

# D. I. G. G. I. N. G.

## *Digging Into God's Great Incredible Never-ending Grace*

### PURSUING MATURITY

WEEK 7

### THE ALTAR

(A Meeting Place with God)

#### Summary:

Every significant event in the lives of God's people recorded in the Bible - whether it be a battle, a victory, or a milestone- it was marked by an altar. It was the place where men met with God. A place where they prayed, struggled and offered themselves in devotion to God. God instituted the altar specifically for the purpose of meeting with man. It was a place of encounter.

#### The First Altar

GEN. 8:20-GEN. 9:17 The first Altar was built by Noah after the flood waters receded. It was also here that God made the Rainbow covenant with him to never destroy life again with a flood. It was an "Altar of Covenant"

WHAT TYPE OF EMOTION OR ACTION CAN YOU SEE IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES?

Genesis 12:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 22:9-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 35:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 1:50-53 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Chronicles 15:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 43:4 \_\_\_\_\_

***LET'S TAKE A LOOK INTO THE NEW TESTAMENT.***

**MATT. 27:50-51** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

**Hebrews 6:19** Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which enters in within the veil;

**Hebrews 9:3** And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

JESUS DIED SO THAT WE COULD HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE HOLY OF HOLIES. TO COME DIRECTLY TO THE ALTAR OF GOD PERSONALLY AND WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A PRIEST TO GO BEFORE US BECAUSE HE OPENED THE WAY. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING GOD AT THE ALTAR NOW BECOMES OURS.

LOOK UP THE FOLLOWING. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

**1 Corinthians 3:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 6:19** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 9:13** \_\_\_\_\_

### **3 MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRIESTS IN CARING FOR THE ALTAR**

#### **1. THEY TENDED TO THE LAMPS WHICH GAVE LIGHT TO THE HOLY OF HOLIES.**

- WE MUST KEEP THE LAMPS FULL WITH OIL, SYMBOLIZING THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES
- DANGER IS NOT KEEPING THEM FULL IS OUR SIGHT IS EFFECTED
- LIGHT GROWS DIM AND SHADOWS CREEP IN
- THINGS BECOME DISTORTED AND UNFOCUSED
- WHAT ONCE WAS CLEARLY RIGHT OR WRONG NOW IS UNCLEAR AND UNCERTAIN.
- WE REASON WITH OURSELVES AND LET THINGS SLIDE THAT WE NEVER LET SLIDE BEFORE.
- WE CAN GROW ACCUSTOMED TO THE DIM AND DECEIVE OURSELVES INTO THINKING WE ARE STILL IN THE LIGHT.
- IN OTHER WORDS IF WE CONTINUALLY ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HAVE LESS AND LESS INFLUENCE IN OUR LIVES, THE DIMMER THE LIGHT BECOMES AND EVENTUALLY WE CAN END UP IN TOTAL DARKNESS.

**2 Cor. 6:14** What fellowship has light with darkness?

#### **2. THEY OFFERED SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS**

- THEY WERE WITHOUT BLEMISH OR DEFECT
- THEY DID NOT OFFER LAME OR DAMAGED OFFERINGS AND THEN KEEP THE BEST FOR THEMSELVES.
- THEY DID NOT OFFER IDOLS
- THE VERY BEST THAT THEY HAD WAS WHAT THEY OFFERED
- IT WAS ALL GOD WOULD EXCEPT.

**1 Corinthians 3:17** If any man defiles the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

**2 Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

### **3. THEY KEPT THE FIRE BURNING**

- OUR PASSION IS LIKE THE FIRE BURNING FOR GOD
- IT WAS THE FIRE THAT CONSUMED THE SACRIFICE
- IT IS OUR PASSION FOR GOD THAT WILL CAUSE HIS PRESENCE TO CONSUME US.
- OUR PASSION FOR GOD MUST BE LIKE A CONSUMING FIRE.
- IT MUST FILL EVERY FIBER OF OUR BEING, HEART, MIND, AND SOUL.
- IT MUST BURN CONTINUOUSLY WITHOUT GOING OUT
- IT IS THE MEASURING UNIT THAT TELLS GOD JUST HOW MUCH OF HIM WE REALLY WANT.

#### ***ASK YOURSELVES .....***

- ARE MY LAMPS FULL WITH THE OIL OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT?
- IS THE ALTAR WELL LIT OR HAVE THE LAMPS BEGUN TO DIM?
- ARE MY EYES ADJUSTING TO THE DIMNESS?
- AM I LETTING BEHAVIOR AND SINS SLIDE THAT I NEVER ALLOWED BEFORE?
- ARE MY OFFERINGS THE BEST OR ARE THEY LAME AND DAMAGED AS I KEEP THE BEST FOR MYSELF?
- DO I NEED TO TEAR DOWN ANY IDOLS AND CONSECRATE MYSELF AGAIN ON THE ALTAR?
- HAVE I ALLOWED THE WORLD AND FOREIGN GODS TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE TEMPLE?
- IS THE PASSION OF MY HEART CONSUMING ME LIKE A FIRE FOR GOD?
- DO I SEEK TO KEEP THE FIRE BURNING ASKING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO FAN THE FLAMES?
- DO I DESIRE MORE OF GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE?

**On a scale of 1-10, where would you say your fire is burning today? (Circle One)**

**Almost Out 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Passionate and on fire for God**

**Write a prayer asking God to renew a fervent fire in you again.**

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