

#2 : The Basis of All Our Priestly Service—the Fire from the Altar of Burnt Offering. (Crystallization-study of Leviticus 2)

I. **God is a consuming fire**: [Heb.12:28](#) Therefore receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly with piety and fear; [29](#) For our God is also a consuming fire.

A) As the burning One, God is holy; holiness is His nature, and whatever does not correspond with His holy nature, He, as the consuming fire, will consume.

B) In Daniel 7:9-10 God's throne was flames of fire, its wheels were a burning fire, and a stream of fire issued forth and came out from before Him; the fire here indicates that God is absolutely righteous and altogether holy.

[Daniel 7:9](#) I watched Until thrones were set, And the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothing was like white snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool; His throne was flames of fire, Its wheels, burning fire. [10](#) A stream of fire issued forth And came out from before Him. Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. The court of judgment sat, And the books were opened.

C) Through His death the Lord released Himself into man as the fire of life to burn on the earth:

① The pneumatic Christ as the sevenfold intensified life-giving Spirit is a burning fire.

② This fire is the impulse (the impelling force) of the spiritual life, an impulse that comes from the Lord's released divine life.

③ "We all have been burned by this fire; we have been brought together by this fire; and now we are burdened that this fire would burn many others. When the concealed glory of Christ's divinity was released, a divine fire was cast on earth to burn the whole earth. Let the fire burn on! No one can stop it".

D) The seven Spirits of God are the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne; these lamps of fire are for the carrying out of God's administration.]

E) The fire burning out of the midst of the thornbush was the Triune God, the God of resurrection.

F) The word of God is a fire that burns us and many of the things in which we have confidence.

G) Those who have a desire to serve God must know that God is a consuming fire that burns and energizes; when God comes to the earth, fire comes to the earth, and when God enters into man, fire enters into man and burns in him.

H) The fire that burned on the altar of the burnt offering came down from the heavens:

[Lev. 9:24](#) Then fire came forth from before

Jehovah and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar; and when all the people saw it, they gave a ringing shout and fell on their faces.

[1Chr. 21:26](#) And there David built an altar to Jehovah, and he offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And he called on Jehovah, and He answered him with fire from heaven upon the altar of burnt offering.

① After coming down from the heavens, this fire burned continually upon the altar.

② The divine fire, the burning Triune God, enables us to serve and even to sacrifice our lives.

II. **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:**

A) God wanted the service of the children of Israel to be based on this fire; the burning of incense was their service to God, but the fire used for burning incense had to be taken from the altar.

B) Our service must come out of the burning of God's fire.]

C) Fire is a source of energy; in order for our service to be full of energy, our service must pass through the fire from the altar: [Lev. 6:13](#) Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out. [2Chr. 7:1](#) And when Solomon had finished praying, the fire came down from heaven and devoured the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of Jehovah filled the house.

① This fire should be the energy, the driving force, the impulse, within us; if we have this fire, our service will be out of God, not out of ourselves.

② The energy and the motivating power for the New Testament service began with fire from heaven; the fire that descended upon the Galilean fishermen became the energy and the motivating power within them. [Acts 2:3](#) And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which were distributed; and it sat on each one of them;

③ 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 broken.]

D) The fire from the altar is the genuine motivating power of service:

① What God does concerning our service is to send His fire to burn within us.

② If we offer ourselves to God sincerely, fire will descend from heaven and burn us; this burning will become the energy that moves us, and the issue of this burning will be our service.

[Luke 12:49](#) I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled!

E) The fire from the altar produces a powerful service:

① The altar of burnt offering is the cross of the Lord Jesus, and the fire is the Spirit. ② The basis of genuine service is knowing the cross and placing ourselves on the cross in order to be gained by God and to allow the divine fire to burn within us; this produces service.

F) Those who experience the fire from the altar build with gold, silver, and precious stones :

① Such a work is full of the element of God, has the power of the cross, and expresses God. ② Only the 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. [1 Cor. 3:12](#) But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

③ 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.

[1 Cor. 3:13](#) The work of each will become manifest; for the day will declare it, because it is revealed by fire, and the fire itself will prove each one's work, of what sort it is.]

III. We must serve God not with strange fire but with the fire from the altar :

[Lev. 10:1](#) And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer, and put fire in them and laid incense on it, and they presented strange fire before Jehovah, which He had not commanded them. [2](#) And fire came out from before Jehovah and consumed them, and they died before Jehovah.

A) According to typology, strange fire is any fire other than that which burns on the altar.

B) The failure of Nadab and Abihu lay in their failure to use the fire from the altar; what they used was common fire, not holy fire.

C) Strange fire signifies man's natural enthusiasm, natural affection, natural strength, and natural ability offered to God.

D) Strange fire is fire of the self; it is fire that issues from the soulish life, the fleshly life, and the natural life:

① Strange fire means that the self-life interferes with the works of God.

② Although the works are God's, the self-life wants to dictate the way that the works are carried out.

③ Offering up strange fire is employing the self's methods and wisdom and insisting on the self's proposals in the service of God.

E) Nadab and Abihu were judged not because they did something that was not for God but because they acted according to the natural life and did something for God in a natural way .

F) The offering of strange fire was a sin of presumption; Nadab and Abihu presumed to do something for God .

G) This is a strong warning showing us that, in touching the divine things, we need to apply the cross to our natural life; otherwise, we will suffer spiritual death.

H) God pays attention not only to whether there is fire but also to the source and nature of the fire; our zeal must come from the altar.]

I) Everyone who is called of God must realize that he is a thornbush with a fire burning within him and that this fire is God Himself :

① We need to learn one lesson: to work for God without using the natural life, with its energy, strength, and ability, as the fuel but by letting God burn within us.

② We need to be burning in spirit, serving the Lord as a slave with the fire of His life, not with strange fire, which brings in spiritual death. [Rom.12:11](#) Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

IV. The fire on the altar of burnt offering should be kept burning continually; it must not go out, and it shall not go out:

A) Day by day and on many occasions, we need to offer ourselves in Christ to God as a continual burnt offering to be burned by Him so that we may burn others.

B) The Spirit causes our spirit to be burning and our gifts to be flaming; hence, we should not quench Him:

[1 Thes. 5:19](#) Do not quench the Spirit;

① We must allow the Lord to burn us and to keep us burning continually by fanning our God-given spirit into flame. [2 Tim. 1:6](#) For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. [7](#) For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

② We must enjoy God as the fire of love to love Him and others with His love.

③ We must have a time with the Lord every morning to have a new beginning and be revived by Him.

④ We must call upon the Lord, stirring ourselves up to lay hold of Him.

⑤ We must pray-read God's Word, striking the Spirit of the Scripture with our spirit to catch the divine fire.

⑥ We must be filled with the sevenfold intensified Spirit as the seven lamps of fire and the seven flaming eyes of Christ by opening ourselves to the Lord unreservedly in order to be enlightened by Him, burned by Him, and infused with Him.

⑦ We must always rejoice, pray unceasingly, and give thanks in everything.

⑧ We must speak for the Lord to impart Him into others, enjoying Him as our burning power

for purging and motivating in God's economical move.

⑨ We must coordinate with one another in and among the churches to enjoy God as our sanctifying fire for His one move.

⑩ The burning of the sevenfold intensified Spirit as the seven lamps of fire motivates us to rise up and take action for the carrying out of God's economy.】

Experience ① :

Pray everyday, apply the cross and keep the divine fire burning within us in order to pass the final test at the time of the Lord's second coming

In **Luke 12:49** the Lord Jesus said, "I have come to cast fire on the earth." The Lord Jesus came to the earth not only to save us but to cause fire to burn on us. If the Lord had not placed Himself in the Father's hand, the fire could not have been cast to the earth. This fire is the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus went to the cross and suffered death, He was gained by God, and God poured out the Spirit as fire from heaven. This fire descended on the hundred and twenty disciples and burned in them. All the service in the New Testament age comes out of that burning.

The basis of genuine service is knowing the cross and placing ourselves on the cross in order to be gained by God and to allow the divine fire to burn within us. This produces service. The saints who pray and apply the death of the cross will receive grace from God, and His holy fire will burn within them. Such saints do not care for themselves or set their mind on themselves but care only to satisfy God's desire. 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, by the flesh, and earthy, it is of wood, grass, and stubble. When the work of each is manifested by fire, such a work will not endure the test but will be consumed, and we will suffer loss.

For Junior & Senior High School Students

For Junior & Senior High School Students, there are many kinds of tests. Big tests as high school and college entrance examination; others as midterm test, final term test, simulation test etc. As a Christian, you need to pass the final test when the Lord comes back. If you pass the final test, you will reign with the Lord as the co-kings in the millennial kingdom. Otherwise, you will need the training in the darkness for a thousand years. In this way, high school and college entrance examination are all for the final test. Just as the midterm test, final term test and simulation test are for high school and college entrance examination.

In all the tests, you should pray, apply the cross and allow the divine fire to burn within you. Please pray as follows:

i) In case that you can't concentrate due to the games, etc.:

"Lord Jesus, I crucify my distracted thought to the cross. It is difficult for me to concentrate on studying because I tend to play the games, read the comic

books and watch TV. Oh Lord Jesus, I crucify my restless and unstable thought to the cross. Through the cross, allow the fire of the spiritual life burn within me. Please let the divine fire become the energy, the driving force, the impulse to study within me for the Lord's testimony. Amen!"

Lev.6:13 Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

1 Thes.5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

ii) In case that you do not feel like studying:

"Oh Lord Jesus, I am lazy and I do not feel like studying. And I don't understand what I am studying for. However, I know that reading the Bible and studying is for passing the Lord's final test. The Bible is telling me that 'Do not be slothful in zeal.' This revelation reminds me and save me from being slothful. I crucify the slothful me to the cross. Through the cross, please keep the divine fire burning within me. By this fire, I hope I can study in zeal." **1 Cor. 3:12** But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble, **13** the work of each will become manifest; for the day will declare it, because it is revealed by fire, and the fire itself will prove each one's work, of what sort it is.

FT "the day": The day of Christ's second coming, when He will judge all His believers. **Rom. 12:11** Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

iii) In case you can't concentrate and worry about "what to do if you fail the exam":

"Oh Lord Jesus, I always worry about that I may not pass the exam when I am studying. I always make it complicated and think that failing the exam is embarrassing. However, anxieties are Satan's flaming darts. Christian life is a life of living 'today'. Forget minding the future of 1 year later, half a year later and even 1 month later. Let me concentrate on things I should do today and carry it with the Lord. Leave the result of the exam to the Lord. Thank the Lord."

Eph. 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

FT 1 "the flaming darts": The flaming darts are Satan's temptations, proposals, doubts, questions, lies, and attacks. Flaming darts were used by fighters in the apostle's time. The apostle used this term to illustrate Satan's attacks on us.

FT2 "the shield of faith": We can easily have faith as a shield against the evil one's flaming darts. Christ is the Author and Perfector of such faith.

Experience ②: Serve in the order of the body by the sacred fire, not by the natural fire

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. Of course, the Lord wants us to be hot in the spirit, not cold or lukewarm. But we have to be hot in our spirit, not in our natural life. 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.

The offering of the strange fire might have been related to the drinking of wine. Right after Nadab and Abihu's death, God charged the priests not to drink wine.... Drinking wine, in the Bible, signifies the

overenjoyment of the worldly, natural, or physical, material things. In other words, if we overly enjoy anything of this world, this always makes us drunk. When we are drunk, we are excited and out of control, doing things without regulation. It might have been that the two sons of Aaron were drunk, so they were excited and went beyond themselves to do something without being regulated.

People do presumptuous things because they have overenjoyed something. They are drunk. When the priests are drunk, they lose the discernment of holiness, and they are unable to teach God's people. When we lose our discernment because we are drunk, we are not being regulated; so we surely cannot teach others so that they can be regulated.

For Young Working Saints

As a business person, you should be aware of that the business organization is not two-dimensional but a three-dimensional. Being two-dimensional means that everything can be carried out in equality and freedom. Being three-dimensional means that you must work properly within the scope given to you under your superior's authority. Unlike a company which is the organization without life, the Body of Christ is an organism full of life. However, as the Body of Christ being also not two-dimensional but three-dimensional, and having the same principle as the company organization.

You need to work in the order of the company organization and you need to serve in oneness of the Body of Christ. In the company, the proprietor has great authority, the authority given to each department is shared among the middle management, such as department managers, section chiefs and the like, the general employees must work correctly under the management of the middle management. You can explain your proposal to an intermediate manager but you cannot decide whether to adopt it or not. If you make the decision, it would be presumptuous and overstep your authority. Such thing breaks down the order of the company. It is not a question of whether your proposal is better than that of the section chief but a matter of breaking down the order beyond the authority. Such a matter also exists in the universities and graduate schools, but in the company, clearer authority exists.

For example, you have proposed the best business plan in your department, but the director did not adopt it but adopted a poorer plan instead. In such a case, since the director has the authority to decide which plan to adopt, you need to submit yourself to the decision of your director. You should never say, "It is the director's stupidity for not accepting my plan, I cannot obey such person," and must not commit unauthorized act. Such act will destroy the order of the company. Rather, you should thank the Lord and obey your superior. Furthermore, in such case, it was your subjective view caused you to think your plan was the best, but others might not necessarily feel the same way. You need to crucify your subjectivity. Either way, the important point of argument here is that you should never take over your superior's authority you do not have and exercise it.

An unauthorized act was shown by the strange fire in the Old Testament, which was a serious sin of rebellion. You should learn this problem of order in

your work and your church life.

Strange fire is, the fire of self, fire that emerges from the soul life, the flesh and the natural life. It was a sin of presumptuous to offer strange fire. Nadab and Abihu also tried to do presumptuous things for God. This is a strong warning to us that showed the need to apply cross to our natural life when we touch the divine things. Otherwise, we shall suffer the spiritual death. God not only pay attention to the presence of fire, but also pay attention to the source and nature of the fire. Our enthusiasm must come from the altar.

Lev. 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer, and put fire in them and laid incense on it, and they presented strange fire before Jehovah, which He had not commanded them. **2** And fire came out from before Jehovah and consumed them, and they died before Jehovah.

Psa. 19:13 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Do not let them have dominion over me; Then I will be blameless and cleared Of great transgression.

You are a Christian, you need to realize that God is the God of order. Responsible persons are assigned to various services in the church life. If you are responsible for such services, you should make reasonable decisions so that you can oversee the whole for services with advancement. Never make arrogant decisions. Also, if you are not a responsible person, you must not commit the sin of making presumptuous decisions on your own.

Even in the workplace, you need to experience the cross of Christ and not be burned by your own self, but motivated by the divine fire burning inside, you should work diligently by serving your superior from your heart for the testimony of the Lord and the support of the church financially. Furthermore, it is necessary to avoid "having the appearance of working by working overtime" and "just serving your boss by participating frequently in drinking parties". Otherwise you will be the same as the people in the world, there is no testimony, so there is no blessing of the Lord.

Col. 3:22 Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men,

1122 Seven Spirits

1. "Seven Spirits" of our God, Lo, the age has now been turned To the Spirit with the Son. For the churches He's concerned.
Come, O seven Spirits, come, Thy recovery work be done!
Burn and search us thoroughly, All the churches are for Thee.
Burn us, search us, All the churches are for Thee!
2. Sevenfold the Spirit is For the deadness of the church,
That the saints may turn and live, That the Lord may burn and search.
3. Now the Spirit of our God Has become intensified:
'Tis not one but sevenfold That the church may be supplied!
4. Now the seven Spirits are Seven lamps of burning fire,
Not to teach us, but to burn, Satisfying God's desire.
5. See the seven Spirits now—Seven piercing, searching eyes.
In the church exposing us, All the church He purifies.
6. Seven Spirits doth the Lord For the churches now employ;
All those in the local church May this Spirit now enjoy.