judgment of Holy Ghost fire. And any work that survives the fire will be purified like gold. Gold is washed with fire.

Benefit of Holy Ghost Fire: Having argued about the purifying tendency of gold by fire as a metaphor of the purification of people with Holy Ghost fire. Whatever fire is to gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and straw is the same thing Holy Ghost fire is to the world, especially among true Christian. During Elijah and the prophets of Baal's context at mount Carmel the fire came down and consumed water, wood, stones and purified Elijah and the true worship of God. So whenever one calls up the Holy Ghost fire and it

came down, it will consume every wickedness, barriers, oppression, evil men and women who refused repentance, whose stock is to destroy peoples destiny, talents, marriages and good fortunes, but it a righteous man is there, the Holy Ghost fire will purify him, sanctifies him, and brings out the purposes of God in his life and makes him shines brighter than ever before (Bamgboye J. A).

Healing

Holy Ghost fire by prayers and faith cures are affected. Other types of healing may relapse but no case of divine healing by the power of Holy Ghost and fire fails. One of the modern fallacies connected with the teaching on healing is that of insisting that, whatever the symptom, one must go forth counting it done, acknowledge and praising him for it. "Do not look for immediate removal of the symptoms." Yes this may be true of true believers who truly have the power of Christ in them and when the fire falls it will refine them and burn up every debris and useless things in their lives including sicknesses. Healing is a reality and not a delusion it comes divinely in this context to those who are righteous and holy. When divine healing takes place, the person becomes well. The gift of healing is a direct endowment, through the application of faith. The prayer of faith shall heal the sick (James 5:15-16). Not any believer can exercise faith to save the sick. There are many accounts of failures to heal a sick person and also many of glorious divine healings. Let me expressively say here that, if it is the will of God to heal the sick, he will impart the faith as a gift and he who possesses it merely communicates it in the spirit of faith while God does the healing in a divine way.

Summarily, there is still divine healing taking place today by the power of Holy Ghost (Spirit) but we should know that the faith for healing is a gift to assure the healing of the one believed for, and where ever it exists cannot record any failure. Example is drawn though from the Old Testament concerning Moses and Pharaoh.

It is the counterfeit that proves originality. Moses could not make any head way with pharaoh until he did something the magicians could not do. Miraculous healings would not worth anything to prove divine power with the masses of heathen priests who can as well effect the seemingly healing without faith in Christ, but Moses own was empowered by the Holy Spirit (Ghost) where the magicians could not attempt doing it.

The Religious Impact of Holy Ghost fire on the Society

Religiously the phenomenon of Holy Ghost fire has created in Christianity a body of vibrant and zealous Christians whose spiritual dispositions has put some vibrancy in today's Christian churches. Holy Ghost fire has become a tool for social justice where like

in African indigenous religion the (Kamalu) the god of thunder would strike down any offender without mercy. Holy Ghost fire becomes the fire of Justice, equity and fair play. When the Holy Ghost fire was present in Acts 5 when Ananias and his wife Sapphira lied they were struck dead and the church learned to fear God. It created in the society senses of awareness that God watches over the affairs of men by punishing evil and rewarding righteousness. Similarly, Holy Ghost fire serves as a source of empowerment creating, sustaining and organizing talents of individual human beings. When God deposited a gift in a man or woman, it is the Holy Ghost that will empower such person to function properly while the Holy Ghost fire becomes the sustaining force for the empowering. It is the fire that consumes our prayers and sacrifices. If your sacrifices are not a sweet savour to God it will be unacceptable. The Holy Ghost fire consumes the sacrifices and takes the sweet aroma to the divinity. It is also the weapon with which true believers fight back the known and unknown enemies. When the fire is invoked and it appears, it will purify and sanctify the person and consume every bad and evil thing around him or her there by punishing, killing, judging or purifying everything within and without the person who called upon it. If the person who called is evil, the fire will consume him without mercy. Holy Ghost fire is a righteous fire, Holy Fire, God's Fire, the breath of Jesus and the doer of good works.

U.U. Mmeregini (30/09/2021. 1.30pm) at Methodist Cathedral Enugu fire conference 2021 said that fireless ministers raise powerless churches and a fire brand minister produces powerful churches. He opines that John Wesley set himself on fire and people gathered to watch him burn. Mmeregini urges the Methodist ministers to contact the fire of the Holy Ghost at this conference for empowerment as to go for people to gather to watch them burning. He quips that many pastors are weak and dead in service simply because they have not contacted the fire of the Holy Ghost and this is the reason for gathering at this fire conference that fire of the Holy Ghost may fall to purify, sanctify, and bring judgment to very ungodliness in the society. If pastors can be on fire for Christ, Nigeria will change for good (Zechariah 3:1-3)

1. Send down fire, the Holy Ghost fire
Send down fire again, the Holy Ghost fire
2. Holy Ghost fire! Fire fall on me
Holy Ghost fire! Fire fall on me
Like the day of Pentecost, fire fall on me
And as in the day of Pentecost
Fire fall on me

Conclusion: The phenomenology of the Holy Ghost fire as a controversial issue today has gone beyond denial, but acceptance of it as a second to none in religious matters especially where it concerns Christianity. The axiom Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost is understood as one and the same thing. While King James Version discuss the issue of Holy Ghost and other later translations discuss the same issue as Holy Spirit. In any case Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost are referred to the one and only person of the third person in Trinity.

The efficacy of the Holy Ghost cannot be over-emphasized because he is the functional force of the first and second person in Trinity. It is called the spirit of Jesus Christ; it is seen as the Comforter promised by Jesus Christ. It is as called the spirit of truth. Being the power behind the ministry of Jesus and the power Jesus Christ released to his disciples on the Pentecost day, with the tongue like fire or the tongue of fire, he is given to advocate, solicit, protect, deliver, release those believers Satan and his agents want to put into perpetual bondage. The Holy Ghost fire automatically becomes the fire of God to consume every evil, dangerous object spiritual and physical that antagonizes the true Christians. Holy Spirit fire or Holy Ghost fire as we can see is not evil and it is not for destruction but for preservation, purification and sanctification. Whenever Holy Ghost fire is called upon, it will come to do these three things, to preserve, to purify and to sanctify; remember, it comes with fire and when the fire appears it comes to purify like gold is purified with fire. If anyone is gold she or he will be purified, sanctified and persevered but if on the contrary, it consumes wood, stones, water, rubbish, etc like the case of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, he will consume everything without mercy. Those praying down the Holy Ghost fire are doing it with good intention to purify, sanctify, preserve them and their Christian faith and consume the any sacrifice given to God out of a clean heart. Holy Ghost fire while coming for good purposes it consumes every dirty things and encumbrances, whether human, spiritual and otherwise. It is an object of judgment, deliverance, blessing and favour to human society. That is the more reason it is expedient for people to do good works, love their neighbours so that they will be purified like gold at the appearing of the Holy Ghost fire.

References

- Alikkos Dimitris (2019) *Apostles, Epistles of the Holy Spirit*: Athens
- Asukwo Ekpo (2002.12): *The Spirit of Pentecost*: Methodist Bible Study Series: Methodist Church Nigeria: Department of Evangelism
- Bamgboye J. A (2002) *Holy Ghost Baptism*: Methodist Bible Study Series: Methodist Church Nigeria: Department of Evangelism
- Dunn (1970) *The Baptism with the Holy Spirit*: SCM press Ltd.

- Grace and Truth Magazine (1992) *Holy Ghost Baptism*: Grace and Truth, Inc. Chestnut Danville IL USA
- Heijkoop H.L (1992) *The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person*: Base-Druck GmbH; Hegan Germany
- Isaac Ogbonnaya (2000) (2002) *Holy Ghost Baptism*: Methodist Bible Study Series: Methodist Church Nigeria: Department of Evangelism
- Karl Rahener (1971) *Theological Investigation*: Trans; David Bourke (New York: Herder and Herder
- Mark Brazee (2020) Holy Ghost Fire cfaith.com 9201 Avenue North Brooklyn Park MN
- Vine-song: (2020) <https://www.vanguardngr.com/hol>. Retrieved 8/8/2021 2.30pm
- Osunlana S. K (2000) Methodist Bible Study Series: Methodist Church Nigeria: Department of Evangelism
- Ugwa James Kalu (2018) *Ministry as Vocation*: Whytem Publishers. Okigwe Imo State Nigeria
- Okechukwu Madbuike (oral interview on 18/8/2021)
- Favour Ekwuru (oral interview on 18/8/2021)