

SMOKE

– 6 –

Keep the Fire Burning

- ❖ The presence of God.
- ❖ “Where there’s smoke there’s fire.”
- ❖ “We want the smoke.”

Hebrews 12:29 (ESV) for our God is a consuming fire.

- God’s desire is not for His presence to be mere occasional encounters but daily perseverance in faith, obedience, and worship.
- We can become disappointed.

James 4:8a (ESV) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- You are wanted in His presence.

What can we do to keep the fire burning?

Leviticus 6:12 (ESV) The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out. The priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall arrange the burnt

offering on it and shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings.

- The priests had a responsibility in keeping the fire going every day.
- Don't neglect the altar.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (ESV) 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

James 1:2-4 (ESV) 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Nehemiah – Israel returned from exile and gathered to hear the Law of God read aloud. They were convicted of their sin and began to weep.

Nehemiah 8:10b (ESV) And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

- His joy = our strength.

Psalms 1:1-3 (ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of

sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

- It doesn't specify the how big, how old or tall.
- Location: Planted by streams of water (nourishment).
- Action: Yields its fruit in season (fruitfulness).
- Condition: Leaf does not wither (endurance).
- Outcome: Prospers in all he does (blessing).

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV) 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.