Don’t Let the Fire Go Out On The Altar

Leviticus 6:12-13  

And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings. 

The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

- We need a move of God in our World, our Nation, our cities, and our community!
- I don’t know about you but I want the Power of God to fall!
  - That people may know that the God that I have given my life to is alive and well and full of majesty full of power!
  - I want them to know that the Church is Powerful!
  - I want my neighbors to know that the Church is the place where they can come to meet God!
  - A place where they can have their need’s met!
  - That it is the place where the glory of God is!
  - That His presence is there!
  - A place where there is peace, joy, and a place full of glory!

- Look at someone and tell them, “You are the Church!”
- If we want our world, nation, cities and communities and our building to be filled with the power and majesty, and the presence of God, and the glory of God, then it’s time that you and I walk and live like we know that we are the temples of the living God! (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

- And as the temples of God we must offer up a sacrifices!
- Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

- We do this by coming to the altar!
- I believe that we the church have to be careful not to let the fire go out on the altar in our church and in our homes!

- The Bible first mentions the word altar in Genesis 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of
every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

• Then we see many times after this that the word altar is mentioned
• But I want us to look at our text again.
• This is what is going to bring in the glory, the presence, the majesty and power of God in to our lives, into our world, our cities, and our community!

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DON’T LET THE FIRE GO OUT ON THE ALTAR

• There are many who are concerned because of the things going on in the world.
• But we need be more concerned with the neglect in the house of God and the neglect of the altar!

• I am not that old but I remember many years ago we wouldn’t get out of church until after 10 pm and many times it was almost midnight.
  o We were seeking the face of God waiting till the glory fell!
  o People who were hungry for a move of God!
  o Not satisfied with a service that just entertained you!
  o Not going home until they knew that God had touch them with His presence!

• Programs are not enough!
  o God can do all things!
  o He doesn’t need our programs!
  o He doesn’t need our help!

• I remember when I came to Battle Creek I asked the Lord what I needed to do to make this church grow…
  o The Lord told me, “Have GOOD church!”
    ▪ Now I think sometimes we are looking at the clock...
    ▪ If it is after 12:30 we stayed too long…
• How do we get God to respond to us and our needs?
  • God responds to prayer!

• Noah, Abram, Isaac, Jacob, Moses…They all built altar’s!

• In the book of Leviticus it tells us of the offering that was to be brought to the altar.
  o In Chapter 1:1-17 it gives us the description of the burnt offering and how important they were for the atonement of sins.
  o And in our text in Leviticus 6:12-13 it tell us that the fire should never go out!

• Altar’s are not only important at church but in our lives!
  o It is a place that we should always go to!
  o It is more important than anything else!
  o Our personal altar!

• If the fire goes out on the altar, then we are only a form of what God really wants!
  o We become a form of religion, godless and traditional.
  o Oh God, help us to build an Altar!

• David said in Psalms 26:6 *I will wash mine hands in innocence: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:* (in other words – I will go about thy altar)

• Here in Leviticus we see that an altar is a place of devotion and of faith!
  o And the fire must never go OUT!
• It is a place where our sins are forgiven!
  o Church, it a place we need to visit everyday!
  o My sin has been forgiven.

• I have been washed in the blood!
  o No matter what or how I am feeling today – I been made clean!
    ▪ God help us to build an altar!
  o There is no room for disease, sins, unhappiness, or guilt!
  o The blood that has been shed for me is resting on the altar!
• And because of it we have the Victory!
In Genesis 22:5-9 we see the altar is a place of devotion and faith in the forgiveness of sins!
  - And it is also a place of worship!
  - Genesis 22:5, *And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”*
  - A place of Worship!
    - Not only in Church!
    - If we only worship in Church we don’t have an altar!
  - Abraham told the men to wait!
    - I have something personal to do with God!
  - Abraham knew that in order to worship God there was going to be a cost!
    - It was a total surrender of his will!

Oh come on church I am talking about more than singing just because someone is leading us to sing!
  - I am talking about going past dancing just to dance!
    - Clapping just to clap!
    - An emotional shout because someone else is leading the way!
    - I am talking about true worship because He deserves it.
  - God wants to know what in our heart!
  - Are you wanting more than just to hear a song, dance a dance, and shout a praise because it’s in the program?

Abraham went to the mountain and built an altar!
  - That was in obedience to what the will of God’s was!
  - He was going to give his everything!
  - It was his only son.

Look at the cost of worship!

His worship so pleased God that Abraham was called His friend!
• Why because he built an altar!
• **Worship will quicken our conscience to the holiness of God!**

• The holiness movement: Was what we needed, but then men got a hold of it and began to make their own rules to what holiness was and no longer was it a time of setting one’s life to please God with righteousness, right living with God – But instead a life that had to obey all this and that – You can’t wear this or that! You can’t do that!

• And it became a standard of rules instead of what it was supposed to be – Right living with God! Given to God, set apart for God’s service!

• It’s the same thing that happens with all great movements of God
  o The filling of the Holy Spirit!
  o The Faith movement!
  o Healing movement!

• Man tried to make it happen instead of letting God be God!

• It is impossible to truly worship God without holiness!
  o Pure in heart, given to God, set apart for His service!

• We need the holiness of God to bring revival and take away the compromise of sin in the church.
  o Why are people not coming to Church? It is because we lost the Holiness of God!
    ▪ We don’t have the power!
  o We have programs – man’s program’s, man’s timing…we say, God we are here at this time.
    ▪ We are going to read our announcement’s, sing you 2 fast and then one slow song.
    ▪ We need Your anointing right here and then we are going to take an offering.
    ▪ Let the preacher have his 30 minutes and then it’s time to get outta here!
    ▪ We have let the fire go out on the altar of prayer!
    ▪ The altar of worship!
    ▪ We need more than just a five minute altar call!
    ▪ What’s wrong? Do we not have anymore to offer that this to God!
  o People can see if we have phony religious services that has been put on!
  o WE CANNOT LET THE FIRE GO OUT!!!
• The fire will go out when we lose the sense of the Holiness of God!
  o Oh come church, it’s time we got back to the Holiness of God!
  o It’s time we get back to giving ourselves to God!
  o It’s time that we set apart ourselves for service to God.
  o Not just coming to watch the chosen few burn themselves out trying to do all the work of the church – to pamper you so that you don’t get offended and leave because the song service was to long…or to short….or the preacher was to emotional, or not emotional enough….or He was to bold, or not bold enough!
• OH come on somebody, it’s time we got back to where we yearn for, look for, can’t do without…The Holiness of God!
  o It’s time we start giving Him the reverence that He is worthy of!
  o Don’t let the fire go out on the altar!
    ▪ The altar of prayer!
    ▪ The altar of worship!

• When we stroke the fire it will get us back to the place where the Church was suppose to be!
  o A place where we will fill our minds with the greatness of our GOD!
  o A place of where nothing will compare to His greatness!
  o No problems no troubles, no sickness, not even death can separate us from Him because we have the fire burning on the altar!
• Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

• There no God like MY GOD!

• When we worship nothing compares to Him!
• No problems of the world.
  o Why?
  o When we look at God through worship we will see He is bigger, BIGGER, BIGGER…than anything that comes my way!
• Worship will open our hearts to the love of God!
  o Love so great, that you can’t sink so low enough to get away from it!
  o Love so great that you fly so high to get away from it!
  o Love so great that no matter what direction you go you can’t get away from it!
• David said this way in Psalms 139:7-10, Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

• What can separate me from the Love of God! NOTHING !
• Someone may be having troubles with alcohol…
  o Quit saying I am alcoholic
  o Quit saying that you’re weak!
  o Quit saying that you can’t stop that sin that so easily besetting you.
  o Quit saying I can’t do this or that.
  o Quit saying you’re not sure if your saved or not.
  o What you need to start saying is I am loved of God!
  o God LOVES ME!
  o He loves me just the way I am!
  o But because He does love me so much He won’t leave me the way that I am!

• Worship – when you give genuine love for the one who loves YOU, it will make you KNOW that God loves YOU!
  o Oh come on somebody!
  o Try it get the fire on the altar of prayer going!
  o Get the fire on the altar of worship going!
  o Lord I love You! I come to the altar!
  o YOU WILL HEAR GOD SAY “I LOVE YOU.”

• Worship will direct our will to the purpose of God.
  o Before you write your nasty notes!
  o Before you send that “smokin’ harsh e-mail…”
  o Before you say what later you will wish you could take back, or give that look that could kill!
Oh come on you know what I talking about!
Worship will put a check in you spirit!
Your steps will be order of God!

- Psalms 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.*
- Even in the times I walk in the valley of the shadow of death!
- Does not matter in dark or day, valley or mountain top!
- God’s got a plan for YOU and there is NO devil that can stop it!

Genesis 26: 24-25 *And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake." So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.*

- What is an altar?
- We need to see that it is a place of the awareness of the presence of God!
  - The moment that I am aware of the presence of God it will change everything!
  - There are times of depression…
  - There are times of helpless feelings…
  - There are times of feeling like there is no hope!
  - And nothing could change it…**Until** the presence of the Lord came in to my life!

Psalm 16:11 *You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Ps 35:27 *Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."

Psalm 33:20 *Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.*

Psalm 46:1 *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*
• Psalms 121:1-2 *I will lift up my eyes to the hills--from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

• Psalm 31:24 *Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.*

• Psalm 71:14 *But I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more.*

• In Genesis 26 we see Isaac was so wise because he recognized the presence of God and he built an altar there.
  o He pitched his tent.
  o He built his house there in the presence of the Lord.

• Oh come on somebody, what would happen if we would just built our homes in the presence of the Lord?
  o All Isaac had to do was fall out of his front door and He was in the presence of the Lord.
  o He dug a well so he could drink, rest, and worship where God was.
  o What joy waking up with the knowledge of knowing that the presence of God is there.
    ▪ Oh come Church He here right now!
      • Can you feel His presence?
      • Can you feel His love?
      • Can you feel His joy?
      • Can you feel His peace?
      • Can you feel His goodness?

  o Oh come on, let Him know, that you know, that He is Here!
    ▪ Build an altar of prayer…
    ▪ Build an altar of worship…
    ▪ Light the FIRE of Prayer…
    ▪ Light the FIRE of Worship in your daily, hourly, minute by minute walk with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord!

• Isaac did!
• Jacob did!
• Abraham did!
• Noah did!
  o It’s time…for YOU…
    ▪ Not your Pastor!
    ▪ Not your Pastor wife!
    ▪ Not your mama or your daddy too!
    ▪ It YOU!
    ▪ Point to someone an say, “IT’S YOU!”

• You need to build that altar!
  o And pitch your tent!
  o And plant your feet!
  o And lay your face down at your altar and don’t your dare let the
    fire go out on it!
• Don’t you dare pray Lord I now come into your presence! STOP IT!
  o Because it indicates you been out of his presence.
  o And He said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

• You may say, “But I don’t feel Him.”
  o Doesn’t matter.
  o I said It doesn’t matter, He is there.

• How am I going to know His presence?
• BUILD AN ALTAR!
  o OH GOD HELP US TO BUILT AN ALTAR OF PRAYER
  o AN ALTAR OF WORSHIP!
  o AN ALTAR THAT KNOWS HIS PRESENCE!

• If you here today and are saying I haven’t felt His presence lately.
  o I haven’t felt His love, His peace, His joy.
  o If you will just say Lord I recognize your presence.
  o If you can just get out, “Jesus.”
    ▪ I am acknowledging Your presence.

• If you are not feeling the presence of the Lord in your life then you
  haven’t built an altar or the fire has gone out on your altar.

• We go through every day and recognize our friends and Co-worker’s.
  o We shake hands with people talk on the phone for hours.
  o We sit at the computer or watch TV for hours on end and say
we don’t have time to recognize the presence of the Lord at our altar.

- Oh come on somebody it time to roll out of bed!
  - Get off the sofa.
  - Get away from that computer, and say, “Lord I coming to my Altar!”
  - I not going to let the Fire go out but it shall always be burning on the altar it shall never go out.
  - I coming to the altar Lord!
  - I will open my mouth in prayer!
  - Not with my, “I going to rub your belly God so I can get what I want.”
    - But I want to talk to You, seek you, draw near you, seek your face…

- Like Moses, God, I want to see your GLORY!
  - And You will hear Him say I never left you.
  - So I say Lord I love You, I praise You, I worship You.
  - And He will say, “I am right here next to you.”
  - Oh come on somebody let’s built an altar.

- It time to build an altar and don’t let the fire go OUT!
- Do you remember those old Pot belly stoves?
  - You use to have to Stoke the fire UP…
    - Turn the coals…
    - Turn the logs…
  - Some of you all you know to do is turn up the thermostat if you want more heat!
    - You have to turn the ashes and poke it…
    - You have to throw in some more coals, or logs, and then the fire would get going again…
    - And it be nice and warm…
    - And you would back up to warm yourselves…
  - Oh God Help us to built an altar!
    - Lord poke US!
    - Turn Us over!
    - Throw in some of the Holy Ghost anointing in to our lives!
    - Let the fire get stoked up in us…

  o GOD HELP US TO BUILT AN ALTAR OF PRAYER!
  o GOD HELP US BUILD AN ALTAR OF WORSHIP!
  o GOD HELP US BUILD AN ALTAR THAT RECOGNIZES YOUR PRESENCE!
  o LET US PITCH OUR TENT AND NOT BE MOVED!
  o LET US NOT COME TO CHURCH WITH THE FIRE GOING OUT…BUT LET US COME WITH A FIRE THAT IS ABLAZING!
  o LET OUR FIRE SHINE INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE LOST TO DRAW THEM TO OUR LORD!

• COME ON SOMEBODY, IT’S TIME TO BUILT AN ALTAR!