Sermon Reflection

Series: Fanning the Flames
Sermon Message: Keep the Fire Burning – October 4, 2026
Scripture: Leviticus 6:8–13 (NIV)
Main Scripture: Leviticus 6:12–13 (NIV)

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Leviticus 6:12–13 (NIV)
"The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out."

Key Thought

What begins with intensity still requires intentionality to last. God can ignite something within us, but keeping the fire burning requires our continued attention.

Overview

In Leviticus 6, God gives the priests instructions for maintaining the fire on the altar. The fire was not something they could simply enjoy and then leave unattended. Ashes had to be removed, fresh wood had to be added every morning, and the altar had to be continually tended.

The same principle applies to our spiritual lives. There are seasons when our passion for God feels strong, but spiritual fire does not remain strong simply because it once burned brightly. We have to remove what no longer belongs, consistently do the things that strengthen our relationship with God, and embrace our part in keeping the fire burning.

Point 1

Let Go of What You Don't Need

Scripture

Leviticus 6:10–11 (NIV)
“He is to remove the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar… Then he is to take the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean.”

Reflection

The ashes were evidence that something had burned before, but they could not remain on the altar forever. Before the priest could continue tending the fire, what had already been consumed had to be removed.

There are things in our lives that may have been connected to a previous season but are no longer helping us move forward. Past disappointments, old hurts, unhealthy habits, and even things that once served a purpose can begin taking up space that God wants to use for something new. Sometimes keeping the fire burning requires knowing when it is time to release anything that doesn’t hep us grow in this season.

Reflection Questions

What am I carrying that I no longer need?

Is there something from a previous season that I need to release?

What might God be asking me to remove so I can make room for what He wants to do now?

This Week’s Application

Identify what no longer needs to occupy space in your life.

Release what God has already brought you through.

Make room for what God wants to do next.

Point 2

You Have to Work at It Daily

Scripture

Leviticus 6:12 (NIV)
“Every morning the priest is to add firewood…”

Reflection

The priest could not add wood once and expect the fire to continue indefinitely. Every morning required attention to the altar.

Our relationship with God requires the same kind of consistency. We cannot depend only on yesterday's prayer, last Sunday's worship, or a previous season when we felt especially close to God. Prayer, reading God's Word, and spending quiet time reflecting with Him are small daily practices that continue feeding our spiritual lives.

Spiritual consistency is built through what we choose to do repeatedly, even when we do not feel like doing it.

Reflection Questions

What am I doing daily to strengthen my relationship with God?

Have I been depending on yesterday's fire instead of adding fresh wood today?

What spiritual practice do I need to become more consistent with?

This Week's Application

Spend intentional time with God every day.

Make prayer and God's Word part of your daily routine.

Choose consistency even when you do not feel motivated.

Point 3

Embrace Your Part

Scripture

Leviticus 6:13 (NIV)
"The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out."

Reflection

The priests did not create the fire, but they were responsible for tending it. God had done His part, but they still had a part to play.

The same is true in our relationship with God. We cannot change ourselves through our own strength, and we cannot produce what only God can provide. But once God begins working in us, we have a part to play in nurturing what He has started.

We cannot ask God to keep our spiritual fire burning while continually neglecting the practices that feed it. There are things only God can do, but there are also things He expects us to do.

Reflection Questions

Am I doing my part to keep my spiritual fire burning?

What do I need to keep doing to grow closer to God?

Am I asking God to do something that requires me to play a role?

This Week's Application

Take an active role in your walk with God.

Continue nurturing what God has started within you.

Do your part while trusting God to do what only He can do.

Living It Out This Week

Remove what is getting in the way of your growth

Do something every day that feeds your spiritual life.

Embrace your part in keeping the fire burning.

Pastoral Encouragement

There may be times when you realize that you do not feel the same passion, excitement, or closeness to God that you once felt. That does not mean the fire cannot burn brightly again. Sometimes we simply need to take an honest look at what has changed. Remove what has been getting in the way, become intentional about spending time with God through prayer, His Word, and quiet reflection, and keep doing the things that help you grow closer to Him. And be

encouraged, because the God you were once on fire for is still the same amazing God. His goodness has not changed, His love has not changed, and His presence is still available to us, if we make time to prioritize Him again, we can experience His presence in a fresh way.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for the fire You have placed within us. Help us release what we no longer need, become more consistent in our daily walk with You, and embrace our part in our spiritual growth. Give us the discipline to keep tending the altar so that the fire You started within us continues to burn. In Jesus' name, Amen.