**27/11/2022 “Keep the Fire Burning”**

**By pastor Bruce McDonald**

**Leviticus 6: 12 ‘And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out!’**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This simple instruction to the Priests, given by Moses, remains important even to this day… keep the fire burning (It is good to remember that Moses was called by God out of a burning bush!).

Like most kiwis I love BBQs, but if I brought meat here today that was uncooked and offered it to anyone who wanted to eat it, nobody would say yes. It is the fire that makes the difference.

**Leviticus 6: 15 ‘…burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma, as a memorial to the Lord’.**

1. **Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron placed ‘strange fire’ before the Lord and fire went out from the Lord and devoured them (Leviticus 10: 1, 2)**
2. **500 years later, after the 3 ½ years of drought in the land, Elijah challenged the Prophets of Baal to a contest – ‘…and the God who answers by fire, let Him be God. And all the people answered and said, ‘It is well spoken’ (1 Kings 18: 24).**
3. **1000 years later when John the Baptist spoke of Jesus he said, ‘…He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire’ (Luke 3: 16)**

**So, on the day of Pentecost divided tongues of fire sat on the heads of all those who were filled with the HS. This signals that we are the altar now. God was saying once and for all that He would no longer put fire on stone or metal altars… only on the altar of lives that are prepared for Him!**

He is still saying that today! Story of the little girl drawing the picture of fire on the families’ heads when they were praying.

**KEEP THE FIRE BURNING ON THE ALTAR!**

1. **. When Paul was shipwrecked on the Island of Malta, he was gathering sticks for a fire. When he threw them on the fire a snake came out and bit him… (Acts 28: 3). Fire reveals snakes, but it also opens doors!**

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement said, ‘We need to be so on fire for God, that people come and watch us burn’.

**KEEP THE FIRE BURNING ON THE ALTAR!**

(The importance of enthusiasm = In God!

‘The triumph of the Gospel is enough to make any man the wildest kind of enthusiastic optimist’ (John G. Lake)

**A Warning:**

After Jesus had been taken prisoner in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter followed the soldiers back to where Jesus was being tried. He warmed his hands by a fire… (Mark 14: 54). We need to be careful what fire we are warming ourselves at!

**CHALLENGE:**

Are you keeping the fire burning on your altar today? When people look at you do they see a person on fire?

Stay on fire for Jesus, it is always attractive. If you would like to come afresh this morning and stir up the fire afresh you would be welcome. I would love to pray for you.

**Hebrews 12: 28, 29 ‘…our God is a consuming fire’!**

**Hebrews 1: 7 ‘… His ministers a flame of fire’**

**We need to arise with the power of His Spirit and…**

**Walk like Enoch Believe like Abraham Dress like Joseph**

**Stretch like Moses Dance like David Fight like Gideon Build like Nehemiah And live like Jesus!**

**‘Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3) For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls’ (Hebrews 12: 2 – 3)**