

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, March 30, 2016
Desire Fresh Fire
3 The Sacrifice of Praise

TEXT: 2 Timothy 1:6-7 / Leviticus 9:23-10:2

We started this year talking about this word: "Desire Fresh Fire, not strange fire". We reviewed the things that God has given us for our church family. We got a fresh revelation of what it means to be a member of a church. Now we return to the idea of seeking fresh fire.

We talked about getting hungry, and about the incense of prayer. Today, Fresh fire from heaven came most frequently to acknowledge an acceptable sacrifice

1) Fresh fire comes to acknowledge an acceptable sacrifice

- a) In Judges, Judges 6:20-23 / 13:19-23
- b) At the dedication of the Temple 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (God's favorite song! 2Ch 5:13, 2Ch 7:3, 2Ch 7:6; 1Ch 16:34, 1Ch 16:41; Ezr 3:11; Psa 106:1, Psa 107:1, Psa 136:1-26; Jer 33:11)
Question: Why do you think God seems to like this particular song so well? Why does He exalt His goodness and mercy forever?
- c) God accepts David's sacrifice by fire. 1 Chronicles 21:16-27 .

2) We don't offer bulls anymore. We offer the sacrifice of praise

- a) Even under the old covenant it was never about the bulls: Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
- b) We have a new ministry as priests unto God. 1 Peter 2:5 ... offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. **Question:** What other sacrifices can you find in the New Testament that we are to offer to God?
- c) Hebrews 13:14-15 NLT ...let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name. (Jer 33:11; Ps 107:21-22; 116:17; Jonah 2:9-10 If you want the fish to spit, start singing!) **Question:** When you hear the word "sacrifice" associated with praise, what does it mean to you?

3) New Covenant Praise: Drawing Fire.

- a) God is looking for a specific kind of person: Jn 4:23-24
Question: What does it mean to you to worship in spirit and in truth? Describe it so a new person could understand it.
- b) It needs to be done in faith: Heb 11:6 **Question:** What does it mean to praise God in faith?

- c) It is a heart thing, and it is sung:
 - i) Ephesians 5:18-19 NLT Don't ... making music to the Lord in your hearts.
 - ii) Colossians 3:16 NLT ...Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.
- d) It can be done in English and in tongues 1 Corinthians 14:14-17 NLT ... will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand. **Question:** Are you in the habit of singing in tongues? Try it for 5 minutes. What effect does this have on you?
- e) There may be physical actions involved
 - i) Acts 3:8-9 NLT He jumped up, ...walking, leaping, and praising God,
 - ii) 1 Timothy 2:8 ... lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting **Question:** What attitudes of the heart are expressed by the lifting of the hands? Psalm 63:4 / 28:2 / 119:48 / 1 Tim 2:8
- f) **It is Palm Sunday. If you don't want to be upstaged by a rock, bust out the palm leaves!!!**
 - i) Luke 19:37-40 NLT..., "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"
 - ii) God ordained that praise would have a peculiar power:
 - (1) Psalms 22:3 NLT Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
 - (2) Matthew 21:14-16 And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES AND NURSING INFANTS YOU HAVE PERFECTED PRAISE'?"
 - (3) The power of praising God: To silence the enemy
Psalms 8:2 NLT You have taught children and infants to tell of Your strength, silencing Your enemies and all who oppose You.
 - (a) We can silence the enemy in our own lives
 - (b) We can help others by creating an atmosphere of worship where His presence silences the enemy.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD!

(Psalms 150:6)