



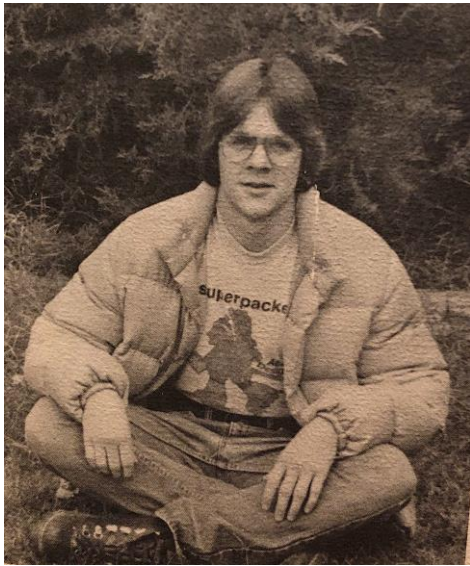
**ALL IN** in 2019

December 8, 2019

Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Founding and Lead Pastor*

**IGNITE – Strike a Match** - John 1:19-34

This is me in my senior year book in 1977.



**I wanted to be a forest ranger.** I loved backpacking, camping and the out of doors. I learned how to make a fire, how to gather kindling and prepare the materials in just a way that all it would take is the **strike of a match** and fire would begin. But I could do everything just right but if I didn't **strike the match** ... the fire would never have started.

The summer after I graduated, I **did missionary work in Austin Minnesota** and I lead camps throughout Texas before going into the Army. It was during this time that **God ignited a fire in my heart for Him and for the Gospel.**

Throughout the summer I would take out my guitar and play around the campfire. One of the songs we would sing you may know ... it was **Pass it On** by Kurt Kaiser, who died last November at the age of 83. **Maybe you know the song ...**

**"It only takes a spark to get a fire going and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.** That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it **you spread His love to everyone, you want to pass it on."**

**It only takes a spark.** Have you ever known someone who had so much potential, so filled with possibilities? You just wanted to light a fire under them, get them moving, somehow turn the heat up, spark their passions, their interests ...

**Kindling** - material that can be readily ignited, used in starting a fire.

**Intention + Action = Impact**

The road to hell is paved with **good intentions.**

Execution crushes ideation every time!

God's **Plan** + Our **Actions** + the Spirit's **Witness** = A **Changed** Life

John the Baptist's Story

Luke 1:13-80; Matthew 3:4; John 3:26-36

**Testimony** – it's what we say about ourselves.

And **this is the testimony of John**, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **"Who are you?"** He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. **What do you say about yourself?"** He said, **"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'** as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, **"I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."** These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.  
John 1:19-28

You have a **story** to tell.

What's your story?

Your Christian **testimony** is about ... **who you were** when you found out **who Jesus is** and what he did for you. Followed by **who you are** now because of Him and **who you hope to be** in the future because of what he is doing in you.

Who knows that when you tell your story it might be the match that lights the kindling of a life creating a fire of faith?

Use your **voice**.

Your voice is about **influence**.

Christians who embraced Christ before their teen years, half **(50%) were led to Christ by their parents**, with another one in five **(20%) led by some other friend or relative**.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation**. Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:18–21

You have a **purpose** to pursue.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!** This is he of whom I said, '**After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.**' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And **John bore witness**: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but **he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'** And I **have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.**" John 1:19–34

Point **people** to **Jesus**.

The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **He must increase, but I must decrease.**" He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. **Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.** For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life**, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:29–36

Show them the **Way**.

Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

Your **actions** matter!

You have heard the saying, **Strike while the iron's hot**. In metallurgy and blacksmithing it literally means to **strike a hot** piece of metal, especially **iron**, with a mallet or other tool before it cools, **while** it is still **hot** enough to be shaped. Today, it is more of an idiom which means –

To act on an opportunity promptly while favorable conditions exist; to avoid waiting.

Our opportunity to reach men, women and children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is **now**.

**According to George Barna**

For years, church leaders have heard the claim that nearly nine out of ten Christians accept Jesus as their savior before the age of 18. If that statistic was accurate in the past, it no longer depicts U.S. society. The current Barna study indicates that nearly

- **Half of all Americans who accept Jesus Christ as their savior do so before reaching the age of 13 (43%),**
- **Two out of three born again Christians (64%) made that commitment to Christ before their 18th birthday.**
- **One out of eight born again people (13%) made their profession of faith while 18 to 21 years old.**
- **About one out of every four born again Christians (23%) embraced Christ after their twenty-first birthday.**

To Strike is to make an action with an impact! Whether iron works or bowling a ball ... Through a gift I can make an action that impacts lives now and for eternity.

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going.**

You have a story to tell and a voice to tell it.

You have a purpose to pursue ... point people to Jesus, show them the Way.

God's **Plan** + Our **Actions** + the Spirit's **Witness** = A **Changed** Life

Give a gift that will light the future for the next generation!