

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying- Leviticus 3 Message 2**

### **Message Two: The Basis of All Our Priestly Service—the Fire from the Altar of Burnt Offering**

#### **I. Overview:**

God is a consuming fire; God's throne is flames of fire. Through His death the Lord released Himself into man as the fire of life. The seven Spirits of God are the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne; the word of God is a fire that burns us, who have a desire to serve God. Every priestly service to God must be based on the fire from the altar of burnt offering, and our service must be the issue of the burning of this fire. We must serve God not with strange fire but with the fire from the altar. The fire on the altar of burnt offering should be kept burning continually; we need to offer ourselves in Christ to God as a continual burnt offering to be burned by Him. We must enjoy God as the fire of love to love Him and others with His love; also coordinate with one another in and among the churches to enjoy God as our sanctifying fire for His move.

#### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Why does God want to burn by consuming fire as holiness is His nature?

This fire signifies that God's holiness as a consuming fire accepts our offerings by burning. God is holy; holiness is His nature. Whatever does not correspond with His holy nature, He, as the consuming fire, will consume. Anything that does not meet the requirements of God's holiness will be judged by God's holiness through burning. In such a case, the fire represents the God who is the consuming fire.

B. How do we see the two sides of a fire seriously?

The same fire, which is the representative of God's holiness, may either be a consuming fire for God's acceptance or a judging fire. Today, the consuming fire may be a divine acceptance of our offering to God, or it may be God's judgment due to our offences. If we enjoy Christ and offer Him to God, the fire will be God's acceptance. However, if we offend God's government, this burning is God's judgment upon us.

Day 2 —

A. Why's every service to God based fire on the altar of burnt offering?

In the Old Testament the priests burned incense before God. The burning of incense symbolizes the service rendered to God by man. The fire used to burn the incense had to be taken from the altar of burnt offering p. If a person did not burn incense with the fire from the altar of burnt offering, his service was not accepted by God, and he suffered the judgment of death.

B. Why's the burnt offering the prerequisite for fire to descend from heaven?

The offering of the burnt offering was the prerequisite for fire to descend from heaven. Merely having the altar was not sufficient; the burnt offering had to be placed on the altar. After the sacrifice of the burnt offering was killed, skinned, cut, washed, and placed on the altar, fire could descend from heaven. Hence, the service that we render to God must originate from the fire on the altar of burnt offering, and our service must be the issue of the burning of this fire.

Day 3 —

A. Explain how the fire began to burn on the day of Pentecost.

Before Pentecost a hundred and twenty lovers of Jesus gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem and presented themselves to God. As a result, on the day of Pentecost the Spirit descended upon them as tongues of fire. This was the beginning of the New Testament service. The New Testament service began on the day of Pentecost with the fire that came down and began to burn.

B. Why did the fire descend only on the hundred and twenty?

The fire descended only on the hundred and twenty because they were on the altar of burnt offering. The fire of the Spirit descends only on the altar of burnt offering. This fire burns on those who love God, who offer themselves to God, who are willing to forsake everything for God, and who are willing to place themselves in His hands in order to be slain and broken. Their service to God is the issue of the burning.

Day 4 —

A. How will the fire descend from heaven to burn us?

God has erected an altar, and those who are willing, those who love Him, may come forward willingly to be dealt with, broken, and placed on the altar. Such a person can say, "Lord, here I am, my only desire is to satisfy Your need." If we would offer ourselves sincerely in this way, fire will descend from heaven and burn us. This burning will become the energy that moves us. The issue of this burning will be our service.

B. Why is only work produced by burning of gold, silver, precious stones?

Only work that is produced through burning is of gold, silver, and precious stones. The work that is not produced through burning is of wood, grass, and stubble. The day will come when the work of each will be tested by fire. If our work is the issue of fire, our work will stand the test of fire. If our work is according to the natural man, it will not endure the test but will be consumed, and we will suffer loss.

Day 5 —

A. What is a warning of the strange fire offered by Nadab and Abihu?

The strange fire offered by Nadab and Abihu was common fire, not holy fire. It was not fire from the altar, but fire from man. Strange fire signifies man's natural enthusiasm, natural affection, natural strength, and natural ability offered to God. Nadab and Abihu did something for God, but they did it in a natural way. Hence, God judged this strange fire by consuming the two priests.

B. What do we have to be careful when we serve and function in the church?

We all need to serve, to function, and to use our one talent, our gift. But we must be careful not to serve in a natural way, with our natural hotness. In Romans 12:11 Paul tells us to be "burning in spirit, serving the Lord." Any hotness in our natural life is strange fire to God, and this brings in death.

Day 6 —

A. Explain in Luke 12:49 the words the Lord said.

This fire is the impulse of the spiritual life, which comes from the Lord's released divine life. To cast fire on the earth is to burn the people of the earth. When Christ was baptized with the baptism of His death on the cross, the glory of His divinity was released. From the time of His resurrection a fire has been burning on earth. This fire started from Jerusalem, and then it spread through many places to the uttermost part of the earth.

B. Describe briefly what are the three kinds of burning in the Bible.

The first kind is the burning at the altar, which is for salvation and acceptance. It is precious and glorious. The issue of this burning is that we become a sweet fragrance to God. The second kind of burning is for the believers who are not willing to be dealt with or to be broken. One day their work will be proved by fire. The third kind of burning is for those who reject the Lord and His salvation. These people will be cast into the lake of fire.

### **III. Conclusion:**

When we have a desire to serve God, we must know that God, Whom we have believed in, is a consuming fire. Through His death the Lord has released Himself into man as the fire of life. The seven Spirits of God are the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne; the word of God is a fire that burns us. When a serving one receives Triune God and His word, there must be a fire within him; the fire should be the spiritual burden, the energy, the driving force, the impulse, within him. We must serve God not with strange fire but with the fire from the altar, which is His cross. Today the church is the Lord's testimony on the earth; this fire on the altar should be kept burning continually. There is a need of a group of people to consecrate themselves willingly by putting self as a sacrifice on the altar in order to be burned into ashes by God.