

## February 5

**Leviticus 6:12-13 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup> The fire on the altar shall be kept burning; it must not be extinguished. Every morning the priest is to add wood to the fire, arrange the burnt offering on it, and burn the fat portions of the peace offerings on it. <sup>13</sup> The fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it must not be extinguished.

We are in the midst of another winter storm. The ice/snow has moved in and closed the schools. One of our joys when this weather arrives is our fireplace. There is something soothing and comforting about a fire. When I first light the fire, it blazes and roars. The fire rages and fills the room. However, I learned long ago, that I could not start a fire and expect it to keep burning. I had to keep watch over that fire because, without attention and care and fuel, it would go out. Even the hottest embers would soon grow cold if left alone. To keep that fire going, I had to stir it from time to time. Most importantly, I had to have kindling and wood ready so I could add fuel to that fire. If we wanted to enjoy the warmth and the light of the fire, I had to tend it constantly.

The LORD told Moses that the fire on the altar must never go out. No matter what, the fire was not to be extinguished. That fire represents the Holy Spirit given to us by our Lord Jesus. Like the fire in our home, the fire in us needs tending, fed, and watched over. It is not the Lord's responsibility to keep it going. He is the source of that fire, and He has shared it with us by the power of the blood of Jesus. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave each of us the fire of the Holy Spirit. We are responsible of keeping that fire going. We are to "feed" that fire. We tend it to make sure it never goes out. We do that by reading and meditating on the Word. We do so by putting His word into practice. We do so by being an active part of the body and by making ourselves available. We do so by fellowshiping with those who love and honor and serve the Lord. We do so by accepting the challenges and persecutions of the world. It was Moses' responsibility to keep that holy fire burning. It is our responsibility to keep that fire burning in us.