

# **“SACRED FIRE”**

**Leviticus 6:8-13**

“The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.” (Lev. 6:13)

## **INTRODUCTION**

One of the greatest challenges we will ever face – is to keep the “fire of God” burning in our hearts!

(And God reveals the remedy)

1. To keep the fire from being quenched.
2. To keep the fire burning and continuous.
3. To keep the fire from being snuffed out.

## **Leviticus Is A Worship Manual**

**Fact:** The name of the book (Leviticus) was given because it concerns the Levitical system of worship in the Old Testament.

- ◆ Genesis reveals Abraham’s call and the covenant with his family.
- ◆ Exodus reveals the deliverance of the Israelites from bondage.
- ◆ Leviticus is the manual given to the priests and people so that they would know how to worship in a meaningful way.

## **Five Basic Principles Are Taught In Leviticus**

1. No fellowship with God is possible except on the basis of atonement for sin (and man cannot atone for his sin, a mediator is necessary).
2. Atonement must be according to Divine plan.
3. Only the good, clean and whole is acceptable as worship to God.
4. Those who walk with God must be Holy since He is Holy (Leviticus deals with inner and outer purity).
5. Real worship involves the total commitment of our being; all areas of life are to be under God’s control.

## **Five Classes Of Sacrifices Are In Leviticus:**

1. The Burnt offering – signifying total self-surrender on the part of the offerer.
2. The Meat offering – acknowledging God’s sovereignty over all.
3. The Sin offering – where God’s wrath is appeased and the offerer is set free.
4. The Trespass offering – where satisfaction for sin is made.
5. The Peace offering – where union and communion is made between the offerer of the sacrifice and the recipient of the sacrifice.

## **Questions With Answers**

- ◆ How can I tend to the fire of my heart?
- ◆ What is the significance of removing the ashes?
- ◆ Why did the garments have to be changed?

## **Why The Fire On The Altar?**

**Fact:** The altar was placed before the tabernacle.

**Fact:** God supernaturally started the fire at His appointed time.

**Fact:** Coals from the brazen altar were then to be placed upon the incense altar.

**Fact:** On the altar of burnt offering, the sacrifice was an animal without blemish.

**Fact:** In Leviticus 1:5, blood was sprinkled upon the altar (signifying redemption and our acceptance through the blood).

But Sprinkling Was Not Enough! There Must Also Be A **Fire!**

**Question:** Why did there have to be a fire?

**Answer:** Because fire was God's idea to teach us something:

1. That God would perpetually receive adoration, worship and praise.
2. That the believer must maintain the fire, the flame and the heart ablaze with prayer, praise, adoration and devotion at all times.

### **Why The Fire?**

1. Because fire signifies the Presence of God.
2. Because fire is the emblem of my worship to God.
3. Because fire reveals the outworking of God in your heart and mine.

**Question:** Why would the priests take turns tending the fire all night long?

**Answer:** To keep the sacrifices burning to testify to God...

...that we are not neglectful or forgetful!

...that we dare not let the fire go out!

### **In Other Words**

God – you started it, but we must cooperate to keep it burning and keep it glowing!

(v. 13) "It shall never go out."

### **The Danger; Is The Night Season**

"The burning upon the altar all night" (v. 9)

**Fact:** The "night seasons" in Scripture are symbolic of the furnaces of life.

**Fact:** The "night seasons" are where satan snuffs out the fire of so many.

**Fact:** The "night seasons" lead many to respond the wrong way when tried by fire.

"Weeping may endure for a night." (Psalm 30:5)

"He giveth songs in the night." (Job 35:10)

**Question:** Why are many flames extinguished in the night seasons?

**Answer:** Because we lose perspective of the whole picture of what God is doing.

"When He has tried me I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)

"The fining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord trieth the hearts."

(Proverbs 17:3)

"God is as a refiner's fire." (Malachi 3:2)

**Question:** Why didn't the priests lay down on the job in the night seasons?

**Answer:** Because they knew if they were faithful while others were sleeping, daylight would rise again.

## Our Danger?

- ◆ Is to let a disappointment smolder the fire.
- ◆ Is to allow unfulfilled expectations quench the flame.
- ◆ Is to yield to a martyr's complex when tested greatly.
- ◆ Is to allow something to move us away from the campfire of God.

## Three Essentials In Tending The Flame

### I. The Ashes

"Take up the ashes and put them beside the altar." (Leviticus 6:10)

"Carry forth the ashes outside the camp." (v. 11)

#### What Are The Ashes?

1. Ashes are what remains after the fire.
2. Ashes are the residue left after the fire burns.
3. Ashes are the stuff that doesn't ascend to God.
4. Ashes are the dross that God cannot accept.
5. Ashes are the flesh and corruption that will not be accepted.

**Question:** What does God say to do with the ashes?

**Answer:** "Carry them away, get rid of them."

**Question:** Why give time to the ashes?

**Answer:** Because the ashes must be removed before the next fire can be lit. (Repeat)

- ◆ Refuse to deal with the ashes and the fire goes out and is extinguished.

#### Removing The Ashes Means:

1. I must remove anything that would hinder the fire from burning.
2. I must remove anything that would quench the fire from igniting.
3. I must remove the ashes first, before I can expect to burn with the fire of God.

#### All Ashes Must Go!

- ◆ Too much criticism, censorship and gossip.
- ◆ Too much prayerlessness, unbelief and slothfulness.
- ◆ Too much "stuff" that chokes out what God wants to do.

**Fact:** If I refuse to deal with the ashes the fire will go out!

**Fact:** If I fail to address the ashes the Spirit cannot burn!

**Fact:** If I do not confront the ashes, the Holy Spirit will not rise through me.

- ◆ Our progress will go no further than our obedience takes us.

### II. The Garments

"The priest shall put on his linen garment and take up the ashes." (v. 10)

"And he shall put on other garments to carry off the ashes without the camp." (v. 11)

**Question:** Why is the priest given instructions concerning his dress?

**Answer:** Because it does matter how we appear before God and approach His throne. (Repeat)

### **Clothing Illustrates Truth**

1. "Wedding Garments" (Matthew 22:12)
2. "White Raiment" (Revelation 3:18)
3. "Keep your Garments" (Revelation 16:15)
4. "Arrayed in fine linen, clean and white" (Rev 19:8)

### **What's The Big Deal?**

1. We must be clothed with clean hands and a pure heart before our worship will be accepted.
2. We are wasting time if we want to burn with Holy Fire, yet our clothes still carry the smell of ashes.
3. We learn here, that the slightest engagement in worshipping our Lord deserves to be esteemed as sacred and Holy and important!
4. We discover that I must live right at all times, so that I can pray right at any time!

### **III. The Wood**

"The priest shall burn wood on it every morning." (v. 12)

**Fact:** Not just any wood would do!

**Fact:** Care was given by the priests in selecting the sticks to burn; no rotten wood allowed.

### **God Said "Stoke The Fire"**

**Question:** What kind of wood will ignite the fire and keep it ablaze?

**Question:** What kind of wood is combustible?

### **Logs That Are Real Firewood**

(That allow God to burn in us.)

#### **1. Deep Repentance**

- The sacrifices were for sin and when I see my sin I will repent!

"Godly sorrow worketh repentance (never to be regretted of)." (II Cor. 7:10)

#### **2. Disciplined Living**

- No rotten sticks were on the fire,

"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit." (II Cor. 7:1)

#### **3. Devotional Fervency**

- The priest's must continue all night taking turns (which speaks of consistency).

"My heart is fixed O God, my heart is fixed." (Psalm 57:7)

#### **4. Determined Obedience**

- God gave the specifics and the priests and the people must carry them out.

"If ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good of the land." (Isaiah 1:19)

#### **5. Divine Order**

"Lay the burnt offering in order upon it." (v. 12)

**Fact:** The material to be consumed must be deposited upon the altar in order.

**Fact:** There is no use placing myself upon the altar to be consumed by God, unless I am

willing to come on God's terms alone.

**Conclusion**

(To Keep The Fire Burning)

1. I am willing to "carry off" any ashes.
2. I'll wear the garments of absolute obedience.
3. I'll give God the wood to work with (something ignitable).

**"The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out."  
(Leviticus 6:13)**

AMEN  
Bill Kirk